

The New York State Youth Leadership Council



UNDOCU-GRAD

SCHOOL GUIDE

Undocu-friendly guide to pursuing, financing, and navigating graduate school



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The views represented herein do not necessarily represent the views of New York University. Furthermore, nothing in this Guide should be construed as legal advice. Things like whether you should travel abroad, whether you are authorized to work in the United States, and others are best answered by consulting an immigration expert.

This Guide was designed by Chelsea Blackman.

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FOREWORD

If you are an undocumented student, you may have wondered if graduate school is for you. *Why?* Well, as undocumented students we know that, first, it may be years before we can get our careers going -if ever-, and second, the application process and the costs associated with it all are discouraging and frustrating. Now, if you live in New York (*like me*), this graduate school dream and journey are not *that bad*, because some public institutions do not only make it more affordable but also have in place some protocols for us to use and take advantage of. I♥NY!

Like actors say in those fitness commercials: *If I was able to do it, you can too!* It is true! Ten years ago, when I first applied to community college, information online, websites, social media, and college coaches were not a big thing (at least not for undocumented folks), and I still managed to apply for it myself (while bumping my head against the wall). The same thing happened when I had to apply to a senior college (I was a transfer student) and the same for graduate school. Do you know what fueled my spirit? My hunger to be better! I did not leave my country and family to struggle in the shadows here. This is the same feeling that conceived and gave birth to this guide. A lot of people wanting to help undocumented students to succeed and to bring all the tools, tips, tricks, and procedures together in one guide for you to start and continue your grad journey. I know my life would have been a lot easier if I had had this guide a few years ago because following one guide tailored to our undocumented community saves money, time, and energy.

I decided to put myself through the pain of graduate school because -despite my undocumented status- I am worthy. I can provide value to my community, I have things to say and I can pave the way for those who come behind me with the same experiences, and education is a tool that will magnify my voice! This is your turn, there is nothing worse than wondering what could have happened. Start your journey now because you *can do it, too!*

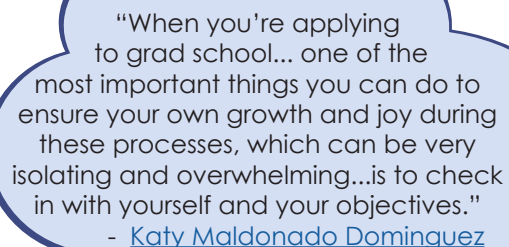
María José

INTRODUCTION

A. About this Guide

Who This Guide is For:

This Guide is here to help you if you are considering pursuing graduate school and are undocumented or DACAmented. We understand that many people do not have DACA, and others have it, but may have concerns about it being a discretionary form of relief that could be taken away.¹ While there are challenges to this route, many undocumented and DACAmented folks have traveled this road before you. We're here to tell you that it is possible, and this Guide is here to help! This guide provides all noncitizens, regardless of status, with the information and resources to not only navigate, but also succeed in, graduate school. This guide is for you if:



"When you're applying to grad school... one of the most important things you can do to ensure your own growth and joy during these processes, which can be very isolating and overwhelming...is to check in with yourself and your objectives."
- [Katy Maldonado Dominguez](#)

- You do not currently have legal status in the U.S. because you came to the U.S. without a visa, overstayed a visa, or do not have legal status for another reason;
- You have DACA but are worried that you might lose that status; and/or

¹ On June 18, 2020, the Supreme Court ruled that the Trump administration's 2017 termination of DACA was illegal. For the text of the decision, *DHS v Regents of the University of California*, visit https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/19pdf/18-587_5f1f.pdf. While the Trump administration or subsequent administrations could still terminate DACA, as of the time of the writing of this guidebook, DACA remains an available form of immigration relief, and eligible individuals should be able to apply. For more guidance, visit the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, DACA, available at <https://www.ilrc.org/daca>.

- You have an immigration status that gives you work authorization and does not restrict the type of work you can do in the U.S.

Things like the implications of a loan, interior checkpoints, or the decision to travel abroad for a distinguished international fellowship are best answered by consulting a financial and/or immigration expert.

This Guide provides a detailed overview of the questions and considerations an undocumented student might have when pursuing graduate school. It hopes to improve access to graduate-level education by explaining the application process, different funding sources available to undocumented students, the process of studying and taking standardized tests, working during and after graduate school, and receiving a professional license.

"You may not have the answers to everything right now but if you have kind, supportive people that genuinely care about you as a human being then you will be able to take that next step into the unknown with a little more confidence."
- [Katy Maldonado Dominguez](#)



B. How this Guide is Set Up

This guide is divided into the following subsections:

- 1. Introduction.** This section is meant to help you understand what is in the guidebook. We have included some information on the guide and its setup, who can benefit from it, and a glossary of terms.
- 2. Chapter 1.** This chapter deals with the different considerations and obstacles an undocumented student should consider when applying to graduate school. It outlines the application process, different ways to finance your education, and other relevant considerations.
- 3. Chapter 2.** This chapter focuses on succeeding in graduate school. It provides information about working during graduate school and program-specific requirements to graduate.
- 4. Chapter 3.** This chapter discusses putting your degree to use after graduation. It explains how to go about acquiring a professional license, if necessary, for your career and working in the field.
- 5. Chapter 4.** This final chapter concludes with helpful tips and considerations from undocumented students who have pursued a graduate degree.
- 6. Appendices.** Here you will find different resources and information referenced throughout the Guide.

The information we provide in this guidebook focuses mainly on New York, because of NYSYLC's location in NY State. However, we also include information about three additional states: California, New Jersey, and Washington. We've chosen to highlight these three states because they provide state-funded tuition assistance to certain undocumented students. Where most relevant, this Guide also touches on opportunities provided outside of these states. Additionally, this Guide is a launching pad, and hopefully can help connect you with resources with which you may continue your individualized research and which can help you decide whether to and where to apply for graduate school.

C. Glossary

Deferred Action

- Deferred action is not a form of legal status but is a discretionary determination to not deport an individual who is otherwise undocumented for a given period of time. Deferred action may be granted through a variety of means but is most commonly discussed in the context of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

- DACA is a program first established under the Obama administration in 2012 that provides work authorization and deferred action for undocumented individuals who came to the United States as children. While DACA does not provide lawful status, it does allow for qualifying individuals to remain in the country with work authorization for two-year periods.

Immigration status (also called lawful status or legal status)

- U.S. immigration laws allow for statuses like U.S. citizen, lawful permanent resident, visa-holders, and Temporary Protected Status (TPS). Each of these comes with different rights and responsibilities. There are some people who are said to have no status in the U.S., meaning they are not currently here on a valid visa and are neither citizens nor lawful permanent residents.

Interest Rate

- A percentage of a loan that is charged as interest, in addition to the loan itself, usually calculated annually.

Internship

- Internships are opportunities to get work experience within a work place. Sometimes these are paid, but non-profits in particular may offer unpaid internships (which is similar to volunteering but usually offers more formalized training or school credit). Some schools and programs may provide credit or stipends or funding for these opportunities.

ITIN (Individual Taxpayer Identification Number)

- Most people residing in the U.S. are required to pay taxes, whether or not they have legal status in the U.S. Many people use Social Security Numbers to file their taxes, but the IRS also issues ITINs for people who cannot get Social Security Numbers so they can file taxes as well. People can also use ITINs to fill out W-9's, which are the tax forms that are given to independent contractors so those hiring them can get their correct information. ITINs may also be used by certain banks to let individuals open interest accruing accounts, or for other practical replacements of Social Security Numbers. ITINs can also be useful in filling out financial aid applications for states that provide undocumented students with state financial aid.

Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR or green-card holder)

- LPRs are non-citizens who can live and work permanently in the U.S. They are not U.S. citizens and remain citizens of their country of origin; additionally, they may be subject to deportation for different reasons, including criminal convictions, voting, and falsely claiming U.S. citizenship. This is a permanent status: that means that even if a person's physical card expires (and they need to renew it), their status as an LPR remains.

Master's Degree

- This is an advanced graduate degree that shows a level of mastery in a particular subject. Individuals who complete a master's program have specialized training in a specific subject. These programs can vary in length, but are typically completed in 1 to 3 years. Master's degrees can improve opportunities for advancement in a particular field and increase earning potential.

Non-Citizen

- This term includes a variety of people, such as people who currently do not have and never have had legal status in the U.S.; people who came on a visa but overstayed it; people who have a status like TPS or a benefit like DACA; those who are present through visas like F-1 student visas or B-1/B-2 tourist visas; and lawful permanent residents.

PhD

- Short for Doctor of Philosophy, a PhD is a doctorate degree that typically requires intensive research in a particular subject, which can lead to publication. PhDs are normally the highest level of academic degree an individual can achieve. These programs are usually much longer than Master's degree programs, ranging from 5–8 years. PhD's can improve an individual's earning potential and open new professional opportunities.

Social Security Number

- This is a nine-digit number issued to U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, and other non-citizens who have work authorization by the Social Security Administration (SSA). This number is used to identify and accurately record covered wages or self-employment earnings. People also use Social Security Numbers to collect Social Security benefits and obtain other government services, as well as for other non-governmental purposes like opening a bank account or signing an apartment lease.

Residency

- This guide discusses several benefits some states provide to undocumented individuals, including tuition assistance and state-funded financial aid. Many states condition access to these benefits on how long an individual has resided in that particular state; in other words, their residency in that state. It is important to note that this is different from lawful permanent residency, discussed in this glossary under “Lawful Permanent Resident.” Lawful permanent resident status is determined by the U.S. government, whereas residency for benefits like tuition assistance and state-funded financial aid is determined by the college or university.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

- TPS is a temporary status that is provided to nationals from specified countries that the U.S. government has designated because they are experiencing armed conflict, environmental disasters, or other temporary extraordinary circumstances. TPS provides qualifying individuals with work authorization and a stay of deportation.

Undocumented

- A person who does not currently have legal authorization to be in the United States. This could be because they came to the U.S. without a visa, or perhaps they came with a visa but have since fallen out of status by overstaying or otherwise not complying with the terms of the visa.

Work Permit (also known as Employment Authorization Document or work authorization)

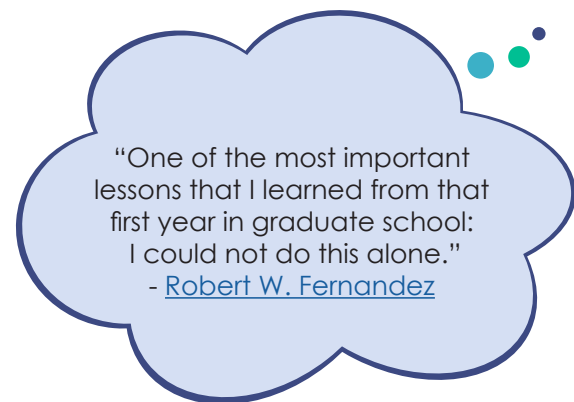
- Work permits provide authorization for certain qualifying non-citizens to work while they live in the United States. For some statuses, work authorization is given automatically, and for others, people must apply separately once they are approved for the status. Either way, with a work permit, individuals can apply for a Social Security Number.

CHAPTER 1: PREPARING FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL

A. Deciding to Apply – Things to Consider

You Can Do This!

The process of applying to graduate school can be daunting for undocumented students, but there are networks in place to support you through this process. Undocumented individuals, including those who applied to and attended graduate institutions before DACA existed or who never qualified for DACA, have successfully navigated the graduate school process, and you can too! Don't be afraid to reach out to community organizations in your area whose members may have been through it and may be willing to help or have words of wisdom as you embark on this journey.



In New York State, the New York State Youth Leadership Council (or “NY-SYLC”) is a tight-knit community of undocumented youth able to support you while you navigate the graduate school application process.²

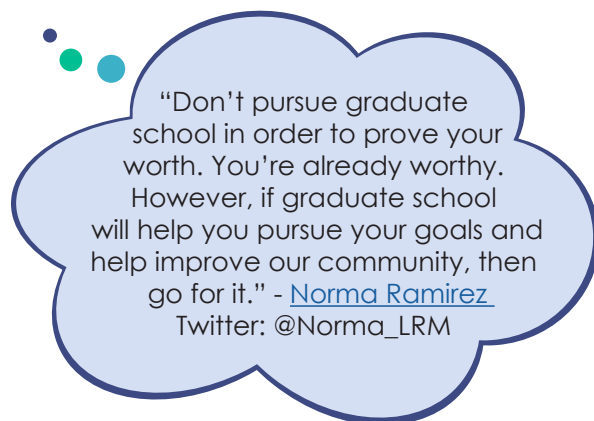
“[S]ometimes we're afraid to speak out and ask for help, but ... it takes a village to get here and continue on with your education, so find that village and don't be afraid to ask for help.”³

² For additional immigrant rights advocacy organizations, both nationally and in states outside of New York, check out Appendix 6.

³ Interview with Erika Castaneda, current graduate student pursuing a Master's Degree in Education, on Feb. 20, 2020.

Why Graduate School?

The decision to go to graduate school often involves weighing the benefits of a graduate degree against the cost of attendance, including the time graduate school requires and tuition, fees, housing and other associated expenses. While graduate school is not a requirement for the majority of jobs in the U.S., in certain industries a graduate degree may provide a competitive advantage, help you move into more senior roles, expand your professional network, and for a minority of career fields, it is a requirement.



Graduate programs also provide undocumented individuals with many resources that they might not otherwise have access to. For example, several institutions provide undocumented students with physical and mental health services, free or low cost legal advice or representation, and financial support. Another benefit of a graduate-level education for undocumented students is the possibility of garnering public and academic support, which can be instrumental in advocating for one's career and professional goals, as well as for seeking assistance to navigate the complexities of the immigration system. A graduate institution can be a safe haven in tumultuous times.

While the requirements can vary by state or employer, the jobs in which graduate degrees are typically required include, among others:⁴

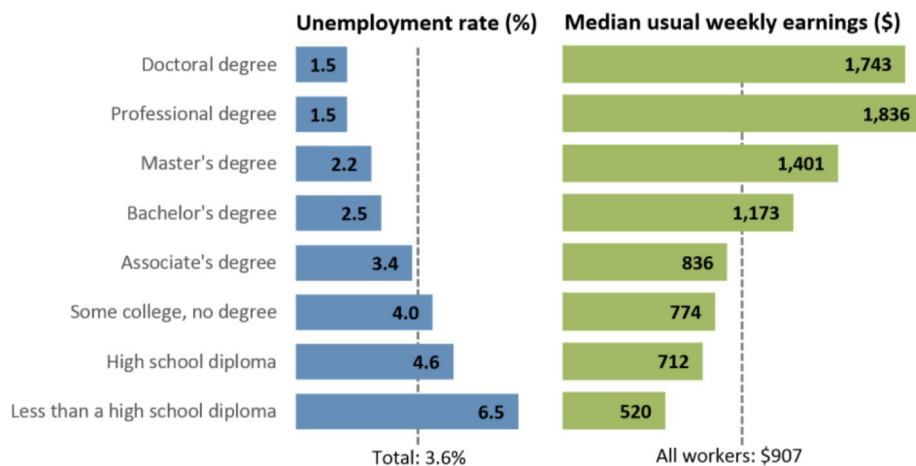
- mathematicians
- economists
- physician assistants
- nurse practitioners

⁴ This is a generalized, non-exhaustive list; for a detailed list, see: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Education and Training Assignments by Detailed Occupation, Table 5.4 <https://www.bls.gov/emp/tables/education-and-training-by-occupation.htm#top>.

- lawyers
- teachers⁵
- college and graduate school professors
- occupational and physical therapists
- biochemists and biophysicists
- astronomers
- healthcare and mental health social workers
- doctors and surgeons
- dentists
- veterinarians
- psychologists
- psychiatrists
- physicists

A graduate degree may also increase your earning potential. Individuals with graduate school degrees, on average, earn higher salaries and experience lower unemployment rates than those with bachelor's degrees.⁶

Unemployment rates and earnings by educational attainment, 2017



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.
 Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

⁵ Requirements to be a teacher vary by state and can depend on the institution or level of schooling. In New York State, you can obtain an initial certificate, which is an entry-level teaching certificate, with a bachelor's degree. However, in order to obtain a professional certificate, you must complete a master's degree. For more information, visit New York State Requirements, NYC Department of Education, <http://teachnyc.net/getting-started/requirements-in-new-york-state>.

⁶ Chart available at: Unemployment Rates and Earnings by Educational Attainment, 2018, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, <https://www.bls.gov/emp/chart-unemployment-earnings-education.htm>.

So, How Do I Apply?

Applying to graduate school can seem like a daunting task, but you can do this! And if you need help along the way, don't be afraid to tap into your community and to others who have walked this path before you.

The timeline for applying to graduate school will depend on where you choose to apply, which program(s) you're applying to, and how early you want to get started. The timeline might also vary specifically for the 2020–2021 cycle in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. Generally, however, timelines can be flexible depending on how much time you want to give yourself to practice for and take entrance exams, put together your application, and at which point in the application cycle you want to apply. Some general tips for applying to graduate schools include:

- 1. Start the process early.** You want to give yourself time to prepare your application fully, and consider all of the relevant aspects of the decision. Additionally, you may want to build in time to take an entrance exam multiple times if needed, negotiate for scholarships and financial aid, and talk to current students and/or alumni.
- 2. Seek faculty allies.** Faculty allies can provide you with a good idea of what the culture of a school is like, and help advocate for you with the administration. They can be great supports in navigating a complicated admissions and financial aid process. They can also help students secure more funding for their education. Faculty allies also can make great mentors when thinking about your future career goals.
- 3. Speak to current students and alumni, especially if they're undocumented or formerly undocumented.** Speaking to current students and alumni can provide an honest first-hand account of what a school is like and the resources it provides. Additionally, speaking to undocumented current students and alumni can help you understand the universe of resources that have been given to support undocumented students at a particular institution. But remember, just because some resources haven't been given to undocumented students in the past doesn't mean they won't be given in the future. It's important to think creatively and advocate, advocate, advocate.

4. Give yourself time to take an entrance exam more than once, if needed. The reality is, we don't always get the score we want the first time, no matter how hard we study. It's a good idea to give yourself some wiggle room to take an exam twice, or more, just in case there's room for growth. Undocumented students have also faced some complications with getting into the exam room and having to reschedule, so it is best to give yourself the opportunity to take the exam more than once.

5. Give yourself time to apply to and hear back from funding sources. Graduate school isn't cheap, no matter where you go. So, it's a good idea to research multiple funding sources, and get your application out there! It is also important to note that for graduate school you can, and *should*, apply to scholarships and other funding sources before having been accepted to a program. Apply to these opportunities as early as possible.

Several websites offer some general timeline resources specific to different types of graduate school programs. For example,

- The University of California, Berkeley Career Center offers a timeline for [Medical School](#),
- Nurse Journal, a social community for nurses worldwide, offers a timeline for [Nursing School](#),
- The Princeton Review offers a graduate school timeline for [Master's Degrees and Ph.D. Programs](#), and for [Law School](#), and
- [Pre-Health Dreamers](#), an organization dedicated to helping undocumented students work in health-related fields, provides helpful timelines and information for students interested in those fields.

