

APPLYING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONS GRADUATE PROGRAMS

PRE-HEALTH GUIDE UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS *without* DACA

PLEASE NOTE:

Undocumented status without papers refers to any immigrant residing in the United States without legal documentation or who may have entered the country with a legal visa that is no longer valid, or those who entered with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and whose TPS has been revoked. <https://immigrantsrising.org/resource/defining-undocumented/>

At this time and until legislation is passed to create a path to citizenship, undocumented students cannot receive federal educational funding, obtain a Social Security Number, bank loans, work permits, a driver's license outside of New York State, and cannot obtain professional licenses. These factors prohibit undocumented graduates of medical schools from practicing within their profession.

Santa Clara University has published an important guide that discusses the legal and practical concerns of undocumented students interested in pursuing graduate school. Their advice discusses ID requirements specific to the MCAT and DAT as well as insight into life after graduation: https://www.thedream.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Navigating-Graduate-School_-Resource-Guide-for-Undocumented-Stude-1.pdf

General Questions for Undocumented students without DACA status:

Q: Can I continue to work if a Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is revoked?

A: No. If TPS is revoked, we recommend students speak with an attorney about legal options that may then exist. <https://www.nyu.edu/students/communities-and-groups/undocumented-students/info-and-resources-for-undocumented-students.html>

Q: What resources are available to me as an undocumented student without DACA status?

A: Again, *Santa Clara University has published an important guide that discusses the legal and practical concerns of undocumented students interested in pursuing graduate school.* Their advice discusses ID requirements specific to the MCAT and DAT as well as insight into life after graduation: https://www.thedream.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Navigating-Graduate-School_-Resource-Guide-for-Undocumented-Stude-1.pdf

Q: What is the Green Light Law?

A: The Green Light Law allows New Yorkers age 16 and older to apply for a standard, not for federal purpose, non-commercial driver license or learner's permit regardless of citizenship or lawful status. This law went into effect December 16, 2019.

Q: Can Undocumented students continue to travel to other states if I am undocumented or if I lose TPS status?

A: If you travel within 100 miles of US national borders and coastlines, you may be subject to a "routine search" even if law enforcement officials do not have a warrant or suspicion of wrongdoing. Because of this, we recommend you talk with an attorney before making any travel

plans if you are undocumented or you lose DACA status.

<https://www.nyu.edu/students/communities-and-groups/undocumented-students/info-and-resources-for-undocumented-students.html>

Q: Can Undocumented students travel outside of the United States?

A: No. The undocumented students are strongly advised not travel outside of the U.S. due to potential challenges facing reentry:

<https://nilc.org>

<https://www.nyu.edu/students/communities-and-groups/undocumented-students/travel-advisement-for-undocumented-students.html>

Q: Can undocumented students take the MCAT?

A: Yes. When registering for the MCAT, you are eligible to receive a free placeholder social security number (SSN) to use for registration purposes. You may call the AAMC, who administers the MCAT (Phone: 202-828-0400) and let them know that you do not possess a SSN, and they will assign you an identification number (you do not need to reveal your status). This assigned identification number is also used with your AMCAS application.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b453764f93fd480d1fcc9f9/t/5bac29c5e79c70397ee8aa26/1538013119971/PHD-MedSchoolFAQ-ver.2.pdf>

Q: Are undocumented students eligible for the AAMC's Fee Assistance Program?

A: No. Undocumented students are not eligible to receive assistance through the AAMC's Fee Assistance Program.

Q: What resources are available to undocumented students on the AAMC's website?

The AAMC offers several great tools that you can take advantage of:

- Money Management:
 - AAMC Financial Wellness Program - Get access to financial calculators, articles, and videos for how to create a budget and track spending: <https://aamcfinancialwellness.com/>
 - MedLoans Organizer and Calculator (MLOC) - Assists students with managing educational debt: <https://students-residents.aamc.org/financial-aid/article/medloans-organizer-and-calculator-mloc/>
 - AAMC FIRST Videos and Webinars - Topics include: paying for medical school, cost of residency interviews, and postponing loan repayment: <https://students-residents.aamc.org/financial-aid/article/first-videos-webinars/>
- Other Tutorials and Webinars can be accessed using this link: <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/applying-medical-school-process/applying-medical-school-amcas/amcas-tools-and-tutorials/>

Q: Which medical schools are currently accepting undocumented students?

