I have DACA and I can use the FAFSA? Say what?!

United We Dream

& Own the Dream Campaign

www.unitedwedream.org

@UWD_DEEP www.facebook/DEEP





Introductions

- Amanda Gutierrez
 - Advocacy Analyst and Manager, UWD
- Camila Bortoletto
 - Program Coordinator, Own the DreamCampaign
- Laura Bohorquez
 - Dream Educational Empowerment Program (DEEP) Coordinator, UWD





How to Participate in this Webinar?

- "Raise your hand"
- Ask a question with the "Questions" panel
- Use the "Chat" feature"







Presentation Goals

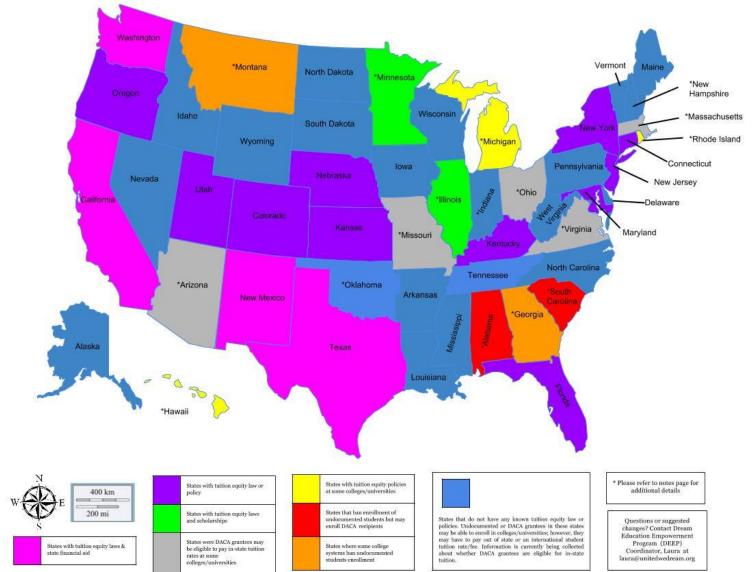
- Get an understanding of the current states allowing undocumented and DACA recipients to pay in-state tuition
- Get an understanding of the current states that grant state aid to undocumented students
- Figure out what your best option is to expand the possibilities to get scholarships and institutional aid
- Get an understanding of why DACA recipients can fill out the FAFSA form- The history behind it
- Understand the areas that you have to pay close attention to when filling out the FAFSA form
- Have the opportunity to go through some different scenarios







Tuition and State Aid Equity for Undocumented Students and DACA Grantees | Access by State *Notes|May 2014



Current Context: States w/State Financial Aid

1. California: California Dream Act (Assembly Bill 130 & 131)

- a. Link to information and requirements https://dream.csac.ca.gov/
- b. Organizations to reach out to for assistance
 - i. IDEAS at UCLA (United We Dream Affiliate and DEEP Center)
 - 1. IDEAS at UCLA- http://ideasla.org/index/
 - ii. Educators for Fair Consideration (E4FC)
 - 1. E4FC- http://www.e4fc.org/resources/californiadreamact.html

2. Washington: Real Hope Act (SB 6523)

- a. Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WAFSA)
 - i. Link to information and requirements- http://readysetgrad.org/wasfa
- b. Organizations to reach out to for assistance
 - i. Washington Dream Act Coalition (WDAC-United We Dream Affiliate)
 - 1. WDAC- http://www.wdac.info/
 - ii. Latino Education Achievement Project (LEAP)
 - 1. LEAP- http://www.leapwa.org/index.asp
 - 2. Real Hope WA- http://realhopewa.org/