Below, we provide a general checklist for graduate school applications:

- **Decide which program you want to apply for:** This part of the process might include identifying your career and personal goals, narrowing them down to relevant programs, speaking to individuals currently in those programs, and

considering the accessibility of that career field to undocumented folks.
(Suggested time: 1-1.5 years before applying)

My deadline is _____

- Consider admissions requirements:** This might include entrance exams, a certain number of recommendation letters, essays, etc. Begin identifying these and putting together a list and estimate how long each will take to complete. (Suggested time: 1-1.5 years before applying)

My deadline is _____

- Consider institutional and departmental scholarship opportunities:** Many universities offer institutional and departmental scholarships specific to particular fields of study. Some of these scholarships can cover the full cost of tuition, and in some instances, tuition and housing. Institutional and departmental scholarships may require a separate application, so it's important to factor in these requirements and deadlines when starting the application process. (Suggested time: ~1 year before applying)

My deadline is _____

- Consider pipeline programs:** There are organizations and programs dedicated to helping diverse students access and succeed in graduate school. Many of these programs can advise you during the application process or even during graduate school. It is important to look into whether you qualify for these programs, because they can provide extensive resources. (Suggested time: ~1 year before applying)

My deadline is _____

- If you need to take an entrance exam⁷:** Identify testing dates and locations that would work with your ideal application plan. Try to build in time to take the exam more than once, in case you are unhappy with your scores the first time, or if you have any issue getting into the exam due to ID requirements and end up having to re-register. The recommended time to study

⁷ Not all graduate programs require an entrance exam, and others give students options for which entrance exam they want to take.

will vary by the type of exam. (Suggested time: ~1 year before applying)

My deadline is _____

- For Ph.D. programs:** Begin identifying faculty members you would want to work with and begin reaching out to them. Identifying faculty for your research can also be key to funding. (Suggested time: ~1 year before applying)

My deadline is _____

- Apply for private scholarships:** Begin applying for private scholarships as soon as possible. Many scholarships allow you to apply before you have been accepted into a program. Once you are accepted into a program and have an idea of how much financial aid and scholarships you will need from the institution and other sources, continue applying to other scholarships. (Suggested time: ~1 year before applying)

My deadline is _____

- Ask recommenders for their recommendation letters:** You'll want to give them plenty of time to complete and submit your letters prior to any deadlines. (Suggested time: ~4-6 months before applying)

My deadline is _____

- Put together your application materials:** Begin writing your essays and working on your applications. Leave in plenty of time to have trusted family, friends, and mentors look over your materials and give you feedback. (Suggested time: 4-6 months before applying)

My deadline is _____

- Finalize everything and apply!** Make sure you look at each school and program's deadlines so you don't miss anything. Additionally, if a program has rolling admission, it will benefit you to apply earlier than the deadline. If you are considering applying to a program through an early decision program, make sure you know if accepting any offer of admission would be binding. If it would be binding, it may make it difficult to negotiate a financial aid package further down the line. (Suggested time: by the application deadline or sooner)

My deadline is _____

- **Receive your offers of admission:** This usually happens at some point in the Spring, depending on the school.

- **Negotiate your financial aid packages:** With many programs, you can negotiate your financial aid and scholarship offers once you have been accepted. It can be helpful to reach out to current undocumented students or affinity groups who may be able to provide advice or samples on what negotiating looks like at that institution. Give yourself at least 3-4 weeks before the enrollment deadline if possible.
 - My deadline is _____

- **Apply for state-funded tuition assistance:** If you qualify, you may need to apply for state-funded tuition assistance before you are even certain where you will be enrolling. Check the requirements in your state, but many align with the FAFSA deadlines, which are in early March.
 - My deadline is _____

- **Consider visiting the school you are attending:** Many schools and programs have special admitted students programming for students of color, and are sometimes able to provide travel stipends and places for students to stay while visiting.
 - My deadline is _____

Where Should I Apply?

When deciding which schools to apply to, it may be helpful to determine which states provide undocumented students with in-state tuition, state-funded tuition assistance, access to professional licenses, and the ability to get a driver's license⁸. For purposes of this guidebook, we focus on New York, New Jersey, Washington State, and California because they provide both in-state tuition and

⁸ Access to in-state tuition, state-funded tuition assistance, and access to professional licenses will all be discussed later in this guide. For more information on which states provide undocumented individuals with these resources, see Laws & Policies Improving Access to Higher Education for Immigrants, National Immigration Law Center, <https://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/table-access-to-ed-toolkit.pdf>; Policy Environment - Select a State to See the Policies, uLEAD Network, <https://uleadnet.org/>; Tuition Benefits for Immigrants, National Conference of State Legislatures, <https://www.ncsl.org/research/immigration/tuition-benefits-for-immigrants.aspx>.

state-funded tuition assistance to undocumented students who meet certain requirements. Additional considerations on where to apply may include cost of living, quality of life, institutional resources and opportunities, faculty at the institution, accreditation, and proximity to family or loved ones.⁹

One final important consideration in deciding which schools to apply to is proximity to the border and interior checkpoints. Within 100 miles of any United States external border, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (“CBP”) agents have authority to operate immigration checkpoints.¹⁰ In this 100-mile zone, CBP agents can pull over anyone they have “reasonable suspicion” to believe has committed an immigration violation or crime.¹¹

The current number and location of interior checkpoints is not public information. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) estimates there are about 170 checkpoints, but the majority are located on or near the United States’ border with Mexico.¹²

Approximately 65.3 percent of the U.S. population lives in the 100-mile zone, and the zone includes some of the U.S.’s most densely populated cities, including New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, San Francisco and Los Angeles.¹³ So, what does living in the 100-mile zone mean in reality? In truth, the degree of risk depends on many factors, not just proximity to the border. An important consideration is the state and locality of the university you wish to attend. States and localities have varying relationships with federal immigration authorities. Some localities are so-called “sanctuary jurisdictions,” like New York and San Francisco, meaning they

⁹ Some of these questions will be discussed briefly in this guidebook; however they are not the focus of the guide and therefore may be better discussed in some of the appended resources.

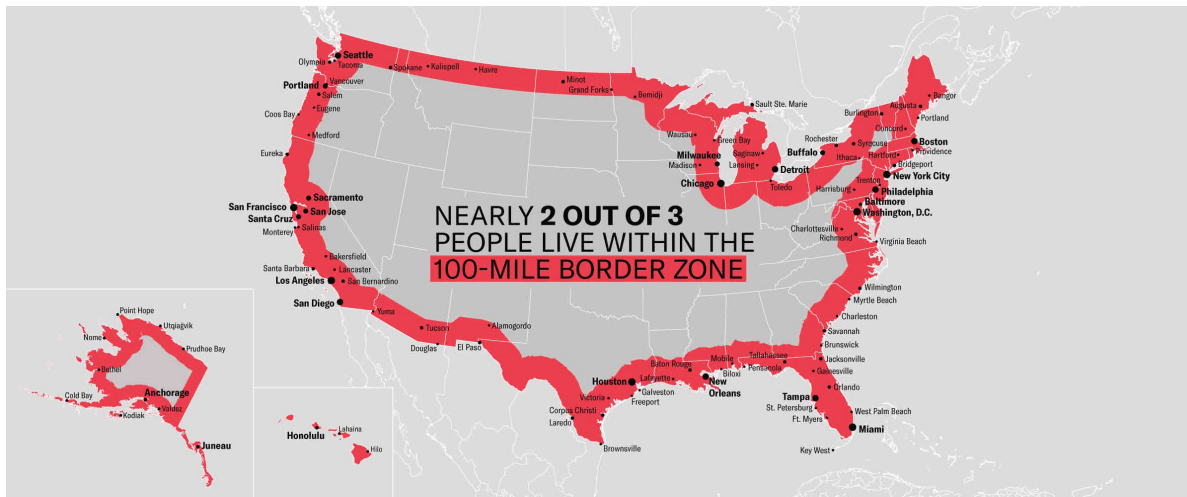
¹⁰ Sheila Cook & Iva Gaylord, Navigating Graduate School: Resource Guide for Undocumented Students, <https://www.the-dream.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Navigating-Graduate-School-Resource-Guide-for-Undocumented-Stude-1.pdf>.

¹¹ Sheila Cook & Iva Gaylord, Navigating Graduate School: Resource Guide for Undocumented Students, <https://www.the-dream.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Navigating-Graduate-School-Resource-Guide-for-Undocumented-Stude-1.pdf>.

¹² For more information on interior checkpoints, see The Constitution in the 100-Mile Border Zone, American Civil Liberties Union, <https://www.aclu.org/other/constitution-100-mile-border-zone>; U.S. Border Patrol Interior Checkpoints: Frequently Asked Questions, ACLU San Diego, <https://www.aclusandiego.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Border-Patrol-Checkpoint-FAQs.pdf>.

¹³ Tanvi Misra, Inside the Massive U.S. ‘Border Zone’, CITYLAB, <https://www.citylab.com/equity/2018/05/who-lives-in-border-patrols-100-mile-zone-probably-you-mapped/558275/>.

have laws on their books that limit city agencies' cooperation with federal immigration authorities.¹⁴ Others extensively collaborate with immigration officials.¹⁵ As such, it's important to consider these laws and policies when thinking about which schools to apply to.¹⁶



¹⁴ For an example of Sanctuary City legislation, see Sanctuary Ordinance, City and Council of San Francisco, <https://sfgov.org/oceia/sanctuary-city-ordinance-0>.

¹⁵ Catherine E. Shoichet, Florida Just Banned Sanctuary Cities. At Least 11 Other States Have, Too, CNN, <https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/09/politics/sanctuary-city-bans-states/index.html>.

¹⁶ Map available at: The Constitution in the 100-Mile Border Zone, American Civil Liberties Union, <https://www.aclu.org/other/constitution-100-mile-border-zone>.

B. Paying for Graduate School

So, How Much Does Graduate School Cost?

Tuition costs vary by program and institution, but below is an overview of the average tuition costs in New York, New Jersey, California, and Washington State. These estimates do not include the estimated cost of living.

New York: In New York State, the average cost of graduate school in-state tuition for academic year 2019–2020 was \$8,120. The average cost out-of-state tuition was \$29,108.¹⁷ The average cost of private tuition for graduate school in New York State is \$32,422.¹⁸

New Jersey: In New Jersey, the average cost of graduate school in-state tuition in 2020 was \$17,290. The average cost of out-of-state tuition was \$24,481. The average cost of private graduate school tuition was \$23,097.¹⁹

Washington: In Washington State, the average cost of graduate school in-state tuition and fees in 2020 was \$14,976. The average cost of out-of-state tuition and fees was \$28,699. The average cost of private graduate school tuition was \$16,156.²⁰

California: In California, the average cost of graduate school in-state tuition and fees for 2020 was \$10,236. The average cost of out-of-state tuition was \$22,413. The average cost of private graduate school tuition was \$23,517.²¹

While the cost of graduate school might seem overwhelming, there are funding resources out there to help you pay. This chapter discusses some of your options.

¹⁷ 2020 Tuition Comparison Between Colleges in New York - Graduate Programs, College Tuition Compare, <https://www.collegetuitioncompare.com/compare/tables/?state=NY°ree=Graduate>.

¹⁸ 2020 Tuition Comparison Between Private Colleges in New York - Graduate Programs, College Tuition Compare, <https://www.collegetuitioncompare.com/compare/tables/?state=NY°ree=Graduate&type=Private>.

¹⁹ New Jersey State 2020 Average Tuition Costs, College Tuition Compare, <https://www.collegetuitioncompare.com/state/new-jersey/>.

²⁰ Washington State 2020 Average Tuition Costs, College Tuition Compare, <https://www.collegetuitioncompare.com/state/washington/>.

²¹ California State 2020 Average Tuition Costs, College Tuition Compare, <https://www.collegetuitioncompare.com/state/california/>.

How Do I Qualify for In-state Tuition?

Qualifying for in-state tuition can be a good way to reduce the cost of tuition for public graduate school. Each state has different requirements for individuals to access in-state residency tuition rates, and different laws as to whether or how undocumented students can be eligible in these states. New York, New Jersey, California, and Washington State all have ways for undocumented students to qualify for in-state tuition for graduate school; however, they may be foreclosed to individuals who have not attended high school for the requisite number of years, obtained a high school equivalency diploma in that state, or otherwise do not meet the requirements specified by law.

1. New York

New York State has provided qualifying undocumented students access to in-state tuition since 2002. Generally, to qualify for in-state tuition at the State University of New York (SUNY) or the City University of New York (CUNY) for graduate school²², you must meet one of the following requirements:²³

- (1)** Have attended a New York high school for 2 or more years, graduated from a New York high school, and *applied* for graduate school at a state institution within 5 years of receiving your high school diploma; or
- (2)** Have attended an approved New York general equivalency diploma (GED) exam prep, received your GED, issued within New York state, and *applied* for graduate school at a state university within 5 years of receiving this GED;
- (3)** Were enrolled at a New York state university in the Fall of 2001 and were authorized by that institution to pay in-state tuition.²⁴

²² The requirement of receiving a New York state high school diploma or equivalent within five years of applying for attendance also applies for graduate school applications.

²³ Residency, Establishment for Tuition Purposes, State University of New York (SUNY), https://www.suny.edu/sunypp/documents.cfm?doc_id=402; Undocumented Students Frequently Asked Questions, State University of New York (SUNY), <https://www.suny.edu/attend/get-started/undocumented/faq/>.

²⁴ For full text of the bill, visit, Bill no. A96120-A (2000), <http://dreamact.info/sites/default/files/A9612-A.pdf>.

To apply for in-state tuition, you must fill out an application with your institution by their designated deadline. In addition to this, you must submit a notarized affidavit to the campus stating that you will apply to adjust your immigration status as soon as eligible to do so.

If you do not meet these requirements, you may still qualify for in-state tuition at schools in the City University of New York (CUNY) system if you have continuously resided in New York for twelve consecutive months prior to enrolling in school, intend to remain in the U.S. and fall under one of their specified categories of non-citizens available [here](#), which includes folks with TPS and DACA or other forms of deferred action.²⁵ In the State University of New York (SUNY) system, you may be eligible under these guidelines if you have been granted TPS, but the one-year residency provision does not appear to apply at SUNY schools if you have DACA or another form of deferred action.²⁶ However, if you want to attend a SUNY institution, have DACA or other forms of deferred action, and do not meet the more onerous requirements for in-state tuition related to high school attendance described above, reach out to a faculty ally or affinity organization to discuss potential options.

2. New Jersey

New Jersey extends in-state tuition to undocumented students if they meet certain requirements, including having attended high school in the state. In order to qualify for in-state tuition, you must meet all of the following requirements:

- (1)** Have attended high school in New Jersey for 3 or more years;
- (2)** Have graduated from a New Jersey high school or received an equivalent diploma in New Jersey;

²⁵ University Tuition & Fee Manual, IV - Residency, Part I: Eligibility for Residency Tuition Rate, The City University of New York (CUNY), <https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/university-tuition-fee-manual/iv-residency/>; see also Who is Eligible to Pay In-State Tuition at CUNY, CUNY Citizenship Now, <http://www1.cuny.edu/sites/citizenship-now/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/media-assets/Who-is-Eligible-to-Pay-In-State-Tuition-Brochure.pdf>.

²⁶ See requirements as of August 26, 2019 listed in the Residency, Establishment of for Tuition Purposes, State University of New York, https://www.suny.edu/sunypp/documents.cfm?doc_id=402.

- (3)** Have registered at a public university no earlier than the Fall of 2013; and
- (4)** File an affidavit with the school stating your intent to adjust your status as soon as you are eligible to do so.²⁷

In order to apply for in-state tuition, you must submit a residency affidavit and the necessary documents to the registrar's office at your campus.

3. Washington State

Washington State has had a provision allowing for undocumented students to qualify for in-state tuition since 2003. While the main provision for undocumented students to obtain in-state residency, [HB 1079](#), requires that students have attended high school in Washington State, there is a carve out for students with a current work permit, or current or expired DACA. If you do not qualify under HB 1079 but have a valid work permit or current or expired DACA, you can establish residency by showing that you have lived in Washington State for one year preceding your application for in-state residency for a non-education purpose.²⁸ This avenue remains available to individuals who have had DACA regardless if their DACA is no longer valid. Additionally, this provision applies to individuals with current Temporary Protected Status, and who may have a final order of removal and are on orders of supervision, as well as others.

For students applying under the HB 1079 standard, you must meet all of the following requirements:

- (1)** Have completed the full senior year of high school and obtained a high school diploma at a Washington State high school or obtained the equivalent of a diploma;

²⁷ SB 2479, codified as NJ Rev Stat § 18a:62-4.4, available at <https://law.justia.com/codes/new-jersey/2018/title-18a/chapter-62/section-18a-62-4.4/>.

²⁸ See, RCW 28.15.012(4)(b), available at <https://app.leg.wa.gov/CW/default.aspx?cite=28B.15.012>; see also, How to Complete the WAFSA, Ready-Set-Grad, https://readysetgrad.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2019_wasfa_updated_instructions.pdf; WASFA Application, Ready-Set-Grad, <https://readysetgrad.wa.gov/wasfa-washington-application-state-financial-aid>.

- (2) Have lived in Washington State for at least three years immediately preceding obtaining the diploma or equivalent;
- (3) Have continuously lived in Washington State after receiving the diploma or equivalent up until the time you are admitted to the institution at which you seek in-state tuition; *and*
- (4) Have provided or will provide an affidavit stating that you will apply to adjust your status as soon as you are eligible to do so.²⁹

To apply for in-state tuition through the DACA exception or through HB 1079, you must submit a residency affidavit to the residency office at your campus of choice when applying.

Washington also allows universities in the state to offer out-of-state residents in-state tuition through the use of tuition waivers.³⁰ There are a variety of waivers, ranging from need and merit-based waivers to waivers for teaching assistants, research assistants, faculty, and immigrant refugees.³¹ The criteria for each waiver varies, so students should reach out to prospective schools to learn more about their tuition waivers. If a school does not offer you such a waiver, you might consider negotiating for such a waiver. See Appendix 3 for a sample email to a graduate school administrator regarding further financial support.

4. California

Since 2001, California has provided a waiver from nonresident tuition through AB 540,³² called a “tuition exemption,” which essentially extends in-state tuition to

²⁹ HB 1079 amended RCW 28B.15.012, full text available here: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=28B.15.012>.

³⁰ Tuition Waivers, University of Washington <https://registrar.washington.edu/students/tuition-waivers/>.

³¹ Tuition Waivers, University of Washington <https://registrar.washington.edu/students/tuition-waivers/>.

³² AB 540 Nonresident Tuition Exemption, University of California Admissions, <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/tuition-financial-aid/tuition-cost-of-attendance/ab-540-nonresident-tuition-exemption.html>. In California, this exemption has the same requirements for undergraduate and graduate school; see Student Affairs, AB 540, University of California Office of the President, https://www.ucop.edu/student-affairs/policies/universitywide-program-policies-and-guidelines/AB540.html#bi_3.

undocumented students who have attended high school in the state. In 2017, SB 68 was passed which allows individuals to count years spent at community colleges in California towards the above eligibility. Accordingly, in order to qualify for in-state tuition you need:³³

(1) Necessary Length of Time & Coursework Completed: three full years of attendance or attainment of equivalent credits in California:

a. High school; OR

b. Adult school; OR

c. Community college (*Note: you need six full time semesters, but only four of those six can be credit courses, so you will need an additional two semesters of full time, non-credit courses, if you did not attend high school in California); OR

d. Any combination of the above (adding up to three years full time)

(2) AND Degree Completion, Unit Requirement, GED, or other:

a. Graduate from California high school; OR

b. Obtain a certificate of completion, GED, HiSet or TASC in California; OR

c. Attain an Associates Degree from community college in California; OR

d. Fulfill minimum transfer requirements for University of California or California State University.

