

FAFSA Tips

for undocumented students

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Can I go to college if I am undocumented?

Generally speaking, your status won't prevent you from being admitted or enrolling in classes at a college or vocational school. However, being undocumented limits the type of financial aid you receive and possibly the cost of tuition.

If I discuss my undocumented status with the counselor at my school, or the financial aid advisor at the college I want to attend, are they required to report me to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)?

No. They are not required by law to report undocumented students.

I'm undocumented but have lived in the U.S. since I was 3 years old.

Am I eligible for financial aid?

Undocumented students aren't eligible for federal financial aid such as Pell grants, work-study, and Direct loans. However, financial aid is possibly available through private organizations and scholarships, grants, loans and work programs at the school you want to attend. Contact the college's financial aid office directly to find out what aid is available to you.

I was born in the U.S. but my parents are undocumented.

Does that affect my eligibility for federal financial aid?

Your parents' status doesn't affect your eligibility for federal financial aid. However, your parents will not be eligible for PLUS loans to help you pay for college. For more info, contact your college's financial aid office.

I am undocumented but have lived in Utah since my family came to the U.S. when I was 6 years old. If I attend a public college in Utah, am I eligible for in-state tuition?

Yes, if you meet certain requirements. Utah enacted House Bill 144 which allows undocumented students to be eligible for in-state tuition rates if they:

- attend a Utah high school for 3 years,
- obtain a high school diploma from a Utah high school
- enroll in a public postsecondary institution in Utah, and file an affidavit stating intent to legalize immigration status and become a permanent resident.

Where can I find private scholarships?

- United States Hispanic Leadership Institute - ushli.org
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund - maldef.org
- Get Ready for College - getreadyforcollege.org
- Latino College Dollars - latinocollegedollars.org
- Scholarships for Hispanics - scholarshipsforhispanics.org