Current Context: States w/State Financial Aid

Texas: HB 1403 & SB 1528

- a. Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TAFSA)
 - i. Link to information and requirementshttp://www.collegeforalltexans.com/index.cfm?objectid=D465D848-EAoF-CoEA-5209BC8C89262877
- b. Organizations to reach out to for assistance
 - i. University Leadership Initiative (United We Dream Affiliate and DEEP Center)
 - 1. ULI-http://www.universityleadership.org/
 - 2. Longhorns Dreamer Project- http://world.utexas.edu/isss/students/dreamers
 - ii. Alamo Colleges: http://www.alamo.edu/district/daca/

New Mexico: SB 582

- a. NM has 23 public institutions, every school has a different process so we recommend that you reach out to financial office of each college that you are interested in attending for clarification on process
 - i. NOTE: Unfortunately, their is no uniform process or form for NM students use thus some universities do a better job at granting state aid. It is important for students to know their right to state financial aid
 - b. Organizations to reach out to for assistance
 - i. New Mexico Dreamers in Action (NMDIA-United We Dream Affiliate)
 - 1. NMDIA- http://nmdia.org/
 - ii. New Mexico State Financial Aid Higher Education Department (colleges and universities) http://hed.state.nm.us/programs/financial-aid-division.aspx
 - iii. New Mexico Ideas -Christopher Ramirez- <u>cramire4@unm.edu</u> Office number (505) 277-7000





Current Context: States w/State Financial Aid

Oklahoma

- a. Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant Program (OTAG)
 - a. Link to information and requirements
 - a. https://www.okcollegestart.org/financial_aid/types_of_aid/grants/oklahom_atuition_aid_grant.aspx
 - b. Link to OTAG 2014-2015 form
 - a. https://www.okcollegestart.org/Common/RichTextBox/loaddoc.aspx?i=147"
 **F1EEF13B83CFAF10854A478DB1A0CA02
- b. Organizations to reach out to for assistance
 - a. Dream Act Oklahoma (United We Dream Affiliate)
 - a. http://www.dreamactok.org/
 - b. Community Service Council: Conexiones
 - a. http://www.csctulsa.org/content.php?p=30





History of FAFSA

- 1. What is FAFSA? Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- 2. What is it used for? It is used by nearly all colleges and universities to determine federal, state, and college sponsored financial aid including grants, educational loans and work study
- 3. Who asks for this? Many scholarships and institutions ask for students to use the FAFSA form to grant them aid
- 4. What alternatives have undocumented students used? Some students have used the CSS Profile, while others have filled out the printed FAFSA form and handed it to their institutions, who then do calculations in-house
- 5. What is the CSS Profile? College Board's online application for student financial aid





History of FAFSA

- 1. What is the problem? Undocumented students can't access the FAFSA form thus can't apply for many scholarships or different forms of institutional aid that require the FAFSA Student Aid Report to prove financial need
- 2. What have we seen and experienced? Students filling out the FAFSA via online with an invalid SSN, students using the CSS Profile, educators making up SSN combinations, students who are citizen being advised not to fill out FAFSA because their parents are undocumented, and much more
- 3. How has UWD worked with the Department of Education on this issue? How did this come about? Using the FAFSA form as a resource





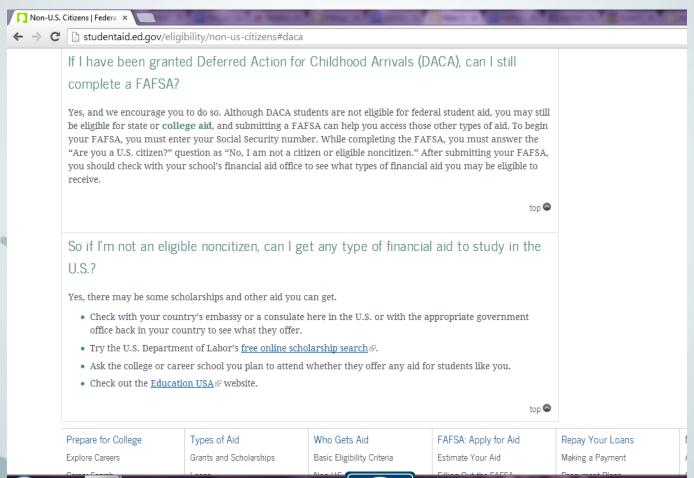
Current FAFSA You can use your DACA SSN#