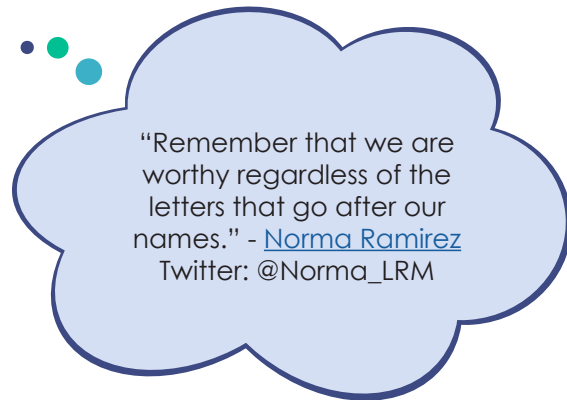
Immigrants Rising has [a helpful online tool](#) to assess your eligibility for in-state tuition in California.³⁴

³³ Immigrants Rising, Quick Guide to SB 68: Expansion of In-State Tuition Eligibility in California, https://immigrantsrising.org/wp-content/uploads/Immigrants-Rising_SB-68-Quick-Guide.pdf.

³⁴ California In-State Tuition Tool, Immigrants Rising, <https://qualifier.immigrantsrising.org/>.

In order to apply for this exemption, you will need to fill out the [Nonresident Tuition Exemption Application](#) as well as an Affidavit stating that you have filed an application to legalize your immigration status, or will file an application as soon as you are eligible to do so³⁵ with your campus' registrars' office. Check with your campus for their specific deadlines.

Additionally, while not available to all undocumented students, students who have current DACA or TPS qualify for in-state residency and tuition after one year of physical presence in California, even if they did not attend high school or otherwise meet the AB 540 requirements.³⁶



³⁵ For full text of the bill, visit California Legislative Information, Assembly Bill No. 540, https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=200120020AB540.

³⁶ UC Residence Policy and Guidelines 2019-2020 Academic Year, The Regents of the University of California, Office of the President, <https://www.ucop.edu/general-counsel//files/ed-affairs/uc-residence-policy.pdf#page=26>.

How Do I Qualify for State-Funded Tuition Assistance?

1. New York

New York State passed [the DREAM Act](#) in 2019, extending state-funded financial aid programs to qualifying undocumented students.³⁷ The New York State DREAM Act does not actually give financial aid awards; rather, it makes undocumented students eligible to receive financial aid from existing New York State financial aid programs. Each of these New York State financial aid programs has their own eligibility requirements. Some of these financial aid programs require that the student participate in the program during their undergraduate career, making it unlikely that undocumented students currently trying to access graduate schools would be eligible, given the recency of the DREAM Act. To qualify for a New York State financial aid program under the NYS DREAM Act, you must meet the following requirements:³⁸

- (1)** Have a U-visa, T-visa, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), or be undocumented (including DACA); and
- (2)** Meet one of the following requirements:
 - a.** Have attended a New York State high school for 2 or more years, have graduated from a New York State high school, and have enrolled for undergraduate study at a New York State college within 5 years of receiving your New York State high school diploma; OR
 - b.** Have attended a New York State high school for 2 or more years, have graduated from a New York State high school, and have enrolled for graduate study at a New York State college within 10 years of receiving your New York State high school diploma; OR

³⁷ See Christina Goldbaum, Dream Act Is Approved in N.Y. to Aid Undocumented Students, in Rebuke to Trump, New York Times, <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/23/nyregion/dream-act-bill-passed.html>.

³⁸ Senator José Peralta New York State DREAM Act, Step 1: Determining Your Eligibility, New York State, Higher Education Services Corporation, <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/dream/>.

- c. Have received a New York State high school equivalency diploma, and have enrolled for undergraduate study at a New York State college within 5 years of receiving your NYS high school equivalency diploma; OR
- d. Have received a New York State high school equivalency diploma, and have enrolled for graduate study at a New York State college within 10 years of receiving your New York State high school equivalency diploma; OR
- e. Are or will be charged the New York State resident in-state tuition rate at a SUNY or CUNY college for a reason other than residency.

After determining you generally qualify under the NYS DREAM Act, you must fill out the [application](#).³⁹ The website includes links to both [English](#) and [Spanish](#) userguides. Once you complete the portion of the application that establishes eligibility, some specific financial aid programs made available through the NYS DREAM Act will appear as options, and you can apply for each program simultaneously. Importantly, if the applications for certain programs do not appear, it is because those programs have not yet opened for that application season. Many of the applications open in the Spring. For this reason, if students submit applications for the NYS DREAM Act earlier in the year, it is important to continuously check back and apply to the specific financial aid programs as the applications open. Additionally, some programs require that you apply directly with the institution. Students do not need to have been accepted or selected to the school they will be attending at the time of the application, but students must be enrolled at the school prior to receiving the eligible funds.⁴⁰

³⁹ Application available at: Senator José Peralta New York State DREAM Act, New York State, Higher Education Services Corporation, <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/dream/>.

⁴⁰ Telephone interview with administrator, SUNY Welcome Center (Oct. 15, 2019). For more details on this, call (212) 364-5823.

Below are the programs under the NYS DREAM Act available at the graduate level and the requirements to qualify for them:

PROGRAM	ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	BENEFITS	PARTICIPATING CAMPUSES
Graduate Opportunity Program (GOP) ⁴¹	Must be a graduate of one of the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), College Discovery (CD), and the Search for Education, Elevation, and Knowledge (SEEK) programs.	Partial tuition assistance	University at Albany, Binghamton University, State University College at Brockport, SUNY Buffalo State, University at Buffalo, State University College at Cortland, Downstate Medical Center, College of Environmental Science & Forestry, State University College at Fredonia, State University College at Geneseo, State University College at New Paltz, State University College at Oneonta, College of Optometry, State University College at Oswego, State University College at Plattsburgh, State University College at Potsdam, Purchase College, Stony Brook University, SUNY Polytechnic Institute, Upstate Medical University

⁴¹ Graduate Opportunity Program, The State University of New York, <https://system.suny.edu/oop/graduate-opportunity-program/>.

<p>The Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP)⁴²</p>	<p>Institutions can apply for CSTEP funding for their STEM programs. Individual participants must meet all of the following requirements: New York state resident; African American, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian or Alaskan native; economically disadvantaged.⁴³</p>	<p>CSTEP funding can be used by institutions for “recruitment, academic enrichment, career planning, supplemental financial assistance, review for licensing examinations, program administration, and other activities which the commissioner may deem appropriate” which students can then access if accepted into CSTEP.</p>	<p>Participating campuses vary per year, but the 2019-2020 list of participating campuses is available here.</p>
<p>Economically Disadvantaged First Professional Study (EDPS)</p>	<p>Must be enrolled in one of the qualified optometry, dentistry, pharmacy, or law programs, be a New York state resident, and a graduate of EOP, HEOP, or SEEK. In addition, must be determined to have exceptional financial need by the Financial Aid Office.</p>	<p>Partial tuition waivers</p>	<p>University of Albany, Binghamton University, University of Buffalo, Stony Brook University, Upstate Medical University, Downstate Medical Center, and College of Optometry.⁴⁴</p>

⁴² Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP), N.Y. State Education Department, <http://www.nysed.gov/postsecondary-services/collegiate-science-and-technology-entry-program-cstep>; see also, N.Y. Educ. § 6455(3).

⁴³ The household income guidelines for this requirement are available at: New York State Education Department, CSTEP, STEP & HEOP Income Guidelines, <http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/postsecondary-services/19-20incomecriteria.pdf>.

⁴⁴ Economically Disadvantaged First Professional Study (EDPS), The State University of New York, <https://system.suny.edu/ooop/edps/>; Financial Aid, Economically Disadvantaged First Professional Study (EDPS) Program, University of Buffalo, <https://financialaid.buffalo.edu/aid/grants/graduate/edps/>.

Because two of the major programs for graduate school assistance, GOP and EDPS, require that you be a graduate of an undergraduate financial aid program (like EOP, HEOP, or SEEK) undergraduate students who are now eligible for those programs under the NYS DREAM Act would be benefitted by applying while still in college, so that they may qualify for continued aid in graduate school.

2. New Jersey

New Jersey recently extended all state-funded financial aid programs under the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) or Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) to undocumented students who qualify under the same requirements as those for in-state tuition described above.⁴⁵ While all of these programs are available to undocumented students, the majority are only available for undergraduate students, including the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG), which accounts for the majority of state-funded tuition assistance.⁴⁶

One program that is available for graduate students, however, is the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF). At the graduate level, EOF provides between \$200 and \$4,350 annually, depending on the institution and financial need of the applicant.⁴⁷ The requirements for EOF at the graduate level include that the applicant:

1. "Must demonstrate an educationally and economically disadvantaged background;⁴⁸
2. Must be a New Jersey resident 12 consecutive months prior to receiving the award;
3. Must apply and be accepted to a participating New Jersey college or university;

⁴⁵ Governor Murphy Signs Financial Aid Equity Legislation, State of New Jersey, https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562018/approved/20180509a_financial-aid.shtml.

⁴⁶ State & Federal Aid for Undergraduate and Graduate Students, State of New Jersey, Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA), https://www.hesaa.org/Documents/State_and_Federal.pdf.

⁴⁷ Information about Eligibility, State of New Jersey, Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, https://www.nj.gov/highereducation/EOF/EOF_Eligibility.shtml.

⁴⁸ Income eligibility guidelines are available at Information about Eligibility, State of New Jersey, Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, https://www.nj.gov/highereducation/EOF/EOF_Eligibility.shtml/RK=2/EOF_programs.shtml.

4. Must be a full-time graduate student as defined by the institution;
5. Must meet the financial eligibility criteria; *and*
6. Must be in a degree/certificate program with a minimum requirement of 24 equivalent semester hours and be at least one academic year in duration.⁴⁹

Individuals who qualify for EOF should apply for the program with their individual institution, and through the [New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application](#) online.

3. Washington State

Undocumented students may qualify for state financial aid either under HB-1079 or the DACA standard, as described above. Similarly to in-state tuition, if you do not qualify under HB 1079 but have valid work authorization or current or expired DACA, you can qualify for state financial aid by showing that you have lived in Washington State for one year preceding your application for a non-education purpose.⁵⁰ Under either HB-1079 or the DACA standard, students will be eligible for in-state tuition rates and the Washington College Grant (formerly State Need Grant). The Washington College Grant, however, can only be used to fund a student's first postsecondary degree. In order to apply for state financial aid, you will need to complete the [Washington Application for State Financial Aid \(WAFSA\)](#).

4. California

The California Dream Acts, [AB-130](#) and [AB-131](#), expand state-funded financial aid to undocumented students who qualify under the requirements for the nonresident tuition exemption under [AB 540](#), described above.

⁴⁹ Information about Eligibility, State of New Jersey, Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, https://www.nj.gov/highereducation/EOF/EOF_Eligibility.shtml.

⁵⁰ See RCW 28.15.012(4)(b), available at <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=28B.15.012>; see also, How to Complete the WAFSA, Ready-Set-Grad, https://readysetgrad.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2019_wasfa_updated_instructions.pdf; WAFSA Application, Ready-Set-Grad, <https://readysetgrad.wa.gov/wasfa-washington-application-state-financial-aid>.

As a result, those exempt from nonresident tuition who are also deemed to have financial need are eligible for all state financial aid, including privately donated scholarships with a financial need component, UC institutional financial aid, and Cal Grants.

In order to apply, undocumented students can apply through the California Dream Act [website](#), in lieu of filing a FAFSA.⁵¹ In 2020, the deadline to apply through the California Dream Act was March 2. Additionally, Cal Grant applications also require a GPA verification.⁵² Once a student accepts an offer of admission from a UC school, they will be asked to submit a Statement of Legal Residence (SLR), undocumented students should then request a UC Application for AB 540 Status For Benefits under AB 130 and AB 131 or a California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request or a University of California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Application and Affidavit, all of which should be available from the UC campus Registrar office or campus website.

Private Scholarships

Private scholarships are often available to students, regardless of immigration status. These scholarships may be offered through a particular school or institution, or they may be offered through a separate organization or endowment.

When considering potential graduate schools, students should research the schools' available scholarships and call the relevant financial aid offices to find out about the scholarships they offer, their scholarship selection processes, and whether citizenship factors into their decision-making. Whether to grant a student a scholarship is a decision separate from whether to grant that same student admission. In other words, you can still be admitted to a university, even if you are not selected for one of the school's institutional scholarships. Additionally, at many institutions, you will not be considered for the scholarship, until you are granted admission.

⁵¹ Application available at: <https://dream.csac.ca.gov>.

⁵² GPA verification available at: www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=1177.

In addition to institutional scholarships, there are a number of private scholarships and fellowships available for undocumented students. One such example is the [Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans](#), which grants up to \$25,000 in stipends and up to 50% of required tuition and fees, up to \$20,000 per year for one to two years of graduate school. Some additional examples of private scholarships include:

- [Hispanic Health Professional Student Scholarship](#),
- [Lehman College Mexican Studies Scholarship](#) (available to current or prospective students at any CUNY campus),
- [TheDream.US Scholarships](#),
- [Davis-Putter Scholarship](#),
- Stanford University's [Knight-Hennessy Scholarship](#)
- and Public Policy and International Affairs ([PPIA](#)) Program.

Additional helpful scholarship information is available through [MALDEF's Scholarship Resource Guide](#), and through [Immigrants Rising's graduate scholarship list](#).

What about Loans?

Undocumented students cannot receive federal loans and Pell Grants because of a law called the 1996 Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, which denies access to undocumented immigrants for any federally funded programs.⁵³

However, undocumented students are eligible for some institutional or private loans using an individual taxpayer identification number (or ITIN). This number

⁵³ Summary of Immigrant Eligibility Restrictions under Current Law, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, <https://aspe.hhs.gov/basic-report/summary-immigrant-eligibility-restrictions-under-current-law>; Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, available at <https://www.congress.gov/104/plaws/publ193/PLAW-104publ193.pdf>.

can be obtained through the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Some undocumented students have had success in taking out private loans, particularly through Sallie Mae and Discover. This process might require a United States citizen cosigner. Undocumented students with DACA are eligible for a Sallie Mae loan, as long as they have a creditworthy cosigner who is a United States citizen or permanent resident.⁵⁴

Discover may require a United States citizen cosigner,⁵⁵ and it is worth noting that two contributors to this Guide used a Discover loan to fund, in part, their graduate education and they were required to have a United States citizen cosigner.

You might need a loan to pursue your graduate degree, and that's okay. **But be careful!** While loans temporarily lift the financial burden of attending a graduate institution, there are some drawbacks that are important to note.

- **High interest rates:** An interest rate is the amount a lender charges for the use of a loan. This amount is paid in addition to the full amount of the loan. High interest rates can be a significant drawback to taking out a loan, because you risk paying a much larger amount of money than you actually used.
- **Cosigner:** A cosigner is equally responsible for the repayment of a private student loan. If a student fails to pay back a loan, the cosigner will need to pay off the remaining amount or risk defaulting on the loan. Given the financial risk to the co-signer, it can be difficult to find someone who is willing to co-sign a loan.
- **Loan Default:** Defaulting on a loan means being unable to meet the payments required. This can bring a whole host of negative consequences, including a damaged credit score, affecting your cosigner's financial security, and other financial penalties.

⁵⁴ Student Loan Cosigner Responsibilities, Sallie Mae, <https://www.salliemae.com/student-loans/get-ready-to-borrow/consider-a-cosigner/cosigner-responsibilities/> ("For most of our student loans, Non-U.S. citizen students (including DACA students), enrolled in an institution located in the U.S., are eligible to apply with a creditworthy cosigner who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and with required U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) documentation.").

⁵⁵ Choosing the Right Student Loan for You, Discover, <https://www.discover.com/student-loans/private.html> ("Private student loans are credit based. Students with no credit history or a low credit score may find it difficult to qualify for a private student loan on their own. Students may have the option to apply for a Discover student loan with a creditworthy cosigner. By applying with a creditworthy cosigner, you may improve your likelihood for loan approval and may receive a lower interest rate.").

● Loan Forgiveness Programs:

Federal loan forgiveness does not extend to undocumented students. However, some private graduate schools may provide loan forgiveness programs to non-citizens pursuing public interest work, including undocumented students, and who take out private loans. For example, [New York University School of Law's Loan Repayment Assistance Program \("LRAP"\) Plus](#) has a more expansive definition of "[qualifying educational debt](#)" where an applicant can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Program Administrator that the applicant was ineligible to borrow federal student loans at the time the applicant was enrolled. These programs, however, even when available may be much more limited than federal loan forgiveness. Jessica Tenaglia, a contributor to this Guidebook and a student at NYU Law, said, "I wish I had thought more about loan forgiveness when I took out loans. I knew NYU had loan forgiveness for DACAmented folks who took out private loans, so I assumed it was the same as federal loan forgiveness, but it is significantly less generous."

ITINs are available for individuals to pay taxes, regardless of immigration status. ITINs do not provide lawful status or work authorization, and ITIN holders are not eligible for tax benefits that are available to U.S. citizens and other taxpayers, including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).⁵⁶

ITINs may, however, in addition to facilitating paying taxes, allow undocumented individuals to open interest bearing bank accounts.⁵⁷ Information on filling out Form W-7 with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and obtaining an ITIN can be found [here](#).

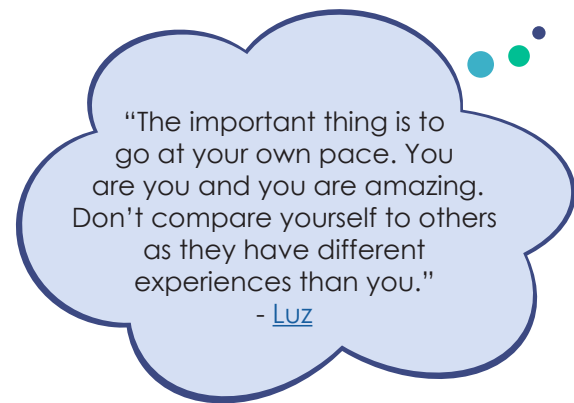
Immigrants Rising, a California-based non-profit organization dedicated to empowering immigrant youth, has created a [webinar](#) and [guide](#) explaining ITINs in detail.

⁵⁶ The Facts About the Individual Tax Identification Number, American Immigration Council, https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/the_facts_about_the_individual_tax_identification_number.pdf.

⁵⁷ The Facts About the Individual Tax Identification Number, American Immigration Council, https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/the_facts_about_the_individual_tax_identification_number.pdf.

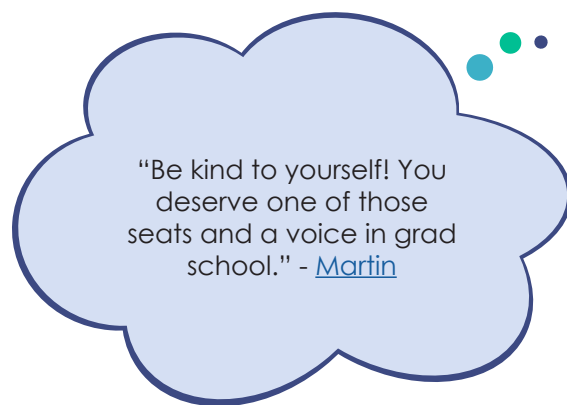
Other Sources of Funding

If you attended a CUNY college in New York State and have work authorization, you might be eligible for the [CUNY Counseling Assistantship Program \(CAP\)](#). This program was created especially for students who received their undergraduate degree from a CUNY college and who are now attending a CUNY college for their graduate studies. To participate in the program, the graduate student must spend a certain number of hours each week counseling high school and college students. In addition to receiving work experience and a NYS minimum wage salary, CAP participants are eligible for a tuition waiver of up to six CUNY graduate credits for each of the fall and spring semesters at the New York State resident rate.



