

UNDOCUMENTED
STUDENTS AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN-
WHITEWATER

A Resource Guide to
Navigating College

Undocumented Students at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater: A Resource Guide to Navigating College

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Authors Introduction

“Every young person in America deserves a world-class education, we’ve got an obligation to give it to them.” President Obama (2009).

This resource guide serves as a tool for undocumented students and their families, as well as faculty, staff, and students at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater to use to work towards creating a positive and inviting atmosphere that supports our undocumented and DACAmented students. All students who attend the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater deserve a world-class education, and we hope this resource guide is a step in the right direction to providing one for our Undocumented Students.

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Glossary of Terms

Undocumented person - a person who is present in the United States without the permission of the U.S. government. Undocumented persons may enter the U.S. without inspection, or by using false documents; or legally, with a visa, and then remain in the U.S. beyond the expiration date of the visa. (For more information on visas and visa expiration please see the [US Department of State Website](#).) Currently there are over 1.8 million children under the age of 18 who reside in the United States who are undocumented. The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families estimates that there are approximately 100,000 undocumented individuals, and nearly 10,000 undocumented youth under the age of 18 in Wisconsin. Approximately 7% of undocumented high school graduates nationally enroll in higher education (College Advocacy Board, 2012). Research conducted by the Immigration Policy Center has found that most college-bound undocumented youth:

- Lived in the United States for most of their lives
- Speak English
- Were brought to the United States by their families at a young age
- Have attended the majority of their K-12 schooling experiences in the United States
- Currently do not have a clear path to citizenship or legal resident status in the United States under current immigration policy

DACA – Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Those who can prove through verifiable documentation that they meet the criteria will be eligible to receive deferred action, on a discretionary, case-by-case basis, for a period of two years, subject to renewal, and will be eligible to apply for work authorization. In order to be eligible to apply, applicants for DACA must meet all of the following criteria:

- Were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012
- Came to the United States before reaching their 16th birthday
- Have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007, up to the present time
- Were physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012, and at the time of making their request for consideration of deferred action with US Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS)
- Entered without inspection before June 15, 2012, or their lawful immigration status expired as of June 15, 2012
- Are currently in school, have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, have obtained a general education development (GED) certificate, or are an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States
- Have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, three or more other misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety
- Are at least 15 years of age at the time of filing for deferred action (they do not need to be 15 years of age or older at the time of filing your request if they are in removal proceedings, have a final removal order, or have a voluntary departure order)

On September 5, 2017, President Donald Trump attempted to end the DACA program although the courts (in California and New York) largely struck down these attempts, allowing for the continuation of DACA renewals, but not new applications. On April 24th 2018, a federal judge in Washington ruled that in addition to continuing to accept DACA renewals, the administration must also accept *new* DACA applications. However, the judge also placed a 90-day stay on the ruling allowing the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to submit additional justification for the ending of the program. New applications will be accepted after the 90-day stay.

On June 18th 2020 the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in favor of DACA. The supreme courts ruled that the lower court's ruling that the Trump administration unlawfully ended DACA. This decision restored the 2012 Obama Administration DACA policy.

DACA Decision in State of Texas, et al., v. United States of America, et al.,

On July 16, 2021, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas held that the DACA policy "is illegal." Consistent with this order ([PDF, 401.59 KB](#)), DHS will continue to accept the filing of both initial and renewal DACA requests, as well as accompanying requests for employment authorization. However, pursuant to the July 16, 2021 order from the Southern District of Texas, DHS is prohibited from granting initial DACA requests and accompanying requests for employment authorization. Also consistent with that order, DHS will continue to grant or deny renewal DACA requests, according to existing policy. Please see: <https://www.uscis.gov/DACA> for additional information.

Individuals with DACA receive temporary work permits, are shielded from deportation, and are eligible for a driver's license. DACA does not provide a pathway towards residency or citizenship.

DREAM Act – The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors is a legislative proposal for a multi-phase process for undocumented immigrants in the United States that would first grant conditional residency and upon meeting further qualifications, permanent residency. The bipartisan bill was first introduced in the Senate on August 1, 2001 and has since been reintroduced several times but has failed to pass.