- United We Dream has been working with advocates and government agencies to ensure that students who have been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA recipients) are able to access all forms of financial aid for which they are eligible. As part of that process, we have received clarification from the Department of Education regarding DACA recipients' ability to use the FAFSA application form in order to receive an assessment of recipients' financial need.
- It is important to note that DACA recipients are still *ineligible* for federal financial aid at this time. Students' ability to receive a needs assessment from FAFSA does not in any way impact their eligibility for different kinds of student aid. It merely allows students to access aid for which they are *already* eligible.
- General information, such as that provided here, does not constitute individual legal advice nor is it meant to take the place of individualized legal advice. The information provided here is merely general information about the steps that must be taken to fill out the FAFSA application form.





Current FAFSA You can use your DACA SSN#



Overview of FAFSA: How to use your DACA SSN#

Create a PIN number

- Like all applicants, your first step should be to create a PIN
- https://pin.ed.gov/PINWebApp/pinindex.jsp.

Steps to Filling out the FAFSA as a DACA-mented Student

There are 6 sections on the FAFSA:

- 1. Student Demographics
- 2. School Selection
- 3. Dependency Status
- 4. Parent Demographics
- 5. Financial Information
- 6. Sign & Submit





Overview of FAFSA Student Demographics

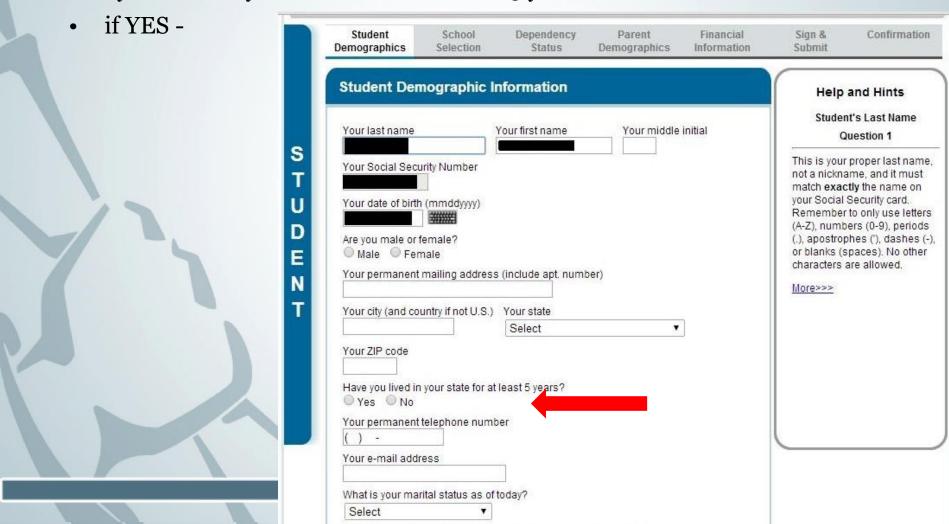
'FAFSA/app/fafsa?execution=e1s5

Student Demographics	School Selection	Dependency Status	Parent Demographics	Financial Information	Sign & Submit	Confirmation	
Student Der	Student Demographic Information					Help and Hints	
Your last name	Yo	ur first name	Your middle	initial	377302770	nt's Last Name Question 1	
Your city (and co	female? mailing address (i	our state Select	per)		not a nickna match exac your Social Remember (A-Z), numb (.), apostrop or blanks (s	proper last name, ame, and it must city the name on Security card. to only use letters pers (0-9), periods ohes ('), dashes (-), spaces). No other are allowed.	
Your permanent () - Your e-mail add	telephone number						
Select	rital status as of to						
Do you have driv	er's license inform	ation that you wa	nt to provide?	NEXT			