Another alternative is distinguished international fellowships. These fellowships are very prestigious and typically recognized worldwide. In addition, they are also usually fully funded, including tuition and living expenses. Among these fellowships are the Rhodes Scholarship, the Gates Cambridge Scholarship, and the Schwarzman Scholarship. **However, it is crucial to know that these fellowships all require leaving the country.** While undocumented individuals can qualify for some of these fellowships, leaving the United States, as an undocumented person, is an extremely difficult and personal decision, as it could prevent you from reentering the country. If you are interested in pursuing such a fellowship, you should reach out to your university's fellowship office, in addition to an immigration attorney, who can fully apprise you of the effects leaving the country would have on your ability to reenter. Most importantly, consult your loved ones and consider the pros and cons of these opportunities. While the decision to accept one of these international scholarships/fellowships is a difficult one, the decision to apply and be titled a scholar is still an honor in and of itself.

A final alternative, if you have work authorization, are tuition remission programs. Many universities have these programs for their full-time employees. University employees can enroll (after being accepted) in select graduate programs and the university will cover a certain percentage of the tuition. For example, [Pace University's On Campus Tuition Remission Program](#) allows full-time employees to receive 100% tuition for the duration of the employee's full-time employment in select programs. [New York University's Tuition Remission Program](#) will waive from 50% to 100% of tuition for certain courses taken by their regular, full-time employees. It is also worth noting that these programs are not fully tax exempt. Under IRS regulations, up to \$5,250 per year of graduate tuition remission benefits are non-taxable. This means the first \$5,250 of your graduate tuition costs will not be taxed. Anything over \$5,250 will be considered taxable income.⁵⁸



⁵⁸ Tuition Remission, New Employee FAQs, NYU, <https://www.nyu.edu/faculty/benefits/full-time/faqs/tuition-remission-new-employee-faqs.html>.

C. Preparing for and Taking Standardized Tests

Most graduate schools and programs require applicants to take a standardized test. The most common standardized tests for graduate-level programs are the Graduate Management Admission Test (or “GMAT”) for business school, Law School Admission Test (or “LSAT”) for law school, Medical College Admission Test (or “MCAT”) for Medical School, and the Graduate Record Examinations (or “GRE”) for many graduate school and business school programs. These tests vary in costs and procedures, a summary of which is included in the figure below:

	GMAT	GRE	LSAT	MCAT
Types of Graduate Programs	Business	Various PhDs and Masters programs	Law	Medical
Cost	\$275.00 ⁵⁹	\$205.00 ⁶⁰	\$200.00 ⁶¹	\$320.00 ⁶²
Test-Preparation Programs	Various, including Kaplan, examPAL GMAT, Khan Academy, The Economist, Target Test Prep, Princeton Review, and Magoosh ⁶³	Various, including Kaplan, Princeton Review, examPAL GRE, Khan Academy, Target Test GRE, Manhattan Prep, and Magoosh ⁶⁴	Various, including LSATmax, Princeton Review, Khan Academy, Alpha Score, Blueprint LSAT, Powerscore, Kaplan, and Magoosh ⁶⁵	Various, including Princeton Review, Gold Standard MCAT, Khan Academy, Kaplan, Adapt Prep MCAT, Examcrackers, and Magoosh ⁶⁶

⁵⁹ GMAT Location Specific Pricing & Regulations, MBA.COM, <https://www.mba.com/exams/gmat/about-the-gmat-exam/location-specific-pricing-regulations>.

⁶⁰ Fees for GRE Tests and Related Services, ETS, <https://www.ets.org/gre/revise/general/about/fees>.

⁶¹ LSAT & CAS Fees and Refunds, LSAC, <https://www.lsac.org/sat/sat-dates-deadlines-score-release-dates/sat-cas-fees-and-refunds>.

⁶² The Cost of Applying to Medical School, AAMC, <https://students-residents.aamc.org/financial-aid/article/the-cost-of-applying-to-medical-school/>.

⁶³ A review of the major GRE-preparation courses can be found [here](#).

⁶⁴ A review of the major GMAT-preparation courses can be found [here](#).

⁶⁵ A review of the major LSAT-preparation courses can be found [here](#).

⁶⁶ A review of the major MCAT-preparation courses can be found [here](#).

Most Affordable Test-Preparation Program*	Magoosh at \$219.00	Magoosh at \$149.00	Magoosh at \$129.00	Magoosh at \$279.00 ⁶⁷
Standardized Test Fee-Waiver or Reduced Fee Eligibility Requirements	School-dependent. Students can contact their undergraduate institution or prospective graduate school about their eligibility criteria ⁶⁸	Limited to U.S. Citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents, in addition to certain financial aid-related requirements ⁶⁹	Limited to U.S., Canadian, or Australian citizens; U.S. Nationals; Lawful Permanent Residents; DACA recipients; Individuals who have applied for DACA; Canadian Permanent Residents; or Individuals who are refugees in Canada ⁷⁰	Limited to U.S. citizens; U.S. Nationals; Lawful Permanent Residents; Individuals who have been granted refugee or asylee status; DACA recipients; or Individuals awaiting refugee or asylee status approval by the U.S. government and have a U.S. Employment Authorization Document (EAD card) ⁷¹

*Prices vary depending on which package you purchase.

⁶⁷ Other cheaper options are described [here](#).

⁶⁸ The Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC) administers the GMAT, but they do not offer fee waivers directly to applicants. Rather, GMAC provides GMAT exam vouchers to schools based on request. Each school can request a maximum of ten vouchers per year and are encouraged to offer these fee waivers to students who are economically disadvantaged.

⁶⁹ GRE Fee Reduction Program, ETS, <https://www.ets.org/gre/subject/about/fees/reduction/>.

⁷⁰ Fee Waivers for the LSAT & Credential Assembly Service (CAS), LSAC, <https://www.lsac.org/lsat/lsat-dates-deadlines-score-release-dates/lsat-cas-fees-and-refunds/fee-waivers-lsat-credential>. For more information on how to apply, go to this site.

⁷¹ Who Is Eligible to Participate in the Fee Assistance Program?, AAMC, <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/article/eligibility/>. For those who do qualify, the Fee Assistance Program not only provides a reduced registration fee, but it also provides MCAT Official Prep Products, a complimentary subscription to the Medical School Admissions Requirements (MSAR) online database, and waiver of all AMCAS fees for one application submission, covering up to 20 medical schools.

Additionally, Kaplan Test Prep has partnered with TheDream.US to provide free test preparation courses to TheDream.US scholars. If you are a TheDream.US scholar, you can enroll [here](#).

Free and Low-Cost Test Preparation Alternatives

Most test-preparation programs, even those mentioned above, are expensive. Many students opt out of taking formal test-preparation courses and choose to self-study as a way to save money. Nonetheless, test-preparation materials can still be quite costly. There are ways, however, to acquire test-preparation materials for little to no cost.

Scholarships. There are several scholarships that offset the cost of test-preparation programs. There are scholarships for each standardized test. (For a list of scholarships to offset test-preparation costs, see Appendix 1 at the end of this guide. The list is not exhaustive but highlights several programs which provide important resources to prospective graduate students.)

Local Libraries. Local libraries typically have test-preparation materials, such as books and practice exams. If the library does not allow you to check-out test-preparation materials, students can always photocopy materials.

Social Media Platforms. Groups on various social media platforms provide a forum in which to find support for your graduate school journey. For example, Facebook has many “study groups,” in which users can post about test-preparation materials they are selling, look for cheap tutors, or access other materials for free.⁷² These groups also allow users to ask various questions related to graduate school.

⁷² An example of a GRE-related Facebook group can be found [here](#). An example of an LSAT-related Facebook group can be found [here](#).

Organizations. Different advocacy-based and identity-based organizations sometimes have free resource banks or other low-cost test preparation services. For example, [Khan Academy](#), an educational non-profit with the mission to provide “a free, world-class education for anyone, anywhere” offers a free LSAT test preparation program.

Tap into your Network. Contact friends, family, acquaintances, and upper classmen from your undergraduate institution that have taken the standardized test you hope to take. People who have taken the GRE, GMAT, LSAT, or MCAT will be very familiar with the resources available, and may be willing to sell or give away their old test-preparation materials. Additionally, undergraduate advising offices can also direct you to low-cost test preparation materials.

Taking Standardized Tests

Before taking the exam, it is important to remember that most schools publish the average scores necessary for admission into their specific graduate programs. While it is important to score above the average score, these averages are typically not cut-offs. In other words, if you score below the average, you can still gain admission into the school. Some graduate schools' admissions processes provide for a holistic review of all aspects of an applicant's application, not just their standardized test score.⁷⁴

It is also important to remember that each of these standardized tests has an accommodations policy for individuals with disabilities. These policies ensure that everyone taking these exams has an opportunity to succeed. In order to get an accommodation, students must apply for them and provide documentation of their disability. You should also leave yourself plenty of time to request an accommodation and be approved for it. Most of the administrators for these tests recommend applying for an accommodation well in advance of the test registration deadline, so give yourself at least a month before the test registra-

⁷⁴ While even law schools undergo holistic review of their applicants, it is important to note that the law school admissions process does place significant emphasis on an applicant's LSAT score.

tion deadline to apply. For more information on each test's accommodations policy, please visit the [GMAT's](#),⁷⁵ [GRE's](#),⁷⁶ [LSAT's](#),⁷⁷ and [MCAT's](#)⁷⁸ individual websites.

The next step is to actually take the standardized test. This involves traveling to the testing center and taking the exam. However, each of these tests require test-takers to present some form of **government-issued ID**. This can be a problem for undocumented individuals who might not have a government-issued ID. The following section explains which forms of ID are required for each test, and what undocumented students can do if they are turned away. It is important to note that if you have any doubts regarding the type of ID you plan to use, you can call the numbers listed in the sections below and ask an administrator whether your ID will be sufficient. Be sure to note the name of the administrator you spoke to and the date you spoke to them. You should also note that whichever name you use to register should match the name on your government-issued ID exactly. Your registration photo should also resemble the photo on your ID.

While the typical test-taking process involves travelling to a testing center and taking the exam, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the various administrators of these exams have changed test-taking procedures. The [GMAT](#)⁷⁹, [GRE](#)⁸⁰, and [LSAT](#)⁸¹ are being temporarily offered online. The [MCAT](#) has not moved online, but has implemented other health and safety measures.⁸²

⁷⁴ Accommodations for Test Takers with Disabilities, mba.com, <https://www.mba.com/frequently-asked-questions/about-gmat-test-takers-with-disabilities#question0>.

⁷⁵ Accommodations for Test Takers with Disabilities or Health-Related Needs, ETS GRE, <https://www.ets.org/gre/revise-general/register/disabilities?WT.ac=rx28>.

⁷⁶ LSAC Policy on Accommodations for Test Takers with Disabilities, LSAC, <https://www.lsac.org/lsat/lsac-policy-accommodations-test-takers-disabilities>.

⁷⁷ MCAT Exam with Accommodations, AAMC, <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/taking-mcat-exam/mcat-exam-accommodations/>.

⁷⁸ Update on Coronavirus and Its Impact on Testing, mba.com, <https://www.mba.com/articles-and-announcements/announcements/update-on-coronavirus>.

⁷⁹ Coronavirus GRE Testing Updates for the Americas, ETS GRE, <https://www.ets.org/s/cv/gre/the-americas/>.

⁸⁰ UPDATE: Coronavirus and the LSAT, LSAC, <https://www.lsac.org/update-coronavirus-and-lsat>.

⁸¹ Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the MCAT Exam, AAMC, <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/article/coronavirus-mcat-faqs/>.

If you are undocumented, you should consider taking the earliest exam of a particular cycle. This will give you more opportunities to take the exam, if for some reason you are turned away.

1. GMAT

For test takers in the United States, if you are not a U.S. citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident, the GMAT requires that you bring a foreign passport as your ID.⁸³ There is no exception to this rule, unless you take the test in California. California test takers who are ineligible for the approved forms of ID may request approval for an ID exception at least 3 weeks prior to the exam. This can be done by emailing GMATCandidateServicesAmericas@Pearson.com. This rule is not limited to California residents. Any test taker can benefit from this policy if they register for the GMAT in California.⁸⁴ If any questions arise about these requirements, you can call GMAT Candidate Services at 1-800-717-4628.

If you are able to present the required ID but are turned away anyway, note as many details as you can about the incident, the people who turned you away, and the testing center and report them as soon as possible to GMAT customer service.⁸⁵ They do not have a formal policy in place for these types of incidents.

2. GRE

The GRE's ID [requirements](#) vary depending on the location of the exam.⁸⁶ A student taking the GRE outside their country of citizenship must present their passport. However, if a student doesn't have their foreign passport, the GRE will also accept other documents accompanied by a supplemental ID. Other ac-

⁸² GMAT Location Specific Pricing & Regulations, MBA, <https://www.mba.com/exams/gmat/about-the-gmat-exam/location-specific-pricing-regulations>. There is also a palm vein requirement for the GMAT. Identification Requirements, MBA, <https://www.mba.com/exams/gmat/plan-for-exam-day/identification-requirements>. This involves placing one's palm on a machine to analyze one's palm vein pattern as proof of identification.

⁸³ Telephone interview with administrator, Pearson (Nov. 26, 2019). For more details on this, call 1 (800) 717-4628.

⁸⁴ GMAT customer service can be found here: Contact Us, MBA, <https://www.mba.com/service/contact-us>.

⁸⁵ Identification Requirements for the GRE® General Test, ETS GRE, https://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/register/id/.

ceptable documents include an employment authorization document (EAD). Supplemental IDs can include government-issued IDs, such as a driver's license, or a student ID.⁸⁷

If you are unable to meet the requirements, the GRE requires that you contact the ETS Office of Testing Integrity (OTI) *before* registering. They require that for individuals “granted political asylum, [who] have refugee status or are otherwise unable to meet the identification requirements” you *must* contact OTI seven days before registering for the exam.⁸⁸ You must receive approval from OTI before registering. Further, they may require you to submit additional documents to them. It is important to obtain approval so that, if you are turned away from the exam center, your fees can be refunded. If you do not contact OTI prior to registering, are turned away from the exam center, and do not have one of their required forms of ID, they will not refund their fees.⁸⁹ You can contact OTI by email at TS>Returns@ets.org or by phone at 1-800-750-6991. Additional questions about ID requirements can be submitted to ETS through their website.⁹⁰

Israt Audry, contributor to this Guide, presented their NYS learner's permit with no problems entering the exam. Nonetheless, it is important to be aware that certain testing locations might not follow the ID-related rules exactly. So it is best practice to at least call OTI to verify whether your ID will be accepted.

3. LSAT

The LSAT ID requirements are broad.⁹¹ Their general requirements are that the ID be current or not expired for more than 90 days, and that it include a photograph, your first name, last name, and date of birth, and that it be issued by a government body. The listed examples on the website include: a passport, pass-

⁸⁶ Supplemental ID documents include: government-issued ID cards, student ID cards, and confirmation of identity letters from a student's educational institution. Supplemental ID Documents, ETS GRE, https://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/register/id/supplemental/.

⁸⁷ Unable to Meet ID Requirements, ETS GRE, https://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/register/id/.

⁸⁸ Unable to Meet ID Requirements, ETS GRE, https://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/register/id/.

⁸⁹ Contact the GRE Program, ETS GRE, <https://www.ets.org/gre/contact#complaints>.

⁹⁰ Identification Accepted for LSAT Admission, LSAC, <https://www.lsac.org/lsat/taking-lsat/lsat-test-center-admission-requirements/identification-accepted-lsat-admission>.

port card, a state or province-issued ID, and a national or consular ID card. Under these requirements, in addition to a passport or consular ID, the New York City ID or other local forms of ID should be acceptable.⁹² It is important to note that a student ID is not an acceptable form of identification to enter and take the LSAT.

If you have other specific questions as to whether a form of ID may be accepted, you can contact LSAC at 215-968-1001 at least 14 days before your registered test date. Additionally, if you are unable to obtain one of the required forms of identification, you can request an exception to these requirements by emailing LSAC at LSACinfo@LSAC.org before the registration deadline.

If you follow the above steps but are still turned away at the testing center,⁹³ you can file a complaint via email to centercomplaint@LSAC.org and request that your fee be refunded.⁹⁴ LSAC does not have an official policy in place if a student is turned away from the testing center and there are no other testing dates before the law school admissions cycle ends.⁹⁵ That is why it is best to take the LSAT at the earliest testing date, to make sure you can retake the test before the application cycle ends.

4. MCAT

The MCAT ID Requirements are that the ID be issued by a government agency, that it include a printed expiration date and that the expiration date be *after* your testing date,⁹⁶ that it include your visible signature and photo, that it be “tangible and whole” and that it be in English. It is important to note that, because it contains a signature requirement, IDs like passport cards, which are

⁹¹ This was confirmed by an LSAC administrator via phone call on Nov. 22, 2019.

⁹² For a list of facilities by state that host the LSAT, see Ross Rinehart, Blueprint's Guide to LSAT Test Centers, Blueprint, <https://blog.blueprintlsat.com/lsat/blueprints-guide-to-lsat-test-centers/#dallasjump>. Most testing centers are universities, but can include other venues like conference centers. Ross Rinehart, Blueprint's Guide to LSAT Test Centers, Blueprint, <https://blog.blueprintlsat.com/lsat/blueprints-guide-to-lsat-test-centers/#dallasjump>

⁹³ Most Frequent Test Day Questions, LSAC, <https://www.lsac.org/lsat/taking-lsat/test-day-faqs>.

⁹⁴ This was confirmed by an LSAC administrator via phone call on Feb. 3, 2020.

⁹⁵ This information can be found [here](#). For purposes of the MCAT, the expiration date must be printed on the ID, and cannot be extended by a sticker or similar mechanism.

different from passports, would be insufficient to meet the MCAT requirements. The listed examples on the website include state driver's licenses and passports. The NYC ID meets the above requirements and so should be sufficient. Like the LSAT, a school ID is not an acceptable form of ID.

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) that administers the MCAT does have information about how to proceed if you are unable to meet the ID requirements or have specific questions about these policies. They require that you reach out to them no later than the Silver Zone Deadline for registration⁹⁷ at 202-828-0600.⁹⁸

If you can meet their ID requirements but are still turned away at the testing center,⁹⁹ ask the Test Administer to file a case report at the time this occurs and obtain the case report number from them.¹⁰⁰ Also, file an MCAT Test Center Concern form through the [MCAT Registration System](#).¹⁰¹ If you are turned away at the last exam before the admissions cycle closes, you can certainly file a complaint, but will likely have to wait and apply during the following cycle. It is best to take the MCAT at the earliest testing date possible, so that you can have other chances to take the test if turned away.

Pia Iribarren, a contributor to this Guide, was able to enter and take the MCAT by presenting her Florida state ID. As the ID-related rules may not be followed exactly by every testing location, it is best practice to call AAMC to verify whether your ID will be accepted.

⁹⁶ For specific dates, see Register for the MCAT Exam, AAMC, <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/taking-mcat-exam/register-mcat-exam/>.

⁹⁷ Top 10 Tips for MCAT Examinees: Test Day, AAMC, <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/article/top-10-tips-mcat-examinees-test-day/>.

⁹⁸ There does not appear to be much information online whether certain testing centers are more undocu-friendly than others, but some students have used reddit.com, an anonymous discussion website, to ask questions related to test day and specific questions related to undocumented status. Examples can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

⁹⁹ The MCAT Essentials for Testing Year 2020, AAMC Medical College Admission Test, at 28, https://aamc-orange.global.ssl.fastly.net/production/media/filer_public/08/48/08489b8a-10ba-4e4b-86f6-51870c977976/aamc-2020-mcat-essentials_2.pdf.

¹⁰⁰ Telephone interview with administrator, AAMC (Nov. 26, 2019). For more details on this, call (202) 828-0600.