A: The number of medical schools accepting and financially supporting undocumented students is limited. The AAMC has posted a list of all medical schools currently accepting undocumented, non-DACA, students. Please click on this link to view the full list:

<https://www.aamc.org/system/files/2019-08/gsa-msar-daca-policies-2020.pdf>

Q: Can undocumented students receive federal financial aid?

A: No. Undocumented students are not eligible to receive federal aid, including Pell Grants. Undocumented students should not file the FAFSA.

Q: Can undocumented students receive New York State financial Aid?

A: Yes. The New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) is a grant and does not have to be repaid. TAP helps eligible New York residents pay tuition at approved schools in New York State. Depending on the academic year in which you begin study, an annual TAP award can be up to \$5,165. Again, because TAP is a grant, it does not have to be paid back. To see if you may be eligible for a TAP award, click here: <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/nys-grants-scholarships-awards/tap.html#horizontalTab2>

To see if you are eligible for aid through the NYS DREAM Act, please visit this website: <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/dream/>. All information provided will be used ONLY for determining eligibility for and administering awards. If eligible, you can apply for one or more grants and scholarships.

Q: Can undocumented students receive private financial aid?

A: Yes. Some private schools offer financial assistance. To be eligible for private financial aid, undocumented students must complete and submit a College Scholarship Service Profile (CSS). A CSS profile may be used to apply for non-federal aid from the university. The fee for the initial application is \$25 and additional reports can be purchased for \$16.

To learn more about the CSS profile, you may view this link:
<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/getting-started-your-css-profile-application>
<https://cc-seas.financialaid.columbia.edu/ask/faq/question/4744>

Q: Should undocumented students apply to private and public graduate programs?

A: Since New York State offers financial assistance to undocumented students, applying to both public and private schools is acceptable. In general, private schools are less restricted on who they can award scholarships to and tend to have greater financial resources for low income students. The Medical School Admissions Requirement Guide (MSAR) indicates which medical schools offer institutional aid to their students.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b453764f93fd480d1fcc9f9/t/5bac29c5e79c70397ee8aa26/1538013119971/PHD-MedSchoolFAQ-ver.2.pdf>

Q: What scholarships are available to undocumented students?

A: Below are additional resources for locating scholarships: <https://www.suny.edu/attend/get-started/undocumented/faq/>:

- MALDEF Scholarship Resource Guide 2019 - 2020
<https://www.maldef.org/resources/scholarship-resource-guide/>
- Dr. Juan Andrade Jr. Scholarship for Young Hispanic Leaders:
<https://www.uskli.org/dr-juan-andrade-scholarship-for-young-hispanic-leaders/>

- Immigrants Rising: List of Graduate Scholarships
https://immigrantsrising.org/wp-content/uploads/Immigrants-Rising_List-of-Graduate-Scholarships.pdf
- Golden Door Scholars: <https://www.goldendoorscholars.org/future-scholars>
- The Dream.US: <https://www.thedream.us/scholarships/>
- College Greenlight - Scholarships for Undocumented Students:
<http://blog.collegegreenlight.com/blog/scholarships-for-undocumented-students/>

Q: What is the Pre-Health Dreamers (PHD) organization?

A: As featured on the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) website, Pre-Health Dreamers is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping DACA and undocumented students navigate the complexities of pursuing careers in medicine, dentistry, and physical therapy. <https://www.aamc.org/news-insights/daca-students-risk-everything-become-doctors>. They are an information-sharing network and consist of a community of undocumented students around the country. Visit: <https://www.phdreamers.org/> to learn more about their mission to empower undocumented students.

They answer such questions including, but not limited to:

- What are medical schools' policies on accepting undocumented students?
- What are common obstacles undocumented students face pursuing medical school?
- As an undocumented applicant, how do I select which schools to apply to?
- Should I talk about or reveal my undocumented status in my application?
- Does my DACA status change my ability to pursue medical school?
- Are there any programs that will help me cover the medical school application fees?
- How do undocumented students fund medical school? What are the options?

To view the answers to these questions and others, you may click on this link:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b453764f93fd480d1fcc9f9/t/5bac29c5e79c70397ee8aa26/1538013119971/PHD-MedSchoolFAQ-ver.2.pdf>

Members of Pre-Health Dreamers have also developed a pathway chart for undocumented students interested in pursuing medicine, nursing, dentistry, and pharmacy. You may access their pathway chart by clicking on this link:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b453764f93fd480d1fcc9f9/t/5b687fc703ce649b2d3d9e19/1533575114994/PHDCareerPathway-1-25-14.pdf>