Overview of FAFSA Student Demographics

State & Legal residence (online app)

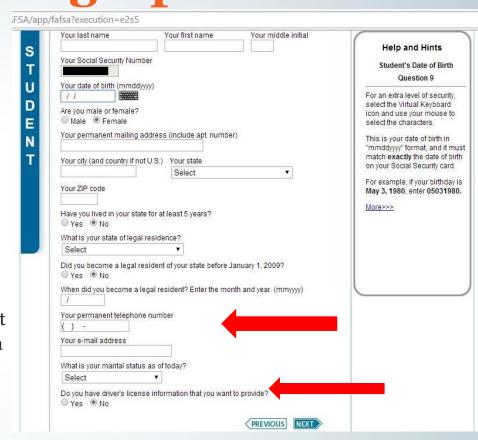
Have you lived in your state for more than 5 years?



Overview of FAFSA State & Legal Residence (Online app) State & Legal Residence (Online app)

Have you lived in your state for more than 5 years?

- If NO-
- if you have not lived in your state for more than 5 years it will ask:
 - What is your state of legal residence?
 - Did you become a legal resident of before January 1, 2009?
 - iii. When did you become a legal resident? Enter the month and year.
- For the above questions, the term "legal residence" may cause some confusion for DACA recipients, but that is not the intent. Families should understand that these questions are not intended to identify whether a person is legally or illegally present in the state, but are instead intended to get at the question of where a person currently resides. Those questions might be used by states to determine eligibility for state aid programs based on residency requirements of state aid programs. However, a student must not accept such aid if he or she is ineligible due to his or her status.



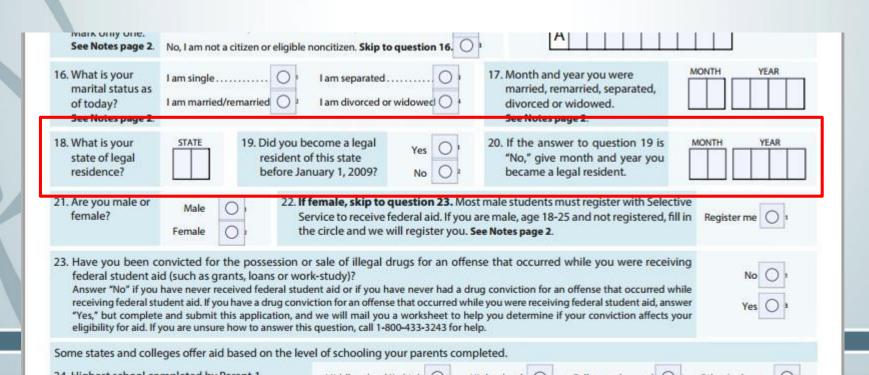
These questions are used by states to determine eligibility for state aid programs based on residency requirements of state aid programs.

Overview of FAFSA Student Demographics

State & Legal Residence (paper application)

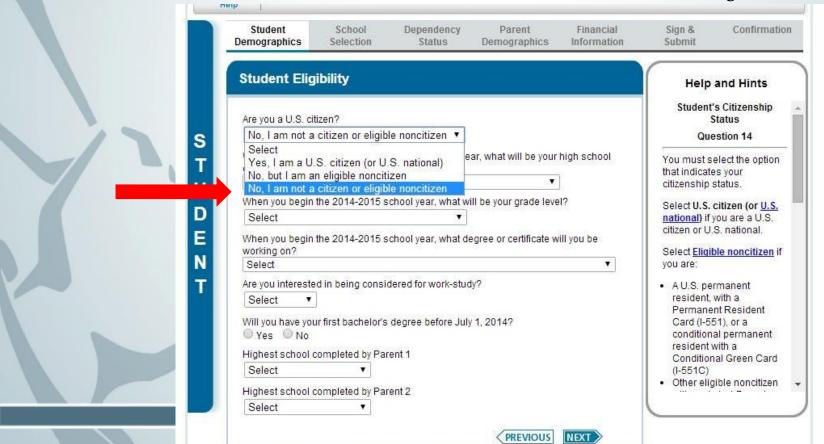
Have you lived in your state for more than 5 years?

