

## Resources for Undocumented Students

### This resource guide includes information on:

- ✓ financial aid and scholarships open to undocumented students
- ✓ transfer information and qualifying for in-state tuition
- ✓ immigration updates and where to get legal assistance
- ✓ your legal rights when encountering law enforcement
- ✓ driver's license
- ✓ mental health resources to help you with issues related to your status
- ✓ career advice for undocumented students-how to work
- ✓

### Montgomery College Scholarship Information

Montgomery College offers a variety of merit-based scholarships for graduating MCPS high school seniors which are open to Maryland DREAM\* and DACA \*\*students including the Montgomery Scholars Scholarship, Macklin Business Institute Scholarship, Board of Trustees Specialty Scholarship and Renaissance Scholars. In addition all other students can apply for MC Foundation Scholarships.

[www.montgomerycollege.edu/scholarships](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/scholarships)

### Maryland State Financial Assistance and Scholarships

The **Community College Promise Scholarship, the Guaranteed Access Grant, and the Education Assistance Grant from the State of Maryland** are available to Maryland Dream Act eligible students, DACA students and students with TPS status.

<https://mhec.state.md.us/preparing/Pages/FinancialAid/descriptions.aspx>

#### ***Who can apply?***

Any undocumented student that has **DACA OR qualifies for the Maryland Dream Act** under the following criteria:

- Graduated from high school in Maryland (public or private) **or** completed a GED
- Student or parent or legal guardian has filed Maryland state taxes for at least the past 3 years
- Males (18 to 25 yrs) have to register for Selective Service and provide proof (forms available at US post office.)
- Attend college within six years of high school graduation or GED completion.

\*Maryland DREAM or DREAMER- refers to the Maryland DREAM Act or a student who qualifies

\*\*DACA- refers to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Act

## Applying for Maryland State Financial Aid continued.

### ***How do you apply?***

An overview of the application process and details about Maryland State Aid for which undocumented students qualify is found here: <https://mhec.maryland.gov/Pages/MHEC%20One%20App%20FAQs.aspx>

### **STEP I. File a Maryland State Financial Aid Application (MSFAA) by completing the following steps:**

- 1) **Create an MDCAPS account.** <https://mdcaps.mhec.state.md.us>
  1. ***If you do not have a social security number, enter zeroes.***
- 2) Complete the **MFSAA Eligibility Wizard** before being able to fill out the MFSAA.

STEPS and tips on answering questions:

- a) Select MSFAA (MD State Financial Aid Application for Undocumented Individuals)
  - b) First question - Are you a US citizen or eligible non-citizen (**answer no** if you are undocumented, undocumented with DACA or undocumented with TPS)
  - c) Second question- Do you or your parent/legal guardian currently have a social security number or individual taxpayer Identification number- **answer yes** if you or your parent/guardian have filed Maryland state income tax.
  - d) Third question- this question has to do with if you or parents have filed Maryland state income tax for at least the past 3 years.
  - e) Fourth question- this question asks if you have completed a FAFSA form. **Answer no** if you are an undocumented student as you are not eligible to receive federal financial aid and therefore should not file a FAFSA form.
- 3) Once you answer the Wizard questions, if you are eligible to apply, you will then be directed to complete the MFSAA form. **Complete the MFSAA form and submit.**

### ***What is the deadline?***

You must file the MSFAA form by March 1<sup>st</sup> to be considered for aid in the next academic year (Fall/Spring semesters.)

### ***Besides the MFSAA form, are there any additional documents required?***

You should monitor your MDCAPS student portal as you will receive important notifications, which may include a request for additional documents, and if financial aid is approved, you will need to accept the award via your student portal.