Advance parole – permission for certain persons who do not have a valid immigrant visa to reenter the United States after traveling abroad. This includes those who have applied to adjust their status to that of permanent resident or change non-immigrant status, e.g., per DACA. Advance parole must be approved before the individual leaves the United States or any residency application will in general be denied. Currently, advance parole has been suspended. **Asylee** – a person who has already entered the United States and who fears persecution if sent back to his or her country, may apply for asylum here. An asylum applicant must prove that he or she has a "well-founded fear of persecution" on the basis of at least one of five specifically enumerated and internationally recognized grounds: race, religion, membership of a social group, political opinion, or national origin. An asylee may apply to become a legal permanent resident after one year.

Deportation – the formal removal of an individual from the U.S. when they have been found removable for violating the immigration laws.

Naturalization – the process by which eligible legal immigrants become U.S. citizens. The process requires that immigrants live in the U.S. for a certain number of years, learn English, study U.S. history and government, show that they are of "good moral character" and have not committed serious crimes, and finally, swear allegiance to the United States.

Legal permanent resident – the immigration status of a person authorized to live and work in the U.S. permanently. Also known as Permanent Resident Alien, Resident Alien Permit Holder, and more informally, Green Card Holder.

Refugee - a person outside of the United States who seeks protection on the grounds that he or she fears persecution in their homeland. To obtain refugee status, a person must prove that they

have a "well-founded fear of persecution" on the basis of at least one of five specifically enumerated and internationally recognized grounds: race, religion, membership of a social group, political opinion, or national origin. A refugee may apply to become a legal permanent resident after one year.

Visa – a conditional authorization to enter and temporarily remain within the U.S. Visas include limits on the duration of the stay. Some undocumented immigrants came to the U.S. with a temporary visa, and then remain in the U.S. beyond the expiration date of the visa. For more information on visas please see [US Department of State Website](#).

Wisconsin State Policy

IN-STATE TUITION POLICY

In the State of Wisconsin, qualified undocumented students were eligible for in-state tuition from 2009 to 2011, although AB 40 revoked eligibility in 2011. Undocumented students are now charged out-of-state tuition rates at Wisconsin public colleges and universities. *Some UW institutions provide some tuition equity support to assist with the out of state portion of tuition charges for undocumented students who meet certain eligibility criteria.*

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

- AB 929 was introduced in February 2016 and has been referred to the Committee on Colleges and Universities. If passed, the bill would have allowed undocumented students who graduated from a Wisconsin high school or received an equivalent degree, lived in the state for at least 3 years prior to high school graduation, and enroll in a University of Wisconsin system institution or Wisconsin technical school to qualify for in-state tuition rates. This bill failed to pass in April 2016.
- AB 785, introduced in February 2014, would have extended in-state tuition to qualified undocumented students, but failed to pass.
- AB 40, passed in 2011, revoked eligibility for in-state tuition.
- AB 75, approved in 2009, extended in-state tuition eligibility to undocumented students meeting certain criteria.
- AB 95, introduced in 2003, would have extended in-state tuition eligibility to undocumented students, but failed to pass.

OTHER RELEVANT POLICIES

- A bipartisan bill giving undocumented immigrants driver's card eligibility was introduced in February 2014, but failed to pass.
- Representative Don Pridemore introduced a bill, similar to AB 173 in Arizona, but it failed to pass.
- In 2010, the city of Madison passed a resolution supporting immigration reform and limiting local police involvement in federal immigration law enforcement.

Source: <http://uleadnet.org/map/wisconsin-policy>

Financing Your Education

*Adapted from the, Resource Guide: Supporting Undocumented Youth, from the U.S. Department of Education

*This is not a complete list. Students are encouraged to research other available scholarships.

National Scholarships Available to Undocumented Students

Great Minds in STEM Scholarship <https://greatmindsinstem.org/gmis-scholarship-application/>

Digital Marketing Scholarship

“10x digital awards a \$2,000 scholarship each year to one talented student (twice a year) who is majoring in a field related to digital marketing. This money may be used to pay for tuition, books, or living expenses.”

<https://www.10xdigitalinc.com/digital-marketing-scholarship/>

Soros Fellowship Program for New Americans: Open to Undocumented Graduate Students with DACA

“The Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans provides up to \$90,000 in support toward living expenses and tuition over two years. Students pursuing any graduate degree, discipline, or profession at any graduate school in the country may apply.”

<https://www.pdsoros.org/>

Ted Rollins ECO Scholarship

“Ted Rollins and TXG Capital award a \$1,000 scholarship twice each year to one talented student who is majoring in a field related to sustainability. This money may be used to pay for tuition, books or living expenses.”