- If NO- & If the student is filling out the FAFSA via paper:
 - Question 18-What is your state of legal residence?
 - Question 19- Did you become a legal resident of this state before January 1, 2009?
 - Question 20-If the answer to question 19 is "No," give month and year you became a legal resident.
- Again, here the term "legal residence" may cause some confusion. You should view these questions not from a "legal vs illegal" perspective, but simply from the "where do you currently reside" perspective.

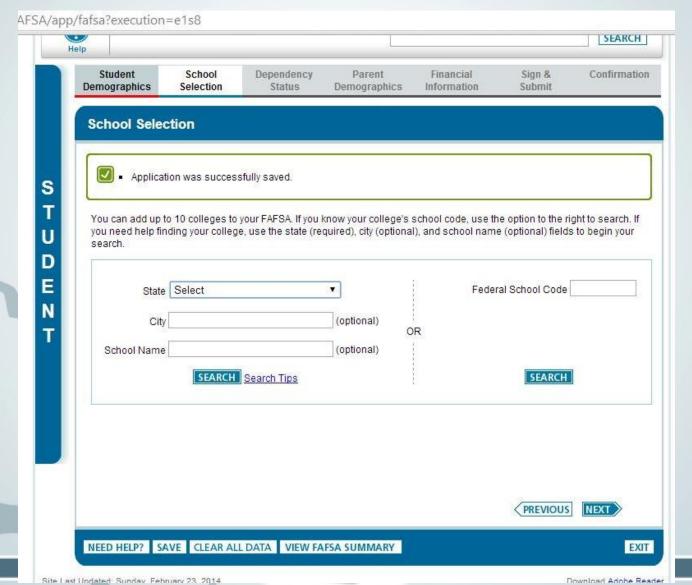


Overview of FAFSA Student Demographics

- Question:
 - "Are you a U.S. citizen?"
- Answer:
 - DACA students should select "No, I am not a citizen or eligible non-citizen."