	TEACHING	LAW	HEALTH-RELATED FIELDS
PIPELINE PROGRAMS	Institute for Recruitment of Teachers (IRT) ¹⁰¹ ; EduCorps ¹⁰² ; Breakthrough Collaborative Teaching Fellowship ¹⁰³	Pipeline to Practice Foundation ¹⁰⁴ ; Diversity Attorney Pipeline Program ¹⁰⁵ ; Just the Beginning ¹⁰⁶ ; New York Law School Summer Pre-Law Program ¹⁰⁷ ; SEO Law Fellowship ¹⁰⁸ ; UCLA Law Fellows Program ¹⁰⁹ ; Centro Legal De La Raza Diversity Pipeline Program ¹¹⁰ ; CAP Leadership Institute ¹¹¹	Pre-Health Dreamers (PHD) ¹¹² ; Mentoring in Medicine and Science Summer Internship ¹¹³ ; UCSF Pre-Health Undergraduate Program ¹¹⁴ ; Academic Summer Program Integrating Resources for Excellence (ASPIRE) ¹¹⁵ ; Future Physician Leaders Program ¹¹⁶

¹⁰¹ Institute for Recruitment of Teachers, Andover, <https://www.andover.edu/about/outreach/irt>.

¹⁰² CSU EduCorps, California State University, <https://www2.calstate.edu/educorps>.

¹⁰³ Become a Teaching Fellow, Breakthrough Collaborative, <https://www.breakthroughcollaborative.org/apply-teacher/>.

¹⁰⁴ Pipeline to Practice, Pipeline to Practice Foundation, <https://pipelinetopractice.org/>.

¹⁰⁵ Diversity Attorney Pipeline Program, DAPP, <https://dapprogram.org/>.

¹⁰⁶ Just the Beginning, Just the Beginning, <https://jtb.org/>.

¹⁰⁷ Pre-Law Pipeline Programs, New York Law School, https://www.nyls.edu/about_the_school/diversity-and-inclusion/pre-law-pipeline-programs/.

¹⁰⁸ The SEO Law Fellowship Program, SEO Law, <https://www.seo-usa.org/law/our-program/fellowship/>.

¹⁰⁹ Outreach: Law Fellows Program, UCLA, <https://law.ucla.edu/admissions/outreach/>.

¹¹⁰ Diversity Legal Pipeline, Centro Legal De La Raza, <https://www.centrolegal.org/youth-law-academy/>.

¹¹¹ CAP Leadership Institute, LatinoJustice, <https://www.latinjustice.org/en/causes/cap-leadership-and-education>.

¹¹² Pre-Health Dreamers, <https://www.phdreamers.org/>.

¹¹³ Our Programs, Mentoring in Medicine, <http://medicalmentor.org/our-programs/>.

¹¹⁴ Pre-Health Undergraduate Program, UCSF, <https://epibiostat.ucsf.edu/pre-health-undergraduate-program>.

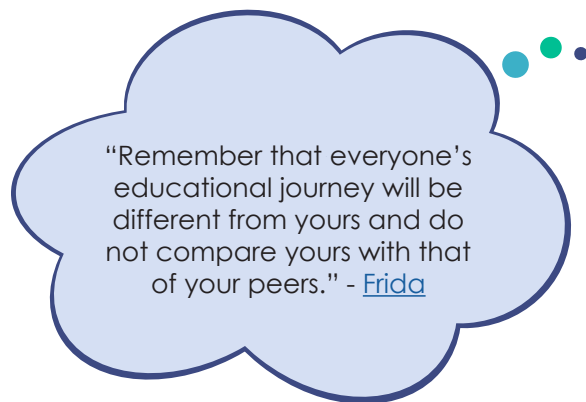
¹¹⁵ ASPIRE, Loyola University Chicago, <https://www.luc.edu/diversityandinclusion/programs/aspire/>.

¹¹⁶ Future Physician Leaders, UC Riverside, <https://fpl.ucr.edu/>.

Pipeline and Mentorship Programs

Different professional fields have a variety of pipeline programs designed to include diversity in those professions. Pipeline programs involve providing many different kinds of resources to underrepresented students. These programs can be valuable tools to undocumented students, as these programs typically include mentorship opportunities, resources, and connections for internships and post-graduate work. Each program is different and offers varying benefits. For example, when applying to medical school, Pia Iribarren, a contributor to this guidebook, worked with [Pre-Health Dreamers](#), an organization dedicated to helping undocumented students work in health-related fields. Pia participated in Pre-Health Dreamers' PEEP program, a yearly program which provides prospective students with monthly webinars on various issues and application components and an all expenses paid weekend retreat in California for mock interview preparation and other forms of support.

Additionally, many graduate institutions have internal pipeline programs and student-led groups, which provide resources to underrepresented students.



D. Undocu-Friendly Schools Outside of New York State

While New York provided undocumented students greater access to higher education through passage of the NYS DREAM Act (discussed above in Chapter 1, “**How Do I Qualify for State-Funded Tuition Assistance?**” Section 1), other states have similarly worked to extend access to graduate schools to undocumented students in response to years of advocacy from directly impacted activists. Many states have expanded in-state tuition to DACAmented and/or undocumented students,¹¹⁷ and others have extended tuition assistance to DACAmented and/or undocumented students. However, for purposes of this guide, we focus on three states, in addition to New York: California, New Jersey and Washington. This section highlights specific undocu-friendly schools in each of these states.

California

Undocumented students can pursue a graduate-level education in California. Many schools in California explicitly state that they welcome and provide many resources to undocumented students. The following list is not exhaustive. There are many universities in California that offer undocumented students many resources. We have highlighted the following schools because of the wealth of resources each school has dedicated to its undocumented students.

1. Stanford University

Stanford University welcomes all students, regardless of citizenship status. The university has a dedicated webpage, entitled *Undocumented at Stanford*, which includes the many resources the university provides to its undocumented students.¹¹⁸ The university also enumerates a specific administrator in various graduate programs to which undocumented graduate students can direct their financial aid related questions.¹¹⁹

¹¹⁷ For example, just recently in April 2020, Virginia passed a law extending in-state tuition to eligible students without regard to citizenship status. See H 1547, <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+ful+CHAP0766>

¹¹⁸ Undocumented at Stanford, Stanford University, <https://undocumented.stanford.edu/>.

¹¹⁹ Considerations for Undocumented Students, Stanford University, <https://financialaid.stanford.edu/grad/aid/undocumented.html>.

2. UC Berkeley

UC Berkeley has a robust Undocumented Student Program. The program includes dedicated support to graduate students.¹²⁰ Their resources include legal, wellness, financial, and career preparation resources. The university also has the Haas Dreamer's Resource Center, which "is a community space where students have access to academic counseling, mental health support, peer support, and opportunities to create learning communities."¹²¹

3. UC Davis

UC Davis opened the AB 540 & Undocumented Student Center in 2014. This Center "offers personalized support to undocumented graduate and undergraduate students, their families and communities in overcoming many of the legal, financial, and professional obstacles they may face along the journey of obtaining higher education."¹²² The school also has several student groups, dedicated to empowering undocumented students and providing them with wraparound support.¹²³

4. UC Irvine (UCI)

UCI provides undocumented students with many resources. One of these resources is UCI Dream Center, a center dedicated to fostering a community for undocumented students and helping them achieve academic and professional success.¹²⁴

¹²⁰ Graduate Student Support, Undocumented Student Program, <https://undocu.berkeley.edu/graduate-student-support/>.

¹²¹ Graduate Student Support, Undocumented Student Program, <https://undocu.berkeley.edu/graduate-student-support/>.

¹²² AB 540 & Undocumented Grad Students, UC Davis, <https://grad.ucdavis.edu/undocumentedgrads>.

¹²³ AB 540 & Undocumented Grad Students, UC Davis, <https://grad.ucdavis.edu/undocumentedgrads>.

¹²⁴ UCI Dream Center, <https://dream.uci.edu/>.

5. UC Los Angeles (UCLA)

UCLA's website explicitly states that "UCLA graduate students with the status of AB540 or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) are eligible for certain types of funding at UCLA."¹²⁵ Moreover, UCLA provides a wealth of resources to its undocumented students—ranging from academic and personal counseling, financial aid, legal advising, and their Undocumented Student Program.¹²⁶

6. UC San Diego (UCSD)

UCSD has a demonstrated commitment to supporting its undocumented students. The university has an Undocumented Student Services Center. This center provides a variety of resources, including one-on-one consultations, immigration legal services, a food security gift card program, and other experiential learning and intern programs.¹²⁷

New Jersey

Some schools in New Jersey have begun to make progress in this area, after undocumented students were given access to state financial aid for college.

1. New Jersey City University (NJCU)

On its website, NJCU includes a list of resources for undocumented students, including admissions checklists, financial aid information, private scholarships, and local legal resources.¹²⁸

¹²⁵ Students with AB540 and/or DACA Status, UCLA Graduate Education, <https://grad.ucla.edu/funding/financial-aid/students-with-ab540-andor-daca-status/>.

¹²⁶ UCLA Undocumented Student Program, UCLA, <https://www.usp.ucla.edu/>.

¹²⁷ Undocumented Students Services Center, UC San Diego, <https://students.ucsd.edu/sponsor/undoc/>.

¹²⁸ Undocumented Student Resources, NJCU, <https://www.njcu.edu/academics/resources-services/undocumented-student-resources>.

2. Rutgers University

Rutgers explicitly allows undocumented students to attend the university. Its website notes that the university is a safe place for undocumented students: "Rutgers does not and will not share undocumented student records without a warrant, subpoena, or court order. Rutgers University police do not inquire into nor record the immigration status of students or other persons unless required by an Attorney General's directive."¹²⁹ Furthermore, Rutgers offers its undocumented students free legal assistance and access to financial aid.¹³⁰

Washington State

1. University of Washington (UW)

All of UW's graduate programs are open to undocumented individuals.¹³¹ The school also offers explicit instructions on how to complete the UW Graduate School Application for undocumented students.¹³² There are also student organizations dedicated to supporting and empowering undocumented students, including [Leadership Without Borders](http://depts.washington.edu/ecc/lwb/)¹³³ and the [Purple Group](https://depts.washington.edu/ecc/lwb/services/purple-group/).¹³⁴

¹²⁹ Undocumented Students FAQ, Rutgers, <http://deanofstudents.rutgers.edu/student-advocacy/undocumented-students-faq/>.

¹³⁰ Undocumented Students FAQ, Rutgers, <http://deanofstudents.rutgers.edu/student-advocacy/undocumented-students-faq/>.

¹³¹ Undocumented Graduate Students, University of Washington, <https://grad.uw.edu/equity-inclusion-and-diversity/go-map/undocumented-graduate-students/>.

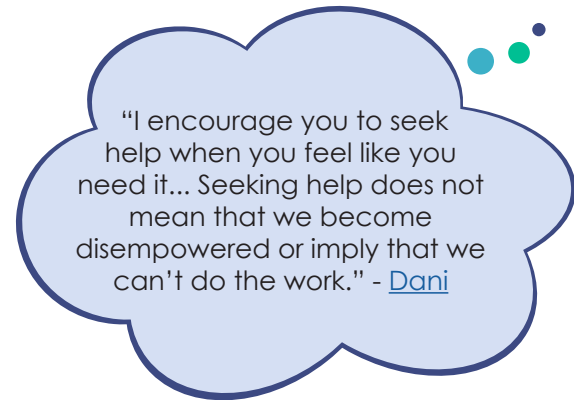
¹³² Undocumented Graduate Students, University of Washington, <https://grad.uw.edu/equity-inclusion-and-diversity/go-map/undocumented-graduate-students/>.

¹³³ Leadership Without Borders, University of Washington, <http://depts.washington.edu/ecc/lwb/>.

¹³⁴ Purple Group, University of Washington, <https://depts.washington.edu/ecc/lwb/services/purple-group/>.

Considerations for Schools Outside of California, New Jersey, New York, and Washington

While this Guide centers on the ability to attend graduate school in four specific states—California, New Jersey, New York, and Washington—you might also consider applying to and attending a graduate school in another state. If you are hoping to attend a graduate school outside of California, New Jersey, New York, and Washington, here is a list of factors you should consider in making that decision (in no particular order):



- your ability to access in-state tuition in that state;
- the state's or locality's proximity to a United States external border;
- the presence of interior checkpoints in the state or locality;
- the degree to which the state or locality has cooperated with immigration authorities in the past;
- the state's licensing scheme and whether an undocumented individual can be licensed in your particular field in that state;
- the school's record, or lack thereof, of supporting undocumented students and any resources, such as scholarships, that they might offer; and
- the presence of a support network, such as family or friends, who can support you during graduate school.

Furthermore, the following is a non-exhaustive list of undocu-friendly schools outside of California, New Jersey, New York, and Washington.¹³⁵

- Brown University (Providence, Rhode Island)¹³⁶
- Dartmouth College (Hanover, New Hampshire)¹³⁷
- Duke University (Durham, North Carolina)¹³⁸
- Emory University (Atlanta, Georgia)¹³⁹
- George Washington University (Washington, D.C.)¹⁴⁰
- Georgetown University (Washington, D.C.)¹⁴¹
- Harvard University (Cambridge, Massachusetts)¹⁴²
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Cambridge, Massachusetts)¹⁴³
- Northwestern University (Evanston, Illinois)¹⁴⁴

¹³⁵ The schools on this non-exhaustive list were chosen by looking at a variety of criteria. These criteria included 1) explicitly mentioning on their websites that the school considers applications from undocumented students for their graduate programs; 2) offering a variety of resources to undocumented, such as financial aid, mental health services, student organizations, or other resources; 3) and pledging continued support to DACA students after the Trump administration's rescission of DACA.

¹³⁶ Prospective Students, Brown, Undocumented, First-Generation College, and Low-Income Student Center, <https://www.brown.edu/uflr/programs-and-services/undocumented-student-program/prospective-students>.

¹³⁷ Undocumented Students, Dartmouth, Financial Aid, <https://financialaid.dartmouth.edu/apply-aid/undocumented-students>.

¹³⁸ FAQs, Duke University, Student Affairs, <https://studentaffairs.duke.edu/supporting-undocumented-students/faqs>.

¹³⁹ Undocumented/DACAmented Applicants, Emory University, Laney Graduate School, <https://gs.emory.edu/admissions/undocu-daca-mented.html>.

¹⁴⁰ Apply to GW as an Undocumented Individual, George Washington University, <https://undocumented.gwu.edu/>.

¹⁴¹ Undocumented Student Resources, Georgetown University, <https://undocumented.georgetown.edu/>.

¹⁴² Undocumented at Harvard, Harvard University, <https://undocumented.harvard.edu/>.

¹⁴³ Frequently Asked Questions, MIT Graduate Admissions, <https://gradadmissions.mit.edu/applications/faq>.

¹⁴⁴ FAQs on Northwestern Policies & Practices, Student Affairs, Student Enrichment Services, <https://www.northwestern.edu/enrichment/resources/undocumented-daca/faqs-on-northwestern-policies-practices.html>.

- Rice University (Houston, Texas)¹⁴⁵
- Tulane University (New Orleans, Louisiana)¹⁴⁶
- University of Chicago (Chicago, Illinois)¹⁴⁷
- University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, Michigan)¹⁴⁸
- University of Notre Dame (Notre Dame, Indiana)¹⁴⁹
- University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)¹⁵⁰
- University of Virginia (Charlottesville, Virginia)¹⁵¹
- Yale University (New Haven, Connecticut)¹⁵²

¹⁴⁵ Undocumented Students FAQs, Rice University, DACA and Undocumented Students at Rice, <https://daca.rice.edu/undocumented-students-faq>.

¹⁴⁶ Resources for Undocumented Students and Students with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Tulane University, <https://tulane.edu/undocumented>.

¹⁴⁷ Undocumented/DACAmented, University of Chicago, Center for Identity + Inclusion, <https://inclusion.uchicago.edu/studentsupport/undocumented-dacamented/>.

¹⁴⁸ Undocumented Students, University of Michigan, Office of Financial Aid, <https://finaid.umich.edu/undocumented-students/>.

¹⁴⁹ Campus Resources, University of Notre Dame, Office of Student Enrichment, <https://studentenrichment.nd.edu/resources/undocumented-and-daca-students/campus-resources/>.

¹⁵⁰ DACA and Undocumented Students, Penn Career Services, <https://careerservices.upenn.edu/channels/daca-and-undocumented-students/>.

¹⁵¹ University of Virginia, "UVA Announces That Students, Regardless of Citizenship Status, Are Eligible to Enroll," https://www.news.virginia.edu/content/uva-announces-all-students-regardless-citizenship-status-are-eligible-enroll?utm_source=UTwitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=news.

¹⁵² DACAmented & UnDACAmented, Yale University, Office of International Students and Scholars, <https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/dacamented-undacamented>.

CHAPTER 2: ATTENDING GRADUATE SCHOOL

A. Working During Graduate School

Can I Intern While in School?

There are various opportunities for undocumented graduate students to obtain term-time and summer internships, regardless of immigration status. Undocumented students can obtain unpaid internships and gain all of the networking and professional development opportunities that result. Additionally, there are external and institutional funding opportunities that allow students to fund these internships. First, students can sometimes obtain stipends through the institution, oftentimes regardless of immigration status, because they are not considered employees of the school. When applying to programs, it may be helpful to ask schools about their Summer and term-time internship funding, and whether there are eligibility restrictions based on status or citizenship. Additionally, there are private organizations who fund stipends and fellowships to compensate students for unpaid internships and that are available regardless of immigration status.¹⁵³ Additionally, you may be able to work with your institution to create fellowships that are inclusive of all students, regardless of immigration status.¹⁵⁴

What Are Other Work Opportunities Outside of Internships?

In addition to term-time and Summer internships, there are opportunities for students, including those without work authorization, to work as independent

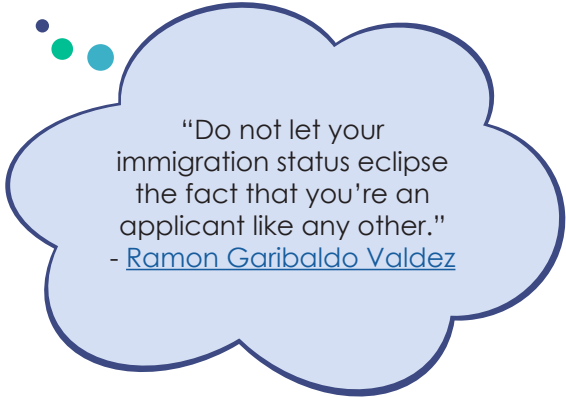
¹⁵³ For a list of graduate school fellowships available to all students regardless of status, see 2020 Graduate Fellowships That Don't Require Proof of U.S. Citizenship or Legal Permanent Residency, Immigrants Rising, https://immigrantsrising.org/wp-content/uploads/Immigrants-Rising_List-of-Graduate-Fellowships.pdf.

¹⁵⁴ For information on how to create these fellowships, see Creating Fellowship Programs, Immigrants Rising, https://immigrantsrising.org/wp-content/uploads/Immigrants-Rising_Creating-Fellowship-Programs-For-Educational-Institutions.pdf.

contractors.¹⁵⁵ This involves being self-employed, and working on a project by project basis. Working as an independent contractor has its own legal and tax implications, so that is something to discuss with a professional or consider.

Can I Fund My PhD Program by Teaching?