<https://www.tedrollinsecoscholars.com/>

Golden Door Scholars

“Golden Door Scholars provides scholarships for DACA students and scholarships for undocumented students. Students may be high school seniors or recent graduates. Preference will be given to high school graduates from states that require undocumented students to pay out-of-state tuition.” <https://www.goldendoorscholars.org/>

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation

“The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation’s scholarship programs are designed to encourage and support outstanding students who work hard and have financial need. Our scholarships provide financial assistance and academic support to high school, undergraduate, and graduate students.”

<http://www.jkcf.org/scholarship-programs/>

Public Relations Student Society of America Scholarships

“Annually PRSSA and the PRSA Foundation offer many individual scholarships to help enhance your education. Whether through your academic achievement, diversity, professional ambition or desire to attend a National event, PRSSA provides the recognition and funding you’ve earned. Click on the links below to view the full application for each award, and consult the PRSSA Scholarships and Awards Qualifying Chart to determine which one you qualify for. Print out the 2016-2017 Scholarship & Awards deadline page to always be reminded when applications are due.”

Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Scholarships

“The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) was founded in Los Angeles, California, in 1974 by a group of engineers employed by the city of Los Angeles. Their objective was to form a national organization of professional engineers to serve as role models in the Hispanic community.

The concept of Networking was the key basis for the organization. SHPE quickly established two student chapters to begin the network that would grow to encompass the nation as well as reach countries outside the United States. Today, SHPE enjoys a strong but independent network of professional and student chapters throughout the nation.”

<https://www.shpe.org/students/scholarshpe>

Chris Goughnour Scholarship

The Chris Goughnour Scholarship is open to Latino youth who have been accepted to a two or four-year college in the United States. Please submit proof of college admission or current enrollment along with a 500 word or less essay on "The Most Important Person in My Life". A \$500 scholarship will be awarded to the young person providing the winning essay. We also request that each applicant sign up for Bing Giving and list the Marie Maxey Foundation as your charity. Instructions for signing up for Bing Giving can be found on our website. We seek to support youth who need support with their higher education costs and are focused on giving light to the world. Explaining how you plan to help others and how the most important person in your life shaped your values would be important to highlight. For more information or to apply, please visit the scholarship [provider's website](#).

DREAMer’s Roadmap

Download the app, DREAMer’s Roadmap, which was created to help undocumented students nationwide find scholarship opportunities.

My Undocumented Life

Review website (and Facebook page) for up to date resources on undocumented immigrants. This website contains information regarding scholarships for both undergraduate and graduate students.

<https://mydocumentedlife.org/>

Scholarship and Fellowship [Application](#)

UW-Whitewater Scholarships

Martha V. Ortiz Scholarship

Qualifications

1. Full-time undergraduate student at UW-Whitewater with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0.
2. Enrolled at UW-Whitewater and a participant of Latino Student Programs (LSP).
3. Scholarship should be used to recruit and retain low-income/first-generation students who have encountered language barriers in the course of their K-12 experience.
4. Contact Latino Student Programs to apply.

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater specific scholarships can be found [here](#).

*Some UWW scholarships require FAFSA and are not available for undocumented students

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Resources

Resources provided at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater are available to all students, regardless of citizenship status. *Identified allies for undocumented students from various offices are identified below the description, where their contact information is provided.

Dream Scholars and Colleagues – Founded in 2012, Dream Scholars and Colleagues is an officially recognized campus student organization made up of undocumented students and allies. DSC fundraises to support the Whitewater Dream Fund and provides educational programs and opportunities regarding tuition equity and DACA to the campus and broader communities through classroom presentations and various campus and community events. The “colleagues” are a great source of moral support for the dream scholars themselves. Dreams Scholars and Colleagues can be contacted at dsc@uww.edu

The Office of Student Diversity, Engagement, and Success – The Office of Student Diversity, Engagement and Success (SDES) provides programs that enhance, engage, and support students for success in their academic programs. SDES programs encompass curricular and co-curricular experiences that champion student diversity, engagement, educational achievement, and success. Along with campus and community partners, SDES fosters a university community that is characterized by inclusive excellence and that embraces the holistic educational experiences of all students at UW-W.”

*Ozalle Toms, Assistant Vice Chancellor, TomsO@uww.edu (262) 472-4985

Latino Student Programs (LSP) – provides academic and personal counseling, cultural and educational programming, and general assistance in adapting to life at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater directed towards Latino students. LSP is a clearinghouse for Latino concerns offering retention activities and long-term planning for students in preparation for graduate school and/or job placement.