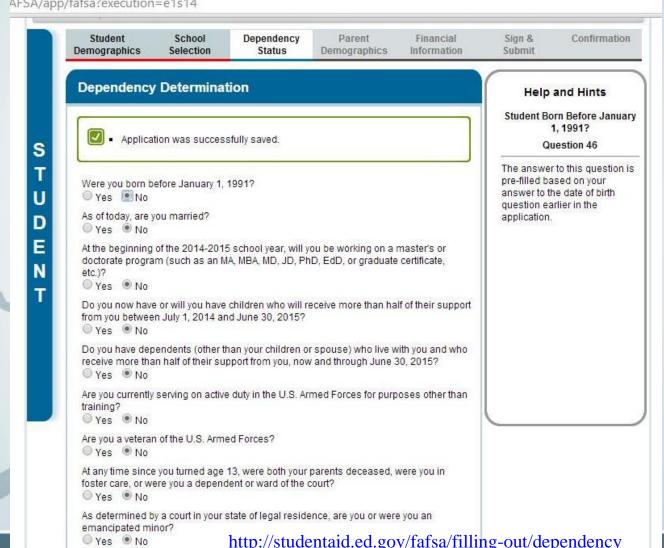


Overview of FAFSA School Selection



Overview of FAFSA **Dependency Status**

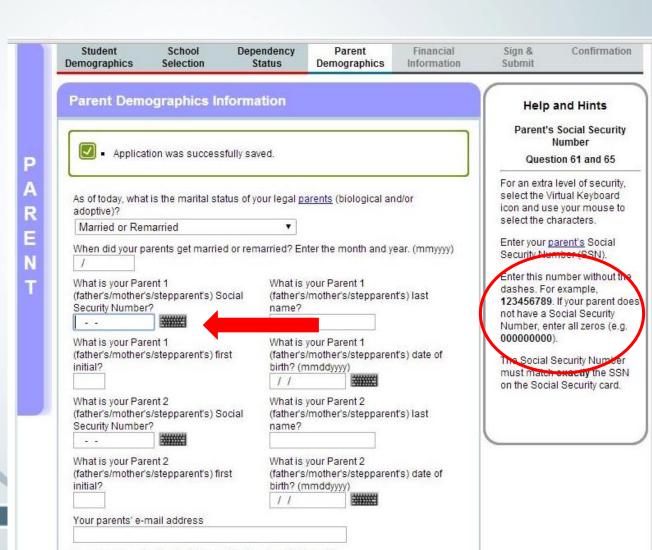
AFSA/app/fafsa?execution=e1s14



Overview of FAFSA Parent Demographics: What info do I need to provide on my parents?

An undocumented parent can complete FAFSA by using "ooo-oo-oooo" in place for the SSN

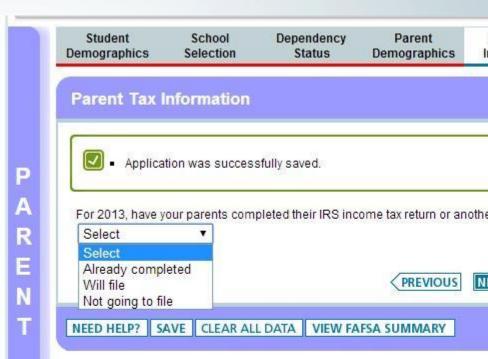
If your parents have and use an Individual Taxpayer identification Number (ITIN) to file taxes, DO NOT place the ITIN in place of a social security number.



Overview of FAFSA Financial Information: Parents

You are required to provide your parents financial info regardless if they file taxes or not.

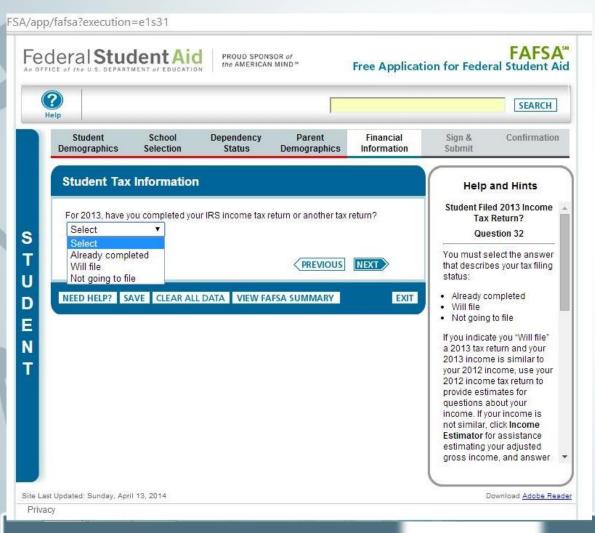
- → **If your parents file taxes** use the information on your parents tax documents and w-2s and follow the instructions on the page.
- → If your parents do not file taxes, that is fine. Your parents do not need to file taxes for you to be able to fill out the FAFSA. Choose "Not going to file" and follow the instructions on the income estimator.
- → For instructions on providing financial info: http://studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa/filling-out#financial-info







Overview of FAFSA Financial Information: Student



- Provide your own personal financial information.
- If you filed taxes, you can use the IRS Retrieval Tool to upload your information directly from your submission to the IRS.
- For more info on using this tool visit: http://studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa/filling-out#when-irs-drt

Overview of FAFSA Sign & Submit Section

Student Signature:

Use your PIN to electronically sign

Parent Signature:

- If an undocumented parents does not have a SSN, they cannot create a PIN number and cannot sign the FAFSA electronically.
- Therefore, **undocumented parents must print, sign**, **and mail in signature page**. There is a bar code on the signature page that will match your parent's signature to your specific application .
- There is no need to print the entire application. Just send in the signature page.
- Mail to:

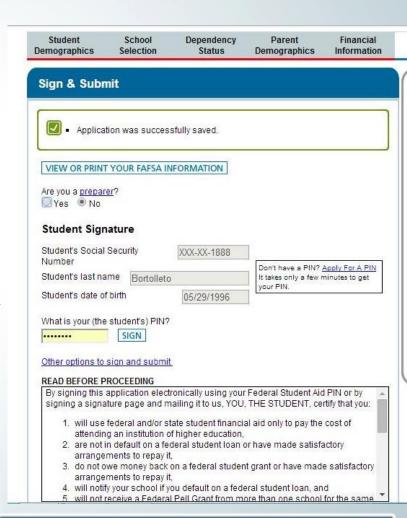
Federal Student Aid Programs

P.O. Box 7006

Mt. Vernon, IL 62864-0076







BE CAREFUL!!

- You should not have to pay to fill out the FAFSA (either online or via someone helping you) Filling out the FAFSA is free! You and or your high school or college counselor should be able to help you fill it out by following online instructions and by using this webinar and provided guide
- If you inadvertently make a mistake on your FAFSA application, you can correct your application following the instructions provided by the Department of Education on its website, available here:

 http://studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa/next-steps/correct-update.
- If you receive an offer for financial aid despite being ineligible for such aid, you must reject the aid for which you know you are ineligible. Details on accepting and rejecting aid offers can be found on the Department of Education's website, available here: http://studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa/next-steps/accept-aid.
- If you intentionally misrepresent your eligibility for federal financial aid in order to claim a benefit for which you are ineligible, and accept aid that was awarded to you improperly, you may face criminal and immigration consequences.

Different Scenarios

- I live in a state that has created a state aid application to grant state aid to undocumented students and I am eligible for it, what should I do?
 Use the state's form or institution's form. It will give you the best estimate of what you are eligible for in that state.
- I live in a state that has created a state aid application or grants state aid but I am not eligible, what should I do? You can use the FAFSA form if you have DACA only for the purpose of getting your student aid report.
- I have DACA and my parents are undocumented, can I fill out the FAFSA form? Yes, only for the purpose of receiving the student aid report.





Different Scenarios

- I have DACA and my parents are citizens/ residents. Can I fill out the FAFSA form? Yes, only for the purpose of getting the student aid report
- I am undocumented and do not qualify for DACA, what should I do? You may not use FAFSA form online but you should consider asking the schools you are interested in if they would accept the CSS Profile provided by the College Board to determine need.
- I am a citizen or eligible non-citizen but my parents are undocumented, can I still fill out the FAFSA? Yes, as a citizen or eligible non-citizen you should fill out the FAFSA because you are eligible for federal financial aid. For your parents section you should input 000-00-0000 for SSN#





Questions?





Resources

Link to FAFSA web page: http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/

Link to where FAFSA addresses that DACA recipients can fill out the

FAFSA (FAQ's): http://studentaid.ed.gov/eligibility/non-us-citizens#daca

Link to FAFSA tutorial:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL23B9A23CD8DD82DD&feature=plcp

Link to 2014-2015 FAFSA (PDF)

https://studentaid.ed.gov/sites/default/files/2014-15-fafsa.pdf

Link to Dream Educational Empowerment Program (DEEP)

http://unitedwedream.org/about/projects/education-deep/

Link to Dream University (Life After DACA)

http://unitedwedream.org/dream-university/daca-toolbox-central/fafsa/

Link to College Board CSS Profile (online application for student financial aid)

http://css.collegeboard.org/





Thanks for participating!

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