If you are applying to PhD programs, you may be able to fund your education through teaching assistance opportunities. Because PhD award letters can vary across institutions, programs, and individuals, you will need to work with your institution to make sure this is included and is provided in the form of a stipend that is not dependent on immigration status. Professors, especially those excited about supporting your research ideas, can be among the best advocates, even taking the initiative on finding private grants to cover teaching assistant opportunities. For more information on advocating for yourself in obtaining a teaching assistant position while in a PhD program, reach out to UndocuPhDs, former undocumented PhD students looking to empower, connect, and support undocumented students in their pursuit of their doctoral degrees.¹⁵⁶



“Do not let your immigration status eclipse the fact that you’re an applicant like any other.”
- [Ramon Garibaldo Valdez](#)

¹⁵⁵ For more information on working as an independent contractor, see The Non-Citizen’s Guide to Entrepreneurship, New York State Youth Leadership Council (NYSYLC), https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5568cf13e4b0580240daceee/t/5d1a589a56fd5b0001e927f1/1562007758020/NYSYLC_Guide_062019_Web.pdf; A Guide to Working for Yourself, Immigrants Rising, https://immigrantsrising.org/wp-content/uploads/Immigrants-Rising_Working-for-Yourself-Guide.pdf.

¹⁵⁶ For more information on UndocuPhDs and how to contact them, see <https://undocuphds.wordpress.com>.

B. Graduate School-Specific Requirements

Graduate programs vary in their requirements. Most, if not all, graduate programs require students to take certain courses, work in the field for a set number of hours, or meet other miscellaneous requirements. Some of these requirements may pose unique problems to undocumented students. However, these problems can be overcome with the right information. As previously discussed in Chapter 2, Section A: Working During Graduate School, this section will provide an overview on other graduate-program specific requirements and some helpful tips and information to overcome any of these hurdles.

Law

1. MPRE

To become a practicing attorney, law students must take the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE), which tests the ethical rules attorneys must abide by. The MPRE is not administered by law schools, but rather it is administered by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE). The NCBE imposes ID requirements on test takers, similar to those required for the GMAT, GRE, LSAT, and MCAT. These ID requirements can thus present a hurdle to undocumented students. Nonetheless, undocumented students can meet these requirements. The MPRE does not need to be taken in the state in which you wish to be barred as a licensed attorney.

NCBE requires students to present two forms of original, unexpired ID: a government-issued primary ID and a secondary ID. The primary ID must be issued by the government and include your first and last name, recent recognizable photo, and signature. NCBE accepts passports, U.S. driver's licenses, or other similar state identification cards as a primary ID.¹⁵⁷ Under these requirements, the New York City ID should qualify as a primary form of ID. For undocumented students who do not have a qualifying ID issued in the US, the primary ID must be an international passport from your country of citizenship and be printed in roman characters.

¹⁵⁷ For more information, see MPRE Test Day Policies, NCBE, <http://www.ncbex.org/exams/mpre/test-day-policies/>.

The secondary ID must include at least a first and last name and signature, or first and last name and recent recognizable photo. NCBE has commonly accepted the following forms of secondary ID: university/college ID, credit card, and library card.¹⁵⁸ Students must also make sure that the first and last name on their MPRE registration matches exactly the first and last name on both of the IDs presented on test day.

If you cannot meet these ID requirements, you can request an exception. **These exceptions must be submitted through the [Contact Us page](#) on NCBE's website at least seven business days before your scheduled test date.**¹⁵⁹

2. Bar Examination

Additionally, law students must take the bar examination in order to practice. As the bar examination is administered by each state, the ID requirements vary across states. For example, in California, applicants must present a government-issued ID that has their photograph. Acceptable forms of ID include a driver's license, California ID card, or a passport.¹⁶⁰ In New York, students must present a valid government-issued ID. All non-U.S. citizens who do not possess a driver's license issued by a U.S. state or territory must present a valid passport for identification.¹⁶¹ The NY State ID will not serve as a valid form of ID.¹⁶²

Medicine

To become a licensed physician, medical students must pass several licensing exams during medical school (Step 1 and Step 2 of the US Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE)) and a final exam during their residency training (Step 3). These exams

¹⁵⁸ MPRE Test Day Policies, NCBE, <http://www.ncbex.org/exams/mpre/test-day-policies/>.

¹⁵⁹ The Contact Us page can be found [here](#).

¹⁶⁰ Exam Rule, State Bar of California, <https://www.calbar.ca.gov/Admissions/Examinations/Exam-Rules>.

¹⁶¹ Exam Day References and Security Policy, New York State Board of Law Examiners, <https://www.nybarexam.org/Default.html>.

¹⁶² Confirmed via call to the New York State Board of Law Examiners on Feb. 7, 2020.

similarly have identification requirements. You must present one unexpired form of ID, which includes 1) your photo; 2) your name as it appears on your scheduling permit;¹⁶³ and 3) your signature.¹⁶⁴ Acceptable forms of ID include passports, driver's licenses, National Identity Cards, and other forms of government-issued IDs.¹⁶⁵

Questions regarding the ID requirements can be sent through USMLE's website, on their Contact Us page.¹⁶⁶ Pre-Health Dreamers, an organization dedicated to helping undocumented students access health-related careers, has reported that "[u]ndocumented students in medical school have not expressed having trouble taking these exams."¹⁶⁷

Nursing

Like other graduate programs, nursing students must also take an exam in order to practice. This exam is known as the NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination) and has similar ID requirements to examinations mentioned in earlier sections. To satisfy the ID requirements, students must present a government-issued, non-expired ID which includes the student's name written in Roman character, a recent photograph, and a signature.¹⁶⁸ The first and last name on the ID must also match exactly the first and last name on the student's Authorization to Test email, which is received after registering for the test.¹⁶⁹ Undocumented students should have no issues if they present a passport, but other forms of ID are also accepted. These include a driver's license, provincial/territorial or state ID card, permanent residence card, and a military ID card.¹⁷⁰

¹⁶³ A scheduling permit is a document issued to the test-taker after registering for the exams.

¹⁶⁴ 2019 Bulletin of Information, USMLE, <https://www.usmle.org/pdfs/bulletin/2019bulletin.pdf>.

¹⁶⁵ 2019 Bulletin of Information, USMLE, <https://www.usmle.org/pdfs/bulletin/2019bulletin.pdf>.

¹⁶⁶ This page can be found [here](#).

¹⁶⁷ Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about Medical School for Pre-med Undocumented Students Across the Nation, Pre-Health Dreamers, <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b453764f93fd480d1fcc9f9/t/5bac29c5e79c70397ee8aa26/1538013119971/PHD-MedSchoolFAQ-ver.2.pdf>.

¹⁶⁸ Acceptable ID, NCSBN, <https://www.ncsbn.org/1221.htm>.

¹⁶⁹ Acceptable ID, NCSBN, <https://www.ncsbn.org/1221.htm>.

¹⁷⁰ Acceptable ID, NCSBN, <https://www.ncsbn.org/1221.htm>.

If you are unsure about any of the ID requirements, students can contact the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) directly through their website.¹⁷¹

The following chapter will discuss undocumented students' abilities to acquire professional licenses in greater detail, but it is worth noting here that not all states allow undocumented students to acquire a nursing license. However, California, New York, and Washington state all allow undocumented individuals to acquire a nursing license. New Jersey has yet to pass any law or regulation extending professional licenses, including nursing licenses, to undocumented people, but in early 2020, the New Jersey state legislature began considering a proposal to extend professional licenses to certain undocumented individuals.¹⁷²

Social Work

The Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) maintains the social work licensing examinations that are used to determine whether to issue a social work license to applicants. In order to take a particular social work licensing examination, a student must present both a primary and secondary form of ID. The primary ID must contain your name, a permanently affixed photo, signature, and cannot be expired. Acceptable primary IDs include a driver's license, passport, military ID, and a Permanent Resident Visa/Green Card. The secondary ID must contain your name, signature, and cannot be expired. Acceptable secondary IDs include any form of primary ID, credit or debit card, Social Security card (US), Social Insurance card (Canada), professional license ID card, Work ID, and a Student ID.¹⁷³ The first and last names on both IDs must match the name on the Authorization to Test email you will receive from ASWB after registering.

¹⁷¹ Exam Contacts, NCBSN, <https://www.ncsbn.org/exam-contacts.htm>.

¹⁷² Joe Hernandez, N.J. Considers Allowing Certain Immigrants to Obtain Professional Licenses, WHYY, <https://whyy.org/articles/n-j-considers-allowing-certain-immigrants-to-obtain-professional-licenses/>.

¹⁷³ ASWB Examination Candidate Handbook, ASWB, <https://www.aswb.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Candidate-Handbook.pdf>.

Psychology

In order to practice as a psychologist, students must take the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP), which is administered by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB). To sit for the EPPP, students must present two forms of original, unexpired ID. The primary form of ID must be government-issued and include the student's name, photo, and signature. Valid forms of primary ID include an international travel passport, driver's license, military ID, ID card (national/state/province ID Card), and alien registration card (green card or permanent residency card). All IDs required must be issued by the country in which the student is testing. If the student does not have a qualifying primary ID issued from the country they are testing in, a passport from their country of citizenship is required, along with a secondary ID. This means that undocumented students will have to present their passport, unless they have any of the other forms of ID issued by the U.S. government. The secondary ID must include a name and signature or a name and recent recognizable photo. Furthermore, the first and last name of the student used to register must match both IDs exactly.¹⁷⁴

If students have questions about these ID requirements, students can reach out to ASPPB directly either at 678-216-1175 or asppb@asppb.org.

Teaching

To be a licensed teacher, you need to pass certain examinations. However, these tests vary by state and can vary by subject matter and the type of students you wish to teach. For example, the tests might vary if you wish to teach middle school versus high school, or if you wish to teach children with special education needs versus children without those needs. A detailed list of testing requirements by state can be found [here](#).¹⁷⁵

¹⁷⁴ EPPP FAQs, ASPPB, <https://www.asppb.net/page/FAQs#ID%20Policy>.

¹⁷⁵ Teacher Certification Degrees, <https://www.teachercertificationdegrees.com/>.

CHAPTER 3: USING YOUR DEGREE AFTER GRADUATE SCHOOL

A. Professional Licenses

One potential consideration in choosing what to study, where to attend graduate school, or in deciding where to move after graduation, is the availability of professional licenses. Professional licenses are formal certifications that someone has the necessary qualifications for a job. This certification is separate from the requisite degree or from work authorization. Many professions, from law to medicine to social work, require a professional license. The requirements for obtaining licenses vary by state and can even vary within a state depending on which agency manages the licensing for your profession. Below is the information for some of the key states discussed in this guide.

New York

In New York State, you may be able to access professional licensing, depending on your immigration history. [The New York Board of Regents](#) is the main governing body of professional licenses in the state,¹⁷⁶ and it oversees license eligibility for over fifty professions.¹⁷⁷ The Board of Regents presides over the New York State Education Department, which actually issues the professional licenses. Although there are other bodies which govern professional licenses, the vast majority of the

¹⁷⁶ See New York Consolidated Laws, Education Law § 6504, (stating that "Admission to the practice of the professions (licensing) and regulation of such practice shall be supervised by the board of regents [] and administered by the education department [], assisted by a state board for each profession."); see also Janet M. Calvo, Professional Licensing and Teacher Certification for Non-Citizens: Federalism, Equal Protection and a State's Socio-Economic Interests, at 49, <https://journals.library.columbia.edu/index.php/cjil/article/view/2329/1224> ("The New York State Board of Regents has special authority over a combination of state education policy, educational institutions, and professional licensing.").

¹⁷⁷ Appendix 1.

licenses for professions which require graduate degrees fall under the Board of Regents, with the exception of lawyer, which is under the Unified Court System.

All licenses under the New York Board of Regents are open to non-citizens “not present unlawfully,” which under New York state law, includes undocumented individuals if they are considered “permanently residing under color of law” (“PRUCOL”). In essence, being PRUCOL means having previously had contact with the federal immigration system. PRUCOL is a category that New York state courts created for public benefits eligibility.¹⁷⁸ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) does not recognize PRUCOL as an immigration status, but New York State uses the designation for a variety of state administered benefits, including, since 2016, for its licensing requirements through the Board of Regents. To be eligible for PRUCOL, “the government must know about the person’s presence in the US, and has indicated that it is not contemplating the individual’s departure or planning deportation.”¹⁷⁹ In practice, this includes individuals who:

- the government is aware of, either because they currently have status or have previously had status;
- have had or applied for deferred action;
- are under orders of supervision;
- have pending or prior applications with an immigration agency;
- or who are otherwise “living in the United States with the knowledge and permission or acquiescence of the federal immigration agency and whose departure the agency does not contemplate enforcing.”¹⁸⁰

¹⁷⁸ New York City, Immigrants: Qualified Aliens/PRUCOL Aliens, City of New York, https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/ochia/downloads/pdf/prucol_information.pdf.

¹⁷⁹ New York City, Immigrants: Qualified Aliens/PRUCOL Aliens, City of New York, https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/ochia/downloads/pdf/prucol_information.pdf.

¹⁸⁰ Janet M. Calvo, Professional Licensing and Teacher Certification for Non-Citizens: Federalism, Equal Protection and a State’s Socio-Economic Interests, at 63, <https://journals.library.columbia.edu/index.php/cjrl/article/view/2329/1224>

If you're not sure whether you are PRUCOL, please reach out to an attorney or advocate. This is an important designation that affords folks access to several benefits in NY State, so it's important to find out whether you qualify for this designation.

As attorney admission to the bar and receipt of a law license is governed by the Unified Court System, rather than the Board of Regents, it does not adhere to the PRUCOL requirements listed above. In fact, there is no immigration status requirement to be admitted to the New York State Bar and at least one New York State appellate court has found that "undocumented immigration status, in and of itself, does not reflect adversely upon...general fitness to practice law." *Matter of Vargas*, 131 A.D.3d 4, 14 (N.Y. App. Div. 2015).¹⁸¹ Instead, however, candidates must pass the character and fitness portion of the bar requirements, which happens on a case-by-case basis, and can take facts related to undocumented status into account in the evaluation.

Below, we provide a summary of the licensing requirements in New York State for individuals pursuing a career in law, medicine, nursing, social work, psychology or teaching.

1. Law

As discussed in the previous chapter, in order to practice as an attorney, you must pass the bar examination of the state in which you hope to practice. In New York, within three years of passing the bar exam, you must apply for admission to the New York State Bar, which will then issue you a license to practice. The application involves several forms, including a general application, character and fitness, and a pro bono requirement, which you submit to the New York State Board of Law Examiners. As the issuance of a law license is not governed by the Board of Regents, the aforementioned PRUCOL requirements are not applicable here. There is no immigration status requirement for admission to the New York State Bar, and undocumented individuals

¹⁸¹ *In Matter of Vargas*, 2015 NY Slip Op 04657, (2015), available at http://www.courts.state.ny.us/reporter/3d-series/2015/2015_04657.htm, a New York State court clarified this in the context of an applicant with DACA. The decision to admit the applicant, however, more broadly stated that "the undocumented status of an individual applicant does not, alone, suggest that the applicant is not possessed of the qualities that enable attorneys to vigorously defend their client's interests within the bounds of the law, nor does it suggest that the applicant cannot protect, as an officer of the court, the rule of law and the administration of justice," suggesting that similar consideration should be given to individuals without DACA.

with DACA have been admitted to the New York State Bar. Admission information and application materials can be found on the Board of Law Examiners' [website](#).¹⁸²

2. Medicine

To practice as a doctor in New York, you must acquire a New York physician license. The New York State Education Department, which is presided over by the Board of Regents, governs the issuance of physician licenses. On the Education Department's website, it lists the specific requirements that each applicant must meet in order to be issued such a license. In general, applicants must be of good moral character, be at least 21 years old, and meet education, examination, and experience requirements. In addition to these eligibility requirements, there are several forms that you must complete to receive a license. Detailed information on all of these eligibility requirements, the specific application forms, and instructions on where to submit your materials can all be found on the Department's [website](#).¹⁸³

However, undocumented students without DACA or other forms of work authorization may find it difficult to complete medical school because, after the first two years, hospital rotations begin that often require background checks and proof of legal status.¹⁸⁴ Additionally, residency programs, which begin after the fourth year of medical school, mean that you will no longer be considered a student, but rather an employee of the hospital in which you work.¹⁸⁵ Because of this, completing medical school in the U.S. presents some serious challenges for undocumented students without work author-

¹⁸² Admission Information, New York State Board of Law Examiners, <https://www.nybarexam.org/Admission/AdmissionMulti-DeptPacket.htm>.

¹⁸³ License Requirements, New York State Education Department, <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/med/medlic.htm>. The application forms can be found here: License Application Forms, New York State Education Department, <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/med/medforms.htm>.

¹⁸⁴ Life after College: A Guide for Undocumented Students, Medicine, Immigrants Rising, at 16, https://immigrantsrising.org/wp-content/uploads/Immigrants-Rising_Life-After-College.pdf.

¹⁸⁵ Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about Medical School for Pre-med Undocumented Students Across the Nation, Pre-Health Dreamers, <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b453764f93fd480d1fcc9f9/t/5bac29c5e79c70397ee8aa26/1538013119971/PHD-MedSchoolFAQ-ver.2.pdf>.

ization, even if the state itself allows undocumented people to obtain medical licenses.

3. Nursing

Prospective New York nurses must also apply for a nursing license in order to practice. Like physicians, you must apply to the New York State Education Department to get a nursing license. To be eligible for a nursing license, you must be of good moral character; be at least 18 years of age; meet education requirements; and, meet examination requirements. There are several forms that applicants must complete and send to the Education Department. These forms and other detailed instructions can be found on the Department's [website](#).¹⁸⁶

Similar to students in medical schools, nursing students must participate in clinical rotations in order to graduate and receive a nursing license. This may present some difficulties to undocumented students without work authorization because these clinical rotations generally require a background check and work authorization.

4. Social Work

To receive a license in social work in New York State, you must apply to the Department of Education. Each applicant must be of good moral character as determined by the Department; be at least 21 years of age; meet education requirements; meet examination requirements; and complete coursework or training in the identification and reporting of child abuse offered by a New York State approved provider. Additionally, the applicants must complete forms available on the Department's website, and send them to the Department. Detailed information can be found on the Department's [website](#).¹⁸⁷

¹⁸⁶ License Requirements: RN & LPN, New York State Education Department, <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/nurse/nursing.htm>. The application forms can be found here: Application Forms: RN & LPN, New York State Education Department, <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/nurse/nurseforms.htm>.

¹⁸⁷ LMSW License Requirements, New York State Education Department, <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/sw/lmsw.htm>. The application forms can be found here: LMSW Application Forms, New York State Education Department, <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/sw/lmswforms.htm>.

5. Psychology

The New York State Education Department regulates the issuance of psychology licenses within the state. To qualify for a license, you must be of good moral character, be at least 21 years of age, meet education, examination, and experience requirements, and fill out various forms on the Department's website. An overview of this process can be found on the Department's [website](#), along with the necessary forms for licensure.¹⁸⁸

6. Teaching

The New York Department of Education Office of Teaching Initiatives oversees the issuance of New York teaching licenses. Prospective teachers must submit their applications using the online TEACH [portal](#), available on the Office's website. To obtain a license, you must demonstrate the following: verification of background clearance by the state, official transcripts showing proof of bachelor's degree, proof of completing a teacher preparation program at an approved school, passing scores on the required examinations, completed application for teaching certification in New York, and payment of non-refundable processing fees.¹⁸⁹

California

California allows for all qualifying individuals, regardless of immigration status, to obtain professional licenses. California actually legally prohibits the Department of Consumer Affairs, which manages licensing in the state, from denying “licensure to an applicant based on his or her citizenship status or immigration status.”¹⁹⁰ The

¹⁸⁸ License Requirements, New York State Education Department, <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/psych/psychlic.htm>. The application forms can be found here: License Application Forms, New York State Education Department, <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/psych/psychforms.htm>.

¹⁸⁹ For an overview of the entire application process, see the following link, which also includes links to application forms and the TEACH portal: The New York Teaching and Certification Resource, Teacher Certification Degrees, <https://www.teachercertificationdegrees.com/certification/new-york/>.