For more information: <https://www.uww.edu/sdes/diversity-programs/latino-students-program> Office Phone: (262) 472-1913 email: latinoprograms@uww.edu

Latinos Unidos – a campus student organization that assists Latinos in uniting to recognize Latino heritage and work together as one. LU offers assistance and inspiration to help UW-W Latinos with their educational goals and promotes interest and appreciation of the history and the valuable contributions of Latino cultures.

*For more information, contact: latinosunidos304@uww.edu

Multicultural Business Program – MBP is a specialized support program and a cooperative effort between the College of Business & Economics, campus Academic Support Programs, and industry. Opportunities to participate in monthly student seminars as well as training and development sessions featuring minority business executives and business faculty is an integral part of the MBP concept.

*For more information, contact: Han Ngo, Academic Counselor: ngoh@uww.edu; (262) 4724900

Whitewater Dream Fund – a private, non-competitive scholarship for undocumented students attending UW-Whitewater. The Dream Fund pays up to 100 percent of the tuition inequity faced by these individuals beginning in the second semester of the freshman year.

*Contact Dr. Anne Stinson: annestinson@att.net Additional information provided under, Whitewater Dream Fund History.

University Health and Counseling Services (UHCS) – UHCS provides services to all enrolled UW-Whitewater students. All students, including undocumented students can access the services available at UHCS. UHCS provides the following services: treatment for illnesses & minor injuries, including laboratory tests and medications; immunizations; contraceptives, annual well women examinations; STI testing; massage therapy; individualized smoking cessation sessions; physicals; travel medicine, allergy injections; add additional services. Office Hours are Monday-Friday from 8:00-4:30, please call (262) 472-1300 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Winther Counseling Lab—The Winther Counseling Lab offers free confidential counseling and is open to students and the public, including: children, adolescents, adults, couples, and families (no information is requested related to status in the United States). The counseling lab is staffed by UW-Whitewater graduate students working towards their mater of science in Counseling. Supervision is provided by faculty of the Counselor Education program. The Winther Counseling Lab is open Monday-Thursday from 9:00am-7:00pm during the academic school year.

Admissions—Admissions Office identifies, recruits, admits, and enrolls talented and prepared undergraduate student to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. These initiatives are achieved in accordance with the UW-Whitewater Select Mission and core values. Contact Ramiro Quintana, Bilingual Admissions Counselor: QuintanaR15@uww.edu (262) 472-1440; Sarah Duesterbeck, Admissions Outreach Specialist: duesters@uww.edu (262) 472-3159

Academic Advising and Exploration Center—Advisors are here to help students succeed but advising is most effective when it is viewed as an on-going process in which students and advisors work as partners. Ultimately, students have the responsibility for their own educational plans and for monitoring all requirements for graduation, but they are encouraged to take advantage of the many resources available on campus - including the various advising services. Contact JP Villavicencio, Advisor: villavicJP23@uww.edu (262) 472-5230

Warhawk Emergency & Supplemental Fund—The Whitewater Emergency Fund is available for students with emergency financial need. Undocumented and DACAmented students can apply for the Warhawk supplemental fund. For additional information on how to apply, please be in touch with the contact below. The committee seeks to make a decision on fund applications within 48 hours. Contact Dr. Lauren Smith, Professor: smithLB@uww.edu (262) 472-6237

The Whitewater Dream Fund History

Background

In 2009, Governor Doyle introduced legislature to provide for “nonresident tuition exemptions for certain undocumented persons.” Any citizen of a country other than the United States of America residing in Wisconsin and meeting the following criteria would be entitled to in-state tuition at any state institution of higher education:

“(a) the person graduated from a Wisconsin high school or received a high school graduation equivalency declaration from this state; (b) the person was continuously present in this state for at least three years following the first day of attending a Wisconsin high school or immediately preceding the receipt of a declaration of equivalency of high school graduation; and (c) the person enrolls in a technical college or a UW System institution and provides the college or institution with an affidavit that the person has filed or will file an application for a permanent resident visa with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services as soon as the person is eligible to do so” (2008, Nonresident Tuition Exemptions for Certain Undocumented Persons).