**STEP by STEP Guide to Completed MFSAA found here:**

<https://wearecasa.org/updates/maryland-state-financial-aid-application-university-student-guide/>

## **Other Scholarships**

**The Herb Block Scholarship** is open to Maryland DREAM students and students with DACA enrolled at Montgomery College, Prince Georges Community College, Northern Virginia Community College and the Community College of the District of Columbia. In order to be considered, students must complete the Herb Block Online Scholarship Application at the following website:

[www.herblockfoundation.org](http://www.herblockfoundation.org)

**The Dream US scholarships** are for specific schools both private and public. Scholarships are available to students with DACA. To qualify for a scholarship at one of their *public universities*, you must qualify for in-state tuition in the state that public school is located. **In terms of Maryland, there are two universities that are awarding the Dream US scholarships- Morgan State University and St. Mary's College of Maryland.** Scholarships are available for students entering college from high school as well as for community college students who plan to transfer to a four year college to complete a Bachelor's degree. Please check the scholarship link on the website for further information.

<http://www.thedream.us>

**The New Futures Foundation** also offers a scholarship open to undocumented students, but applicants must be nominated by a partnering community-based organization (Liberty's Promise and College Tracks are two of their partners), and the foundation requires its partners to have worked with each applicant for at least six months.

<http://www.newfuturesdc.org>

**MALDEF** has an annually updated Scholarship Resource Guide which list scholarships that may not require a social security number nor ask about immigration status. For example, one scholarship of interest is the Dream Act Student Activist Program (\$5000 for young Dream Act activists). Please see their Scholarship Resource Guide found under the [Resources](#) link at:

<http://www.maldef.org>

**DREAMer's Roadmap**- A mobile app is available at this website to help undocumented students find scholarships opportunities:

<http://dreamersroadmap.org/>

## **Scholarship Directories**

**Immigrants Rising Organization Directory:**

<https://immigrantsrising.org/resource/list-of-scholarships-and-fellowships/#list>

**Forty Scholarships-Nitro College:**

<https://www.nitrocollege.com/scholarships/undocumented-students>

**My Undocumented Life:** <https://mydocumentedlife.org/category/college-scholarships/>

**Transfer Scholarships**

Undocumented students planning to transfer to a four year college after attending Montgomery College should explore scholarship possibilities at the colleges they are considering. All colleges and universities have scholarship funds available to students at their institutions; you may want to contact the Financial Aid office at the institution you are attending to see if scholarships are available to undocumented students. Policies vary from school to school. It is important to check with the institution to which you are applying.

**University of Maryland, Baltimore Country:**

Dreamers and DACA students are automatically considered for [UMBC merit-based scholarships](#) if they meet the GPA criteria and submit both their Common Application and official transcript(s) by our priority application deadline (March 1st for fall and October 15th for spring).

**Universities at Shady Grove**

Dreamers and DACA students also are eligible to apply for USG scholarships through the USG Scholarship Application: <https://shadygrove.umd.edu/admissions-aid/scholarships>. Students can complete the scholarship application and be considered for USG scholarships every semester while they are a student at USG. In completing this one scholarship application, students can potentially qualify for multiple scholarships.

**University of Maryland, College Park**

This office provides information and assistance to undocumented and immigrant students and may list information about scholarships or financial aid:

[https://stamp.umd.edu/engagement/immigrant\\_undocumented\\_student\\_life](https://stamp.umd.edu/engagement/immigrant_undocumented_student_life)

**The University of Baltimore**

*Wilson Scholarship for Transfer Students* covers full, in-state tuition for 4 semesters of full-time enrollment, or 8-semesters of part-time enrollment. US citizens, International Students, DACA and Dreamer students are eligible. [www.ubalt.edu/wilsonscholarship](http://www.ubalt.edu/wilsonscholarship).

Tufts University in Medford, MA

<http://admissions.tufts.edu/apply/first-year-students/undocumented-students/>

**Other colleges that we are aware of that have offered scholarships regardless of status:**

American University, Georgetown University, Amherst College, and Vassar

## **Transferring out of Montgomery College to a Maryland State University**

All Maryland state publically funded colleges admit undocumented students. ***Students with DACA or who qualify under the Maryland Dream Act are eligible to pay in-state tuition if they reside in Maryland at the time of application.*** You will need to check with the college or university in order to understand what documents you will be required to submit in order to qualify for in-state tuition. The colleges listed below are noted because they have specific links or contact persons that provide specific assistance or information to undocumented students. If your transfer school is not listed below you can check with the Office of the Registrar for information about in-state tuition.

