

Resources for Undocumented Students

On February 26, 2014, Governor Jay Inslee signed into law the REAL Hope Act (SB6523), also known as the **Washington Dream Act**. Beginning with the 2014-15 academic year, this new law expands eligibility for the Washington College Grant to non-citizens who meet the program's eligibility requirements in addition to all three residency criteria listed below:

1. Have graduated from a Washington state high school or obtained a GED®
2. Have lived in Washington state for three (3) years prior to, and continuously since, earning the high school diploma or equivalent
3. Sign an affidavit (written promise) to file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States when eligible to apply. Students granted deferred action for childhood arrival (DACA) must also [complete and sign the affidavit](#) .

How Often to Apply

Students who meet the eligibility requirements for REAL Hope should plan on completing a WASFA each academic year they are in college. The NSC Financial Aid office maintains priority deadlines for funding at northseattle.edu/financial-aid/application-deadlines. Students do not need to submit a new residency affidavit each year.

Source: <https://northseattle.edu/financial-aid/state-financial-aid-dreamers>

Scholarships for Undocumented Students

- Information on Washington State's [House Bill 1079](#).
- Washington Application for State Financial Aid - [WASFA](#)
- CWU Diversity and Equity Center (DEC) - [Undocumented Student Resource Guide](#)
- MALDEF's [Scholarship Resources for Undocumented Students](#)
- JVL [List of Scholarships for Undocumented Students](#)
- Beyond Dreaming - [Washington State Scholarship List for Undocumented Students](#)
- TheDream.US [National Scholarship and Opportunity Scholarship](#) - Organizations such as TheDream are dedicated solely to providing scholarships for undocumented immigrants and DACA students. Additionally, there are directories of immigration advocacy organizations that either offer scholarships or work with partner organizations. Check their blogs for due dates and requirements.

Source: <https://www.cwu.edu/scholarships/scholarships-undocumented-students>

- <https://mydocumentedlife.org/graduate-school-students/> At My Undocumented Life, we have compiled a list of key information & resources to help you navigate the graduate school application process and experience while undocumented (with or without DACA), including fellowship opportunities that are open to undocumented students and advice from former/current undocumented graduate students.

Source: <https://www.moneygeek.com/financial-planning/daca-recipients/>

Tuition Reduction for Non-Resident Refugees and Asylees

- Students are eligible to pay reduced tuition and fees if they are classified as a refugee/asylee by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Spouses and dependent children are also eligible for this reduction.
- The reduction does not grant Washington residency status; however, it reduces the amount of the non-resident portion of tuition.
- To apply, students must provide the following documentation:
 1. A completed [Tuition Reduction for Non-resident Refugees and Asylees Application Form \(PDF\)](#)
 2. A copy of the I-94 form, Departure Record, and documentation that attests to the date of arrival in Washington State.

An individual requesting the reduction based off of the status of their spouse or parent/legal guardian must provide the following additional documentation:

3. Verification of dependent status. See the Tuition Reduction for Non-Resident Refugees and Asylees Application Form for details.

Source: <https://www.cwu.edu/registrar/noncitizens-refugees-asylees>

Up to 19 states allow undocumented immigrants in-state tuition. This allows DACA recipients to attend state college or university while paying the same tuition as fellow green-card holders and U.S.-born citizens. Seventeen states—Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Texas, Utah and Washington—extend in-state tuition rates to undocumented students through state legislation. Two states—Oklahoma and Rhode Island—allow in-state tuition rates to undocumented students through Board of Regents decisions.

At least seven states also offer state financial aid to undocumented students: California, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Minnesota, Oregon and Washington. Additionally, many private universities provide both merit and need-based scholarships.

Source: <https://www.ncsl.org/research/education/undocumented-student-tuition-overview.aspx>

Undocumented students, including DACA students, **are not eligible for federal student aid** such as Federal Pell Grants, Federal Work-Study, and Federal Direct Student Loans (Direct Loans).

Source: <https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/financial-aid-and-undocumented-students.pdf>

Other resources:

NWIRP's DACA portal www.nwirp.org/daca

The portal contains:

1. DACA General Information & Resources

- * current updates on the DACA Program,
- * community outreach materials from NWIRP,
- * additional information and resources for DACA applicants, and
- * DACA FAQs

2. Information on DACA Renewal Clinics

This tab is your one-stop experience for all things related to the DACA renewal clinics, and contains:

- * the calendar with all upcoming DACA renewal clinics, and
- * DACA Renewal Clinics FAQs, which walk individuals through the DACA Renewal Clinic experience from determining if they qualify to specifics of how clinics run to how to get updates on the status of their application once submitted.

Individuals can also link directly to the DACA renewal clinics registration page from within this page.

3. Register for a DACA Renewal Clinic

This tab contains the threshold eligibility questions for attending a DACA Renewal Clinic as well as guidance for individuals who may not be eligible. After moving past the initial eligibility questions, individuals will be able to register for the clinic of their choosing by completing a Google Form and uploading documents directly onto the secure site. The site also contains a guide for uploading documents and samples of the documents that must be uploaded. It's simple, fast, and easily accessible anytime and anywhere with an internet connection.

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