In 2011, Governor Walker instituted legislation to repeal the in-state tuition provision. Refuting Governor Doyle’s position that charging in-state tuition to undocumented youth would have little effect on UW-System budgeting, Walker’s position was, and remains, that accepting undocumented students into UW-System schools places an unfair financial burden on Wisconsin taxpayers. Furthermore, Walker and other state legislators hold the position that accepting noncitizen residents to our tier one institutions prevents legal citizens from consideration at those institutions.

The Whitewater Dream Fund, a private scholarship for undocumented students attending UW-Whitewater, resulted from those first and subsequent discussions. It was the initial hope that the group would work through UW-W Foundation, but because undocumented youth are not a “protected class,” the Foundation could not guarantee that the scholarship would be awarded to an undocumented student. Community of Christ Servant Church now administers the Whitewater Dream Fund.

In the first year of its existence, the Whitewater Dream Fund provided assistance to three “dream scholars.” Two of those students dropped out after the 2011-2012 academic year citing insurmountable financial difficulties. Beginning with the 2012-2013 academic year, after establishing the organization as a legitimate entity separate from UW-Whitewater, the Whitewater Dream Fund has fully funded or nearly fully funded the tuition inequity of \$7,500 (\$8,000 in the most current budget) for two students each semester.

The Whitewater Dream Fund is a non-competitive scholarship open to all undocumented youth attending UW-Whitewater full-time and maintaining a GPA of at least 2.75. One hundred percent of the funds collected each semester are distributed evenly among current dream scholar applicants. The second dream scholar graduated in December 2018 with a degree in elementary bilingual education and, due to her DACA status, is employed as elementary school educator in Wisconsin.

Helpful Websites

American Immigration Council: The American Immigration Council was founded in 1987 with the mission of strengthening American by honoring its immigration history. The American Immigration Council websites maintains up to date information on immigration policy and provides research that demonstrates the economic and social benefits of Immigration.

Link: <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/>

Own the Dream: This website provides information on DACA eligibility and criteria. This organizations works with partners to provide assistance to individuals eligible to apply for DACA. Link: <https://www.thedream.us/>

Inside Higher Ed Article: This article presents survey research on the role of stress and pressure undocumented students may face as a result of their legal status:

Link: <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2015/01/26/study-finds-undocumented-colleges-students-face-unique-challenges>

The College Board-For Undocumented Students: This website contains information related to applying to college and seeking financial assistance for college for undocumented students.

Link: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/for-undocumented-students>

Rock Valley College Website for Undocumented Students: This websites provides resources to potential and currently enrolled undocumented students at Rock Valley College in Illinois. The institution website also contains link to resources and information for undocumented students (including state specific guidelines and resources). By including a webpage focusing on the support of undocumented students they are sending the message that this is a student population that may be supported when they enroll.

Link: <https://www.rockvalleycollege.edu/StudentServices/InterculturalStudentServices/UndocumentedStudents.cfm>

University of Washington Admissions website-Undocumented Students: This websites provides resources to potential and currently enrolled undocumented students at the University of Washington. The institution website also contains link to resources and information for undocumented students on their campus. By including a webpage focusing on the support of undocumented students they are sending the message that this is a student population that may be supported when they enroll.

Link: <http://www.washington.edu/admissions/undocumented/campus-resources/>

MyUndocumentedLife Website: The mission of My (Un)Documented Life is to provide up-to-date information and resources to undocumented immigrants. The website posts scholarship opportunities that are open to undocumented students, strategies for navigating the educational system, information on how to apply for DACA/Advanced Parole, news on DAPA, and much more. Most importantly, this website strives to provide a *sense of community* to its diverse group of readers.

Link: <https://mydocumentedlife.org/>

Illinois Association for College Admissions Counseling (IACAC): IACAC has developed a College advising guide for undocumented students, their website contains information and links for undocumented students interested in applying for college.

Link: <https://www.iacac.org/undocumented/>

DePaul Spotlight on MyUndocumentedLife: DePaul is a strong supporter of undocumented students pursuing higher education. The article features the types of supports that they provide to undocumented applications and students. Learn more at the link below.

Link: <https://mydocumentedlife.org/2017/01/25/college-spotlight-de-paul-university/>

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services: This website maintains information on eligibility criteria for apply for citizenship. Forms and links to applications are available through this website. The website is maintained by the department of homeland security. Link: <https://www.uscis.gov/>

List of private colleges that accept undocumented students as domestic for tuition purposes: <https://mydocumentedlife.org/2016/09/14/colleges-that-accept-undocumented-students-as-domestic-students/>

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