### ***University of Maryland, College Park and UM at Shady Grove***

Information on how to apply for in-state tuition under the Maryland DREAM Act if you have been accepted to the University of Maryland:

<https://registrar.umd.edu/residency-reclassification/non-resident-tuition-exemptions/maryland-dream-act>

Information about how to apply for in-state tuition benefits at the University of Maryland if you have DACA status (scroll down the screen to see the information about DACA):

<https://registrar.umd.edu/residency-reclassification/procedures#daca>

Information for undocumented students enrolled at the University of Maryland can be found at this website:

<http://undocumented.umd.edu/>

### ***Towson University***

Students applying to Towson University that need assistance in how to apply for in-state tuition benefits under the Maryland Dream Act or DACA should see:

<https://www.towson.edu/admissions/undergrad/residency/faq.html>

Financial aid information for undocumented students at Towson at:

<https://www.towson.edu/admissions/financialaid/apply/undocumented.html>

### ***University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)***

Information specifically for undocumented students including scholarships:

<https://enrollment.umbc.edu/undocumented/>

## **Health Insurance, Driver's License and other Governmental Benefits for Undocumented Students**

Information on Maryland State policies regarding driver license, health insurance, in-state tuition benefits for undocumented persons are found on this map. Click the information you are interested in on the menu appearing on the right side of the page, click on Maryland to see information about that specific benefit. <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/interactive-public-benefits-map>

### **Getting a Driver's License:**

<https://unitedwedream.org/how-to-obtain-a-drivers-license-if-youre-undocumented/>

### **Information about DACA/Immigration Updates/Legal Help**

Frequently Asked Questions about Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and updates. National Immigration Law Center Website:

<https://www.nilc.org/issues/daca/>

Updates on DACA and other policies and procedures impacting undocumented students. You can sign up for Text alerts. An advocacy website for students interested in getting involved.

<http://unitedwedream.org/>

CASA de Maryland is the largest non-profit immigrant advocacy organization in the area and works to inform the community about immigration changes that impact students with DACA and other immigration related issues.

<https://wearecasa.org/>

Need Immigration Advice? A website that helps immigrants find low cost legal assistance with immigration cases in their state of residence.

<http://www.immigrationlawhelp.org/>

Are you facing an immigration hearing and need free legal help? Maryland Pro Bono Resource Center can help. Phone 443-703-3054

<https://probonomd.org/for-legal-help/ayuda-para-inmigrantes/#english>

On-line questionnaire which will help you find out what immigration status you might qualify for: <https://immigrantsrising.org/legalintake/>

## **Know your Rights Information- what are your constitutional rights and what to do if stopped by police or ICE?**

<https://www.nilc.org/issues/immigration-enforcement/everyone-has-certain-basic-rights/>

<https://youtu.be/QSm0p-Uk1Bw> (video)

## **Mental Health Resources for Undocumented Students:**

Find strategies for coping with the anxiety and stress associated with being undocumented:

[https://unitedwedream.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/F\\_NLPA-UWD-Mental-Health-Resources.pdf](https://unitedwedream.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/F_NLPA-UWD-Mental-Health-Resources.pdf)

Free support groups with mental health professional for undocumented persons and also free mental health providers found here:

<https://immigrantsrising.org/supportgroups/>

Free Guided Meditations in English and Spanish from the University of California:

[https://www.uclahealth.org/marc/body.cfm?id=22&iirf\\_redirect=1](https://www.uclahealth.org/marc/body.cfm?id=22&iirf_redirect=1)

## **Career and Income Issues for students without work authorization**

Students with DACA and TPS are able to obtain temporary work authorization which will help you secure a job in the United States. But what if you do not qualify for DACA or TPS? The resources listed below address this issue:

**Advice for undocumented college graduates seeking work:**

<https://careers.umd.edu/explore-careers/diversity-identity-support/undocumented-students>

**Videos on Career Information for Undocumented Students:**

<https://www.thedream.us/current-scholars/career-success/recorded-career-workshops/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wY6ycbZIEmY&t=1s>