¹⁹⁰ California Business and Professions Code, Section 135.5(b), available at: https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=BPC§ionNum=135.5.

law also states that applicants for professional licenses can provide either a social security number or a federal tax identification number.¹⁹¹ This means an undocumented individual must have an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) in order to acquire a license.¹⁹²

1. Law

To practice law in California, you must be licensed to do so. After taking and passing the bar examination mentioned in Chapter 2, Section 2 on Graduate-School Specific Requirements, you must apply for admission to the bar within five years of passing. You apply directly to the state bar of California, through their application portal available on their website. In order to qualify for the license, you must fill out the application and meet the education and character and fitness requirements. The state bar of California provides an overview of the application process, along with a link to their application portal on their [website](#).¹⁹³

2. Medicine

All doctors must receive a license from the Medical Board of California in order to practice medicine in California. You apply directly through the Board's application portal located on their website. In order to be eligible for a license, you must have received all of your medical school education from and graduated from a U.S. or Canadian medical school accredited by the Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME), the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools, or the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation. An overview of the process is provided directly on the Board's [website](#).¹⁹⁴

¹⁹¹ California Senate Bill No. 1159 (2014), available at: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB1159.

¹⁹² Professional and Occupational Licenses for Immigrants, National Conference of State Legislatures, <https://www.ncsl.org/research/immigration/professional-and-occupational-licenses-for-immigrants.aspx>.

¹⁹³ Admission Requirements, State Bar of California, <https://www.calbar.ca.gov/Admissions/Requirements>.

¹⁹⁴ Physician and Surgeons, Medical Board of California, https://www.mbc.ca.gov/Applicants/Physicians_and_Surgeons/.

As discussed in more detail in this chapter, under Section 2: New York, pursuing a medical degree, including in California, poses particular challenges to undocumented students without work authorization because of the need for work authorization in order to complete hospital rotations and residency programs.

3. Nursing

To practice as a nurse in California, you must be licensed by the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN). You must meet educational requirements, pass a criminal background check, and pass the national licensing examination, the NCLEX, discussed in Chapter 2, Section 2 on Graduate-School Specific Requirements. To apply for licensure, you must apply online through the BRN's website, complete a fingerprint background check, and pass the NCLEX. The application materials and an overview of this process can be found on the BRN's [website](#).¹⁹⁵

4. Social Work

In California, individuals with a bachelor's or master's degree in social work (BSW and MSW, respectively) can be employed as social workers without holding a social work license.¹⁹⁶ However, if you are interested in pursuing a clinical career in social work in California, you must be licensed by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences. To be eligible for this license, you must complete additional educational and experience requirements, which are not required for a master's in social work. These additional requirements, the application forms, and detailed instructions on licensure can be found on the Board of Behavioral Sciences' [website](#).¹⁹⁷

¹⁹⁵ Steps to Become a California Registered Nurse, California Board of Registered Nursing, <https://www.rn.ca.gov/careers/steps.shtml>.

¹⁹⁶ California Social Work Licensing Requirements, Social Work Guide, <https://www.socialworkguide.org/licensure/california/>.

¹⁹⁷ Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Board of Behavioral Sciences, <https://www.bbs.ca.gov/applicants/lcsw.html>.

5. Psychology

The California Board of Psychology issues psychology licenses, which are necessary to practice in the state. The Board has educational and work hours requirements you must complete before licensure. Furthermore, applicants must provide fingerprints and undergo a background check before becoming a psychologist. California requires application to take and pass two exams: the nationally required Examination of Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) and the California Psychology Law and Ethics Examination (CPLEE). After passing both tests, you can request your license. Applicants will be given a Request for Initial Licensure Form after taking the CPLEE and will send the form to the Board of Psychology. An overview of the application process can be found [here](#),¹⁹⁸ and the Board's website can be found [here](#).¹⁹⁹

6. Teaching

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) sets the standards for teacher licensing and credentialing in California. Depending on the level and subject matter that an individual wants to teach, the testing and educational requirements vary. An overview of the differences can be found [here](#).²⁰⁰ Once these requirements are met, applicants for teacher certification must send all required documents to the CTC. These documents include: transcripts from all schools attended, verified completion of an approved teacher preparation program, passing scores on all required examinations, Live Scan fingerprints and certificate of clearance, and a completed application for teacher credentialing. Applicants can apply directly on the CTC's [website](#).²⁰¹

¹⁹⁸ California Psychology Licensure Requirements, Psychology Degree 411, <https://www.psychologydegree411.com/licensure/california/>.

¹⁹⁹ Board of Psychology, <https://www.psychology.ca.gov/>.

²⁰⁰ The California Teaching and Certification Resource, Teacher Certification Degrees, <https://www.teachercertification-degrees.com/certification/california/>.

²⁰¹ Commission on Teacher Credentialing, <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/>.

New Jersey

On September 1, 2020, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed S2455 into law, which expands access to professional and occupational licenses for all qualifying individuals, regardless of immigration status. The new law states: “Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, rule, or regulation, lawful presence in the United States shall not be required to obtain a professional or occupational license, provided that the applicant meets all other requirements for licensure.” The law took effect immediately upon signing. S2455 does not contain specific language on implementation, including whether ITINs will be accepted for all licenses in place of social security numbers, so for specific questions and up to date implementation information, check in with the relevant Board governing the issuance of the license you have questions about. Also, [Make the Road New Jersey](#), a community organization that was at the forefront of the passage of this law and will likely remain integral to implementation efforts, may be a good resource for information and updates.

1. Law

The requirements for admission to the New Jersey bar include: passing the bar exam, being 18 years old, earning a Juris Doctorate (JD) from an American Bar Association (ABA) accredited school, “being in good standing” in all jurisdictions to which the person is admitted, passing the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE) and passing a professional responsibility course, receiving a Certificate of Character, and taking the oath. However, while not an explicit requirement, citizenship and immigration status is required information on the [Character & Fitness form](#). The form asks if you are a U.S. citizen, and if not, you are asked whether you have applied for naturalization, to upload US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) documents and your current passport, and you are asked to describe your current immigration status. It is unclear whether this information requirement functions as a *de facto* bar to admission for individuals without lawful status or work authorization; however, the New Jersey Bar has admitted at least one DACA-mented individual,²⁰²

²⁰² Celeste E. Whittaker, *This New Jersey Attorney Can Practice Law in Two States. But as a ‘Dreamer,’ the Future Is Still Uncertain*, courier post, <https://www.courierpostonline.com/story/news/local/south-jersey/2019/03/05/new-jersey-man-first-daca-recipient-admitted-pa-and-nj-bar/2993841002/>.

which suggests that individuals with DACA may be admitted to the New Jersey Bar to practice law. Law licensing falls under the New Jersey Supreme Court and it is not immediately clear how the Court will address the new legislation or whether it will lead to changes to the questions regarding citizenship or status. Check with the [New Jersey Board of Bar Examiners](#) for up to date information.

2. Medicine

The New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners previously required that you be a U.S. citizen, or declare an intent to become a U.S. citizen, but this is also likely to change under the new statewide licensing law. The online application is available [here](#), but it requires a login to view. It is unclear when the application will be updated, but in the meantime, reach out to the Board of Medical Examiners if applying.

As mentioned earlier in this chapter, under Section 2: New York, pursuing a medical degree poses particular challenges to undocumented students because of the need to complete hospital rotations and residency programs, which involve background checks, proof of legal status and work authorization. New Jersey medical schools also usually require lawful status.

3. Nursing

The New Jersey Board of Nursing oversees nursing licensing. Their prior application asked for social security numbers, but this may change with implementation of the new licensing law. If applying, reach out to the Board for updated information.

4. Social Work

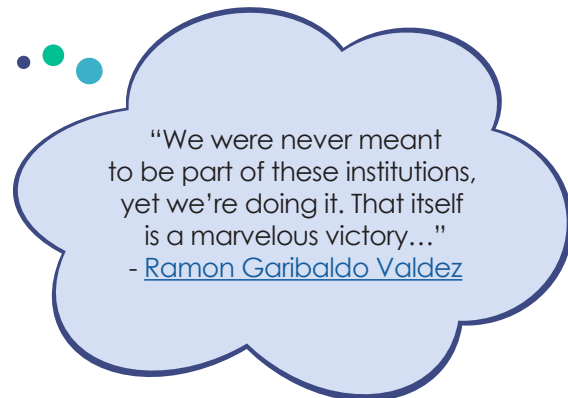
The New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs manages [licensing for social work](#). Like nursing, the Division previously required a social security number, but that may change now with the implementation of the new licensing law. Additional eligibility requirements for Licensed Social Worker, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and Certified Social Worker are available [here](#).

5. Psychology

Like social work and nursing, [the psychology license application](#) previously required a social security number, though that may also change. Licensing is administered by the State Board of Psychological Examiners, so reach out to the Board if you have questions about updated application forms.

6. Teaching

Teaching certificates in New Jersey previously required citizenship or intent to become a citizen, but this will change under the new licensing law. For up to date information on certification requirements, visit [the Department of Education website](#).



B. Working After Graduate School

Typically, in order to work and be hired as an employee, you must have some valid form of work authorization. However, there are alternatives for those who do not have a valid form of work authorization. These alternatives include 1) working as an independent contractor; 2) working as a worker-owner in a co-op; or 3) starting your own business.

An independent contractor is a self-employed person who contracts out their services to others on their own terms. Independent contractors are less restricted than regular employees in that they can determine the hours they work, the scope of the services they will provide, and whom they will work with. As another alternative, noncitizens can also join worker co-operatives (or co-ops, for short). A worker's co-op is a business where workers both own the business and run the business. Typical businesses have a small group of managers or directors who make all the important decisions and might also own the business. Instead, members of a workers' co-op join by investing time and/or money in the co-op and make decisions about how the co-op will be managed. When co-ops make important decisions, each member gets a vote. These co-ops can also take on a variety of different forms and business structures. The last alternative involves starting and running your own business in the field you'd like to practice in.

Each of these alternatives brings with it specific questions and concerns. We have created a separate guidebook explaining each of these alternatives and, more broadly, how to work as an undocumented individual. The guidebook is entitled [The Noncitizen's Guide to Entrepreneurship](#) and provides detailed information on how undocumented individuals can work with and without work authorization.²⁰³

²⁰³ *The Non-Citizen's Guide to Entrepreneurship*, new york state youth leadership council (NYSYLC), https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5568cf13e4b0580240daceee/t/5d1a589a56fd5b0001e927f1/1562007758020/NYSYLC_Guide_062019_Web.pdf. For more information on working as an independent contractor, see *A Guide to Working for Yourself, Immigrants Rising*, https://immigrantsrising.org/wp-content/uploads/Immigrants-Rising_Working-for-Yourself-Guide.pdf.

CHAPTER 4: HELPFUL TIPS AND CONSIDERATIONS²⁰⁴

Don't count yourself out. Many of these decisions may seem daunting, but you can do it. Jessica Tenaglia says, “While there are barriers, it's not impossible. I feel like people who are undocumented have hustled for everything, and I kinda just see it as another hustle. It's definitely not something people should self-select out of for fear of the barriers. While it can seem daunting, it's not impossible. There are so many people who have done it before you, many before DACA even existed, and you'll just be the next one.”

Don't be afraid to ask for more money. Graduate school is expensive, but there are often funding sources to help offset costs, so it's important to ask about them. Israt Audry, graduate student at the University of Washington pursuing an MSW, says, “The process of applying to grad school is super stressful. As undocumented students, we need to advocate for ourselves. It's okay to write letters to administrations to ask for more money. I wrote so many letters to all the schools I applied to.” Audry is the recipient of the Davis-Putter Scholarship. Pia Iribarren, an NYU graduate with her MPH, says, “Don't be afraid to ask for more. Don't be afraid to contact people at these schools and ask for more money and more support.” Please see appendix 3 at the end of this Guide for a sample letter requesting more financial aid.

Apply for every funding source. Any money will go a long way. An anonymous contributor to this guidebook says, “As an undocumented student, you have to apply for every single thing, even if it seems small, because any money will help you.”

²⁰⁴ For further testimonials from undocumented individuals who have or are currently pursuing graduate school, see Compilation of UndocuGrads Series, My Undocumented Life, <https://mydocumentedlife.org/2019/07/10/compilation-of-undocu-grads-series/>. My Undocumented Life, an online platform dedicated to providing resources for undocumented individuals, has also compiled a list of resources for navigating the graduate school application process and graduate school itself as an undocumented student. For more information, see Graduate School Students, My Undocumented Life, <https://mydocumentedlife.org/graduate-school-students/>.

Find allies. Navigating and succeeding in law school is no easy task, especially for an undocumented student. Don't be afraid to rely on others. Erika Castaneda says, "Find support systems. People you can rely on to support you through the process because the process can be daunting and frustrating. I know sometimes we're afraid to speak out and ask for help, but I definitely think it takes a village to get here and continue on with your education, so find that village and don't be afraid to ask for help." Similarly, Jessica Alvarez, graduate student at Hunter College pursuing an MSW, says, "It was really important for me to meet people who were thinking of pursuing a graduate level education. It was through that, that I learned about all of the resources out there, like scholarships."

Practice self-advocacy. You have a lot to offer any university. Don't be afraid to advocate for yourself. Sofia Benitez, a graduate of Arizona State University with her Bachelor of Science, says, "As a student, you really do have so much power. While I worked as an administrator, I realized how much more power students have. Students should really advocate for themselves and not be afraid to ask for the support they need."

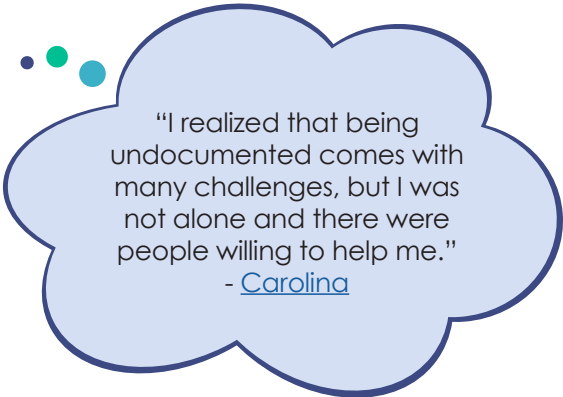
Dream big. Think practically. While it is practical to consider how your status affects opportunities available, there are still plenty of opportunities. That said, make sure your choices are right for you. Esder Chong, a Schwarzman Scholar, says, "Be realistic but don't limit yourself. Consider domestic and international options to study or work abroad. Consider distinguished fellowships. Don't let your status constrain you to "practical" options. Cast a wide net because you never know the doors that might open. I applied to the Schwarzman program understanding that I might not join my cohort in Beijing. Yet, here I am on my way to graduate this June." Dillon, a humanities PhD candidate at a private university in California, says, "Just plan for different things in your future. As a PhD candidate in the humanities, post-graduate employment is typically a tenured-track academic position. For undocumented students, this might not be possible. Take it day by day and imagine your future differently than what is expected..." Miguel Sanchez Robles, graduate of Pace University with his MPA, says, "Make sure you're investing in something that will give you a return. Pay attention to the market and pay attention to which jobs are going to be available when you graduate."

Pay it forward. In order to break down these barriers to graduate education for future undocumented students, it's important to show the next generation

that undocumented individuals can get into graduate school and make their mark with a graduate degree. Oscar Lopez, a current graduate student at Hunter College pursuing a Master's Degree in Visual Arts Education, says, "Many high school undocumented students think that undocumented students aren't meant to go or can't go to college. I want students to know that they can go. In order to improve access to graduate-level education for undocumented students, we should reach out to high school students and start there."

Conclusion

This Guide is meant to improve access to graduate school for undocumented students. As shown above, there are and have been undocumented students who have pursued these degrees. You can as well. While the road might be difficult and there might be unexpected hurdles, you can overcome them with the necessary information, resources, and support network. As you embark on this journey, NYSYLC is here to support you.



"I realized that being undocumented comes with many challenges, but I was not alone and there were people willing to help me."

- [Carolina](#)

Appendices

Appendix 1: Scholarships to Offset Test-Preparation Costs

NAME OF SCHOLARSHIP	APPLICABLE STANDARDIZED TEST	BENEFITS OF SCHOLARSHIP	DEADLINE TO APPLY
Manhattan Prep Scholarship ²⁰⁵	GMAT	Provides free enrollment into one of Manhattan Prep's live online complete courses (up to \$1299 value), including all required materials and online resources	Rolling Deadline (winners selected 4 times per year)
Manhattan Prep Scholarship	GRE	Provides free enrollment into one of Manhattan Prep's live online complete courses (up to \$1299 value), including all required materials and online resources	Rolling Deadline (winners selected 4 times per year)
Immigrants Rising's Pre-Law Fund ²⁰⁶	LSAT	Covers LSAT preparation (courses, tutoring, self-study materials, etc) and law school application fees	March

²⁰⁵ For more information, see The Manhattan Prep Scholarship, Manhattan Prep, <https://www.manhattanprep.com/scholarships/>.

²⁰⁶ For more information, see Pre-Law Fund, Immigrants Rising, <https://immigrantsrising.org/financial-support/pre-law-fund/>.

Manhattan Prep Scholarship	LSAT	Provides free enrollment into one of Manhattan Prep's live online complete courses (up to \$1299 value), including all required materials and online resources	Rolling Deadline (winners selected 4 times per year)
NYU Law Partnership with Binary Solutions ²⁰⁷	LSAT	Reduced rates for LSAT preparatory courses	Rolling Deadline
Metropolitan Black Bar Association LSAT Prep Scholarship ²⁰⁸	LSAT	Covers the cost of an LSAT preparatory course up to \$2,500	To be determined
MCAT Disciples Prep Course Scholarship ²⁰⁹	MCAT	Provides a 1 month class schedule, 20 hours of live group instruction, 60+ 90 minute pre-recorded lectures, a user ID and password to access all of the content made by the prep team until the end of testing cycle, and a physician mentor to review your AMCAS application	Applications may be submitted year-round, but the application review cycle begins in December 2020

²⁰⁷ For more information, see Center for Multicultural Education Programs, NYU, <https://www.nyu.edu/life/global-inclusion-and-diversity/centers-and-communities/center-for-multicultural-education-and-programs.html>.

²⁰⁸ For more information, see LSAT Prep Scholarship, Metropolitan Black Bar Association, <https://www.mbbanyc.org/lsat-prep-scholarship/>.

²⁰⁹ For more information, see The MCAT Disciples 4th Annual MCAT Prep Course Scholarship for Underrepresented Minorities In Medicine and Their Allies, MCAT Disciples, <https://www.mcatdisciple.com/scholarship.html>.

Appendix 2: Professional Licenses Overseen by the New York Department of Education ²¹⁰

Acupuncture	- Physician Assistants
Applied Behavior Analysis	- Specialist Assistants
- Licensed Behavior Analysts Certified	Mental Health Practitioners
Behavior Analyst Assistants	- Creative Arts Therapists
Architecture	- Marriage and Family Therapists
Athletic Training	- Mental Health Counselors
Audiology	- Psychoanalysts
Certified Shorthand Reporting	Midwifery
Chiropractic	Nursing
Clinical Laboratory Technology	- Registered Professional Nurses
- Clinical Laboratory Technologists	- Nurse Practitioners
- Cytotechnologists	- Clinical Nurse Specialists
- Clinical Laboratory Technicians	- Licensed Practical Nurses
- Certified Histological Technicians	Occupational Therapy
Dentistry	- Occupational Therapists
- Dentists	- Occupational Therapy Assistants
- Dental Anesthesia/Sedation	Ophthalmic Dispensing
- Dental Hygienists	Optometry
- Certified Dental Assistants	Pathologists' Assistant
Dietetics-Nutrition	Perfusion
Engineering	Pharmacy
Geology	- Pharmacists
Interior Design	- Pharmacy Establishments
Land Surveying	Physical Therapy
Landscape Architecture	- Physical Therapists
Massage Therapy	- Physical Therapist Assistants
Medical Physics	Podiatry
Medicine	Polysomnographic Technology
- Physicians	Psychology

²¹⁰ New York State Licensed Professions, New York State Education Department, Office of the Professions, <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/>.

