

What is the Mn Dream/Prosperity Act?

This became law in 2013 and has benefitted hundreds of students already. To qualify, you must meet this criteria:

1. Attended a Minnesota high school for at least 3 years; and
2. Graduated from a Minnesota high school or earned a GED in Minnesota; and
3. Registered with the U.S. Selective Service (applies only to males 18 to 25 years old); and
4. Provide documentation to show they have applied for lawful immigration status but only if a federal process exists for a student to do so (does not include applying for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). There is currently not a federal process in place, so this documentation is not currently required.

Students who meet the criteria in the MN Dream Act will be eligible for the following benefits:

- In-state resident tuition rates at public colleges and universities.
- State financial aid available to students who meet state residency requirements.
- Privately funded financial aid through public colleges and universities.

TUITION

Will I be required to pay nonresident tuition at public institutions in Minnesota?

At colleges that have different rates for residents and nonresidents, undocumented students who do not qualify for the MN Dream Act usually pay non-resident rates.

Private colleges charge one rate to all students and are able to award scholarships to undocumented students. There are also many public institutions in Minnesota that charge one flat rate to residents and nonresidents alike. The list is available at:

www.ohe.state.mn.us/MNDreamAct

This brochure is up to date as of Nov. 2015.

RESOURCES

NAVIGATE

www.navigatemn.org or
www.facebook.com/Navigate.Mn

MN Dream Act - MN Office of Higher Education

www.ohe.state.mn.us/MNDreamAct

Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota

<http://www.immigrantlawcentermn.org/ilcm.htm>

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights webpage on undocumented immigrants

http://www.mnadvocates.org/Undocumented_Students.html

Educators for Fair Education

www.e4fc.org

Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund

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

Contact NAVIGATE:

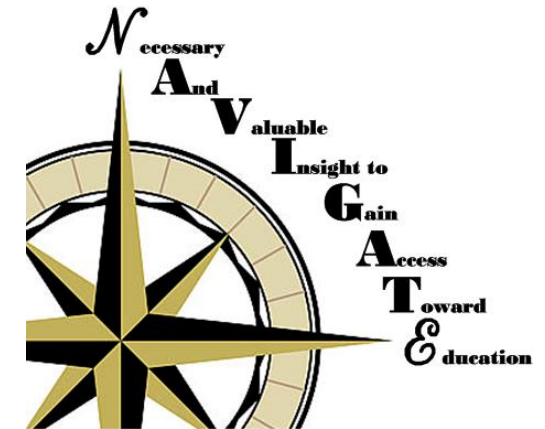
www.navigatemn.org
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"Professors, instead of just being my teachers, they became my friends and helped me out. School has become my second home. I think if you were to stop and look around they would see that there are people who are willing to help you." –C.S.

An Overview of the College Process for Minnesota Un/Documented Students

NAVIGATE



NAVIGATE offers...

- A **guide** book specifically for undocumented/DACAmented students
- A **network** of immigrant youth & allies
- **Presentations** for students, families & educators
- **Advocacy** opportunities
- **Volunteer** opportunities
- A **website/facebook** page to distribute useful, pertinent information specific to educating and creating a welcoming community for these students

INTRODUCTION

Why is the college process different for me as an undocumented student?

There have been two major developments for undocumented youth. Minnesota is one of four states that recognizes some undocumented students as “resident” that allows these students to apply pay in-state tuition and apply for state grants. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals allows many youth to not fear deportation & get a work-permit that allows students to legally work & drive.

Some undocumented immigrants are charged the (more expensive) non-resident tuition rate & cannot apply for a state grant. Undocumented immigrants are not eligible for federal financial assistance, and many scholarships ask for proof of legal immigration status or citizenship. Though, all may apply for the MN Self Loan with a co-signer.

However, there are paths un/documented students can take to make college a reality. NAVIGATE was developed by students like you who made college a reality for themselves and wanted you to have these same opportunities.

How many students are affected by these barriers?

There are about 1.8 million undocumented children in this country. About 65,000 undocumented students graduate from high school each year. There are about 50,000 undocumented students enrolled in college.

There should be more.

We began this project to assist you, and give you the information that you'll need to navigate the college process with more ease than students before you.

DURING HIGH SCHOOL

How can I reduce the cost of attending college?

You can often earn college credit for free with the Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO), College in the Schools (CIS), and qualifying scores on Advanced Placement (AP) exams, International Baccalaureate (IB) exams, or sections of the ACT or SAT.

APPLYING TO COLLEGE

Undocumented students, like any other student, have a right to pursue and attend college in the United States. Do NOT let anyone tell you differently!

How do I apply to college?

For private colleges, call the admissions office or diversity affairs office at the college where you wish to apply. Explain your situation and ask how you will proceed with your application. Two-year (some 4-year) Minnesota colleges & universities have a single application to fill out—see our list of schools that are one-rate tuition & are great options for students who do not meet MN Dream Act criteria. Undocumented students are generally not eligible to submit a FAFSA but may apply for the Mn Dream Act.

How do I answer questions about immigration and citizenship?

When applying to college, you legally do not have to provide a social security number. Leave these questions blank or check “other.” It is important not to misrepresent yourself or give false information; this includes giving a fake social security or green card number.

Do I apply as an international student?

Some schools may require you to fill out the international student application. You may need a student visa and a US citizen to vouch for you financially in case you run out of funds.

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

How can I get more money for college?

Many colleges grant direct scholarships to students based on such things as need, merit, minority status, leadership, service, or on-campus internships.

Many private scholarship donors and programs do not require recipients to be citizens or legal residents. Visit our website for a list!

Although MN College Savings

Plans cannot be opened for undocumented students, all **can** take out the MN SELF loan, which is a private loan program, if:

- You have a citizen as a credit-worthy co-signer for the loan, and
- If you attend an eligible school.

Even if you do not have a social security number, you are eligible to create your own business in Minnesota.

If you are eligible for DACA, you may work while going to school or find work-study at your college/university if you qualify under the MN Dream Act.

What is Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA)?

On June 15, 2012, the Secretary of Homeland Security announced that certain people who came to the United States as children and meet several guidelines may request consideration of deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal. They are also eligible for work authorization. Deferred action is a use of prosecutorial discretion to defer removal action against an individual for a certain period of time. Deferred action does not provide lawful status.

You may request DACA if you:

1. Were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012;
2. Came to the United States before reaching your 16th birthday;
3. Have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007, up to the present time;
4. Were physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012, and at the time of making your request for consideration of deferred action with USCIS;
5. Had no lawful status on June 15, 2012;
6. 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; and
7. Have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, or three or more other misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety.

If a particular college or scholarship program requires you to demonstrate financial need with the FAFSA, ask if you can submit the paper (not online) version and leave the social security section blank or use the MN Dream Act application.

Unfortunately undocumented students are not yet eligible to submit FAFSA forms; some students may apply for the Mn Dream Act.

Visit us for scholarship lists, upcoming events, updates, and more:
www.navigatemn.org