

## DACA Student Support

DACA refers to undocumented individuals who are defined as foreign nationals who entered the US:

- Without inspection;
- With fraudulent documents; or
- Legally as nonimmigrants, who then violated the terms of their status by letting their visas expire.

Most of them were brought to America by their parents at a very young age. They've learned English, completed high school, integrated themselves into communities, and they consider themselves Americans.

About 65,000 undocumented students graduate from US high schools every year, and just 5-10% of them enroll in college.

No federal law requires proof of citizenship for admission to US colleges (they can choose "no selection" on their application and skip the social security number). While not eligible for federal financial aid, California grants eligibility for state financial aid to undocumented students who qualify for in-state tuition. Merit scholarships, grants, and private loans are also options.

Thanks to FERPA, it is against the law for school officials to disclose a student's immigration status without their express permission, even when requested by federal immigration agents.

DACA students often have secured an EAD work permit (employment authorization document) that tells an employer that they are authorized to work in the US, but is not the same as a passport or a social security card. The document establishes that the student can work legally in the US and is one of the documents that is listed as acceptable for the Form I-9. The Immigration and Nationality Act prohibits employers from discriminating in the Form I-9 process against work-authorized individuals based on their national origin or, under certain circumstances, their citizenship or immigration status (see exceptions below). Employers cannot ask how or why a student is using an EAD work permit.

**Students should never disclose their DACA immigration status unless it is absolutely necessary, to avoid any risk of deportation for the student or their family members.**

These are some things that an undocumented student cannot do or may be wary of doing:

1. Work for an employer that requires an SSN or proof of citizenship
  - a. Internships funded by a government grant
  - b. Employer who works with high security military personnel or government
2. Find housing without a social security number or credit
3. Study abroad (without "advance parole")
4. Lie about immigration status on an employment application or I-9 employment form

CMC has an FAQ related to DACA students which you can find [here](#).

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Other links to relevant fellowships & internships:

- [ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project Undergraduate Internship Program](#)
- [Advancing Science, Serving Society Internship Opportunities](#)
- [American College of Healthcare Executives Minority Internship](#)
- [American Economic Association Summer Minority Program](#)
- [American Federation of Teachers Human Rights and Community Relations Department Internship Program](#)
- [ASPIRA Association, Inc.](#)
- [Center for Advancement of Hispanics in Science and Engineering Education](#)
- [Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute](#)
- [Cornell Farmworker Program](#)
- [First Generation Summer Fellowship](#)
- [Hispanic Association of Colleges National Internship Program](#)
- [Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools Internship Program](#)
- [INROADS Internships](#)
- [Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship at Cornell University](#)
- [National Council of Entrepreneurial Tech Transfer](#)
- [New York Theatre Workshop](#)
- [OADI Internship Database](#)
- [Public Policy & International Affairs Fellowship Program](#)
- [Puerto Rican Legal Defense & Education Fund](#)
- [Smithsonian Opportunities](#)
- [Summer Opportunities for Undergraduate Minority Students](#)
- [United Nations Headquarters Internship Program](#)

In addition, various undocumented student platforms have already been formed throughout the country in order to help create a DREAMer pipeline into law school, medical school, and other graduate programs. Check out the [Pre-Health Dreamers](#) website and [this list of admission policies of medical schools](#) open to undocumented and DACA applicants. In addition, these two graduate fellowships can help fund graduate school: [the Paul and Daisy Soros New American Fellowship](#) and the [Ford Foundation Fellowship Program](#) are open to DACAmented students.