Public Accountancy

- Certified Public Accountants
- Public Accountants

Respiratory Therapy

- Respiratory Therapists
- Respiratory Therapy Technicians

Social Work

- Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW)
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)

Speech-Language Pathology

Veterinary Medicine

- Veterinarian
- Veterinary Technician

Appendix 3: Sample Letter to Graduate School Administrator Regarding Financial Aid

Hello **[Name of Administrator]**,

I hope this email finds you well. By way of introduction, my name is **[your name]** and I recently gained admission to the **[name of program and school]**. I am thrilled at the prospect of attending **[name of school]** this upcoming year. The program at **[name of school]** was one of my top choices for graduate school and I am humbled to have gained admission.

Nevertheless, I was hoping we could discuss my financial aid package. After reviewing the package and crunching the numbers, I will not be able to attend the university without further financial support. As you are probably aware of through my application, **[insert personal circumstances that you feel comfortable revealing. These circumstances could include your undocumented status and ineligibility for federal loans, any dependents you might have, or your living situation]**. These circumstances make graduate school prohibitively expensive for me without further financial support.

As **[name of school]** was one of my top choices for graduate school, I would hate for finances to be the dispositive factor in whether I get to attend the university. Moreover, I think I personally could contribute significantly to the school. As a **[insert any diverse characteristics you might have, such as being a person of color, an undocumented individual, or other characteristic]**, I could introduce a vital perspective that many other students on your campus would not have. Furthermore, my background in **[insert any professional, internship, or life experiences that are unique to you]** shows a demonstrated commitment to the values **[name of school]** tries to instill in its students.

I would love the opportunity to chat about this with you at your earliest convenience. If you would prefer to chat on the phone, I can be reached at **[phone number]**. Thank you again for the opportunity to attend **[name of school]**; I hope that I am able to attend.

Respectfully,

[Your name]

Appendix 4: Sample Letter Requesting a Letter of Recommendation*

Dear **[name of former professor or supervisor]**,

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to reach out regarding a letter of recommendation for **[graduate program]** that I am applying to this fall **[or season when you're applying]**. I really enjoyed **[insert description of work like “working with you in x capacity,” “taking x class with you”]**, and was wondering if you would be willing to serve as one of my recommenders for this program. This letter would be due to the school by **[due date]**. I would be happy to provide an updated version of my resume, writing materials, or anything else that would assist you in writing this letter. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Thank you and all the best,

[Your Name]

*Note: If you are still in school, working with your supervisor, or otherwise able to request the recommendation in person, it can be good to have this conversation in person. Otherwise, you can send something like this via email to request the letter. Try to give at least one month before the deadline heads up.

Appendix 5: Sample Letter to Professors at an Institution whose Ph.D Program You Are Considering

Dear Professor **[Last Name]**,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to you to express my interest in your research and the **[X]** graduate program at **[X institution]**. I **[insert description of what you are currently doing, something like “I will be graduating from X undergraduate degree at X institution this Spring and plan to apply for doctoral programs in the fall”]**. I am most interested in researching **[insert description of your research interests]**, and hope that you might have space in your program for an additional doctoral student **[in the fall, or whenever you plan on matriculating]**. I am also interested in engaging in research or teaching assistantships while obtaining my Ph.D. I am hoping you might be able to help me ascertain if my research interests are a good fit for your research or the work of other faculty at **[X institution]**.

My research experience in **[X topic]** includes **[insert lengthy discussion of your research experience throughout undergrad, outside of school, and any other relevant experience that speaks to this interest here. This section can be 4-5 sentences]**.

This main interest involves **[describe your interest again here, in additional detail]**. **[Add in one or two sentences about how your experiences tie into these experiences]**. **[Add in 2-3 sentences with more detail about your research interests, including where you want to conduct this research, your research subjects, how you plan to carry out the research]**. **[Add in one or two sentences about how this faculty member’s work ties in to your own work or has inspired or advanced your past research]**.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these interests and my potential matriculation into **[X institution]** further. **[Here, you can suggest a phone call and ask for the Professor’s availability, or if you live in the same place as them or will be visiting their city any time soon, you can suggest meeting in person, even briefly]**. Thank you for considering my interest in your program, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

All the best,

[Your Name]

Appendix 6: Sample Letter to Former Graduate Students Who Are/Were Undocumented

Hello **[Name of Former Student]**,

I hope this email finds you well. By way of introduction, my name is **[your name]**. I recently graduated from **[your college]** and I am interested in pursuing a graduate-level education in **[the field you are interested in]**.

I have started researching various programs in my field of interest. During my research, I came across the New York State Youth Leadership Council's guidebook on graduate school for undocumented students. At the end of the guidebook, I noticed you were listed as a contributor to the guide, along with your contact information. I hope you don't mind me reaching out.

I was wondering whether you would be willing to speak with me about your journey. As a **[future student in their field, an undocumented student, or whatever characteristic you feel comfortable with sharing]**, I have many questions about how to navigate the graduate school application process and graduate school itself. I would love to hear your perspective and how you navigated graduate school as an undocumented student.

If you have any availability to chat with me, I would be very grateful. If you feel more comfortable chatting on the phone, my phone number is **[your number]**.

Thank you in advance for any guidance you may have and thank you for your contributions to the guidebook!

Best,

[Your Name]

Appendix 7: State Policies on In-State Tuition and Tuition Assistance for Undocumented Students Across the Country ²¹¹

The following list includes states that have passed laws offering in-state tuition to certain undocumented students: ²¹²

- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Florida
- Illinois
- Kansas
- Maryland
- Minnesota
- Nebraska
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- Oregon
- Texas
- Utah
- Virginia²¹³
- Washington
- District of Columbia

The following list includes states who have not passed laws offering in-state tuition to certain undocumented students, but whose state university systems have established policies to offer in-state tuition to certain undocumented students: ²¹⁴

- Hawaii (University of Hawaii Board of Regents)
- Kentucky (Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education)
- Maine (University of Maine Board of Trustees)
- Michigan (University of Michigan Board of Regents)

²¹¹ These lists are updated as of April 2020, but continue to change. For the most up to date information on a state you are considering, look at recent information from the National Conference of State Legislatures, CLINIC, or other organizations that regularly track what states are doing on these issues. One organization that has compiled this information is the National Immigration Law Center. This information can be found at Laws & Policies Improving Access to Higher Education for Immigrants, National Immigration Law Center, <https://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/table-access-to-ed-toolkit.pdf>. Additionally, it can be helpful to reach out to immigrant rights organizations in that state who may be more up to date with ongoing changes at the state level.

²¹² Tuition Benefits for Immigrants, National Conference of State Legislatures, <https://www.ncsl.org/research/immigration/tuition-benefits-for-immigrants.aspx>.

²¹³ Virginia's law expanding in-state tuition to eligible undocumented students went into effect July 1, 2020. For more information, see the cavalier daily, "With Undocumented Virginia Residents Now Eligible for In-State Tuition, U.Va. is Assessing Its Approach," available at <https://www.cavalierdaily.com/article/2020/04/with-undocumented-virginia-residents-now-eligible-for-in-state-tuition-u-va-is-assessing-its-approach>.

²¹⁴ Tuition Benefits for Immigrants, National Conference of State Legislatures, <https://www.ncsl.org/research/immigration/tuition-benefits-for-immigrants.aspx>.

- Ohio (Ohio Board of Regents)
- Oklahoma (Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education)
- Rhode Island (Rhode Island's Board of Governors for Higher Education)

The following list includes states that provide tuition assistance to some undocumented students:²¹⁵

- California
- Minnesota
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- Texas
- Washington

The following list includes states that explicitly bar undocumented students from in-state tuition:²¹⁶

- Alabama
- Arizona
- Georgia
- Indiana
- Missouri
- South Carolina

²¹⁵ Undocumented Students Can Get In-State College Tuition in at Least 18 States, ABC7 WJLA, <https://wjla.com/news/nation-world/in-state-tuition-for-undocumented-students>.

²¹⁶ Tuition Benefits for Immigrants, National Conference of State Legislatures, <https://www.ncsl.org/research/immigration/tuition-benefits-for-immigrants.aspx>.

Appendix 8: State Policies on Professional Licensing for Undocumented Individuals Across the Country

Professional licensing can be complicated to figure out for each state, and the best way to research this, can be to look into the specific license in the state you're interested in, or by reaching out to an organization in the state that may have more familiarity. However, below is a list of other states, not otherwise discussed in this guidebook, that CLINIC put together and is updated as of August 22, 2019 that may serve as a good starting point for your research:²¹⁷

- Arkansas - Allows DACAmented folks who meet the requirements for practicing nursing to apply for professional licenses ([HB 1552 \(2019\)](#)).
- Florida - Law licenses are available to undocumented immigrants if they were brought to the U.S. as a minor, have a Social Security Number, have been present in the U.S. for more than ten years, and have been issued work authorization ([HB 775 \(2014\)](#)).
- Illinois - DACAmented people can apply for law licenses ([SB0023 \(2015\)](#)) and state officials may not deny professional licenses to individuals solely because of their immigration status ([SB3109 \(2018\)](#)).
- Mississippi - Undocumented individuals who have work authorization and otherwise meet the requirements can apply to become Licensed Professional Counselors ([HB 708 \(2018\)](#)).
- Nebraska - Undocumented individuals with work authorization can apply for professional licenses ([LB 947 \(2016\)](#)).
- Nevada - Undocumented individuals cannot be denied a professional license based on immigration or citizenship status. ([AB 275 \(2019\)](#)).

²¹⁷ Professional and Occupational Licenses for Immigrants, CLINIC, <https://cliniclegal.org/resources/state-and-local/professional-and-occupational-licenses-immigrants>.

- South Dakota - Any person, including foreign-trained or graduates of non accredited dental programs, can apply for license to practice dentistry in the state ([SB 1045 \(2015\)](#)).
- Utah - Any applicant can be offered an occupational therapist license if they passed the state exam, and were licensed in a foreign country where the requirements were not the same as Utah's requirements ([SB 131 \(2015\)](#)).

Appendix 9: Immigrant Rights Advocacy Organizations in Other States

Alabama

- Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice, <http://www.alimmigrant.org>.

Arizona

- Aliento, <https://www.alientoaz.org>.
- Arizona Center for Empowerment, <https://www.empoweraz.org/#homepage>.
- The Arizona Dream Act Coalition, <https://www.facebook.com/theadac>.
- Undocumented Students for Education Equality, <https://useeasu.wixsite.com/useeatasu>.

Arkansas

- Arkansas Coalition for DREAM, <https://swandreamdotorg.wordpress.com/about-us/125-2/>.
- Arkansas United, <https://arkansasunited.org/en/home>.

California

- California DREAM Team Alliance, <http://coracervantes.tripod.com>
- California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance, <https://ciyja.org/>
- Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights, <https://chirla.org/>
- Immigrants Rising, <https://immigrantsrising.org/>
- Napa Valley Dream Team, <https://napavalleydreamteam.wordpress.com/about/>
- PICO California, <http://www.picocalifornia.org>
- San Diego Dream Team, <https://sandiegodreamteam.wordpress.com>
- San Fernando Valley Dream Team, <https://www.sfvdt.org>

Colorado

- Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition, <http://coloradoimmigrant.org/about/mission-history/>.
- Compañeros, <https://www.companeros.org/about.html>.

Connecticut

- Connecticut Students for a Dream, <https://www.ct4adream.org/our-story>.

Delaware

- Delaware Dream Team, https://dedreamteam.wordpress.com/?fbclid=IwAR3FnJsVhVihpoxS8BTwjCKMF0pS40GcsR9SN92fw873aZqk_mRYSmcKo6l.

Florida

- The Dream Defenders, <https://dreamdefenders.org/our-story/>.
- Florida Immigrant Coalition, <https://floridaimmigrant.org>.
- The New Florida Majority, <https://newfloridamajority.org/who-we-are/>.
- Students Working for Equal Rights, <https://floridaimmigrant.org/placemarks/students-working-for-equal-rights-swer/>.

Georgia

- Freedom University, <https://freedom-university.org/mission>.
- Georgia Undocumented Youth Alliance, <https://www.facebook.com/guyaconnect>.
- UGA Undocumented Student Alliance, <https://uga.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/USA>.

Idaho

- Idaho Community Action Network (ICAN), <http://idahocan.org/category/issues/immigrant-rights/>.
- PODER of Idaho, <https://www.facebook.com/PODERofID/?eid=ARDUu3C7ZBFJ9ag-fJ6NqR3-agPJucwdxdtR3yGAHOdKmSqeNVz3DN5IKcYqnv-EDayOs85chvcjaWjyj>.

Illinois

- The Anhel Project, <http://theanhelproject.org/about-us/>.
- Centro Romero, https://centroromero.org/about_us/.
- Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR), <http://theanhelproject.org/about-us/>.
- Illinois Youth Justice League (IYJL), <https://www.facebook.com/groups/197208688297/about/>.
- Organized Communities Against Deportations (OCAD), <https://www.organizedcommunities.org/about>.

Indiana

- Indiana Undocumented Youth Alliance (IUYA), <https://www.iuya.org>.

Iowa

- DREAM Iowa, <https://dreamiowa.us>.
- Immigrant Rights Network of Iowa, <https://www.irnofiowa.org>.

Kansas

- Kansas/Missouri Dream Alliance (KSMODA), <https://www.ksmoda.org>.

Kentucky

- Kentucky Dream Coalition (KDC), <https://www.kentuckydreamcoalition.com/sobre-nosotrosabout-us.html>.

Louisiana

- Puentes' youth advocacy group, L.U.N.A (Latinos Unidos de New Orleans en Acción), <https://www.puentesneworleans.org/immigrant-youth-coalition>.

Maine

- Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalitions, <https://maineimmigrantrights.org/partners-members/>.
- Maine People's Alliance, <https://www.mainepeoplesalliance.org/about>.

Maryland

- Casa de Maryland, <https://wearecasa.org>.

Massachusetts

- Centro Presente, <http://cpresente.org>.
- Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition, <https://miracoalition.org>.
- Student Immigrant Movement (SIM), <http://simforum.org/about>.

Michigan

- One Michigan, <http://1michigan.org>.
- Michigan United, <https://www.miunited.org>.

Minnesota

- Minnesota Education Equity Partnership, <https://mneep.org>.
- Unidos MN, <https://www.unidos-mn.org/about-us>.

Mississippi

- Mississippi Immigrants Rights Alliance (MIRA), <https://yourmira.org/mississippi-immigrants-rights-alliance/page/history/>.

Missouri

- Kansas/Missouri Dream Alliance (KSMODA), <https://www.ksmoda.org>.
- Migrant & Immigrant Community Action (MICA) Project, <http://www.mica-project.org/what-we-do--lo-que-hacemos.html>.
- Missouri Immigrant & Refugee Advocates (MIRA), <https://www.mira-mo.org/what-we-do>.

Nevada

- Make the Road Nevada, <https://maketheroadnv.org>.
- The Nevada Immigrant Coalition, <https://www.facebook.com/NevadaImmigrationCoalition>.

New Hampshire

- Coalition for Immigration Reform and Equality at Dartmouth (CoFIREd), <https://www.cofired.org/what-we-do>.
- New Hampshire Alliance of Immigrants and Refugees, <https://miracoalition.org/about-us/new-hampshire/>.

New Jersey

- Make the Road New Jersey, <https://www.maketheroadnj.org>.
- New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice, <https://www.njimmigrantjustice.org>.

New Mexico

- El Centro de Igualdad y Derechos, <http://elcentronm.org>.
- New Mexico Dream Team, <https://www.nmdreamteam.org>.
- New Mexico Dreamers in Action, <https://www.facebook.com/nmdia.org/>.
- Somos un Pueblo Unido, <https://www.somosunpueblounido.org/somos-un-pueblo-unido.html#about>.

North Carolina

- El Cambio NC, <https://elcambio.webs.com/aboutus.htm>.
- El Centro Hispano, <https://elcentronc.org>.
- El Pueblo, <https://elpueblo.org/about/>.
- NC Dream Team, <https://ncdreamteam.wordpress.com>.

Ohio

- IJPC Youth Educating Society (YES), <https://ijpcincinnati.org/programs/immigration/yes-program/>.

Oklahoma

- Aspiring Americans, <https://www.aspiringamericans.org/what-we-do>.

Oregon

- Causa, <https://causaoregon.org/about-us/>.
- Here to Stay at Oregon State University, <https://www.facebook.com/heretostayosu/>.
- Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice, <http://imirj.org>.
- Oregon DACA Coalition, <http://oregondacacoalition.org>.

Pennsylvania

- Juntos, <https://vamosjuntos.org/>
- Make the Road Pennsylvania, <https://www.maketheroadpa.org>.
- Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition, <https://paimmigrant.org/>.
- Penn for Immigrant Rights, <https://upenn4immigrantrights.wordpress.com/about/>.

Rhode Island

- Brown Immigrant Rights Coalition, https://brownimmigrantrightscalition.wordpress.com/?fbclid=IwAR37Lu_y7GSSIkVCD9Kwy-CLgdKjzBAMtIS3wvbdTWETf2QeQrG-BIAh-1Fc.
- Caso, <http://casori.org>.
- Immigrant Coalition of Rhode Island, <https://www.immigrantcoalitionri.org/>
- Progreso Latino, <https://progresolatino.org/>

Tennessee

- Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalitions, <https://www.tnimmigrant.org/about>.

Texas

- The Butterfly Project, <https://sites.google.com/view/thebutterflyproject/about?authuser=1>.
- La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE), <http://lupenet.org/about-us/>.
- Texas Dream Alliance, <https://www.facebook.com/TexasDreamAlliance/>
- Texas Organizing Project (TOP), <http://organizetexas.org>.
- University of Texas University Leadership Initiative, <https://utexas.campuslabs>.

[com/engage/organization/ULI](https://www.youthrisetx.org/what-we-do-3/)

- Youth Rise Texas, <https://www.youthrisetx.org/what-we-do-3/>.

Utah

- Educate Utah, <https://educate-utah.org>.

Vermont

- Migrant Justice, <https://migrantjustice.net>.

Virginia

- The Dream Project, <https://www.dreamproject-va.org>.
- Mason DREAMers, <https://www.masondreamers.org/about/>.
- New Virginia Majority, <https://www.newvirginiamajority.org>.
- Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights, <https://www.virginiaimmigrantrights.org/members/>.

Washington

- Colectiva Legal del Pueblo, <https://colectivalegal.org>.
- LEAP, <http://www.leapwa.org/policyandprograms/>.
- One America, <https://weareoneamerica.org/what-we-do/justice-for-all/>.
- Washington DREAM Coalition, <https://www.facebook.com/WADreamCoalition/>.
- Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WASIN), <https://www.waisn.org/>.

Wisconsin

- Alcance, <https://www.facebook.com/AlcanceProjectWI/>.
- Voces de la Frontera, <https://vdlf.org>.

National organizations

- Dream Activist, <https://dreamactivist.org>.
- My Undocumented Life, <https://mydocumentedlife.org>.
- Pre-Health Dreamers, <https://www.phdreamers.org>.
- UndocuPhDs, <https://undocuphds.wordpress.com>.
- United We Dream, <https://unitedwedream.org/os>.

Thank you to all the undocumented graduate students paving the way for others and for contributing to this guidebook!

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