


# Undocumented Students in Oregon

information for educators,  
students and parents

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# UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS CAN GO TO *college*

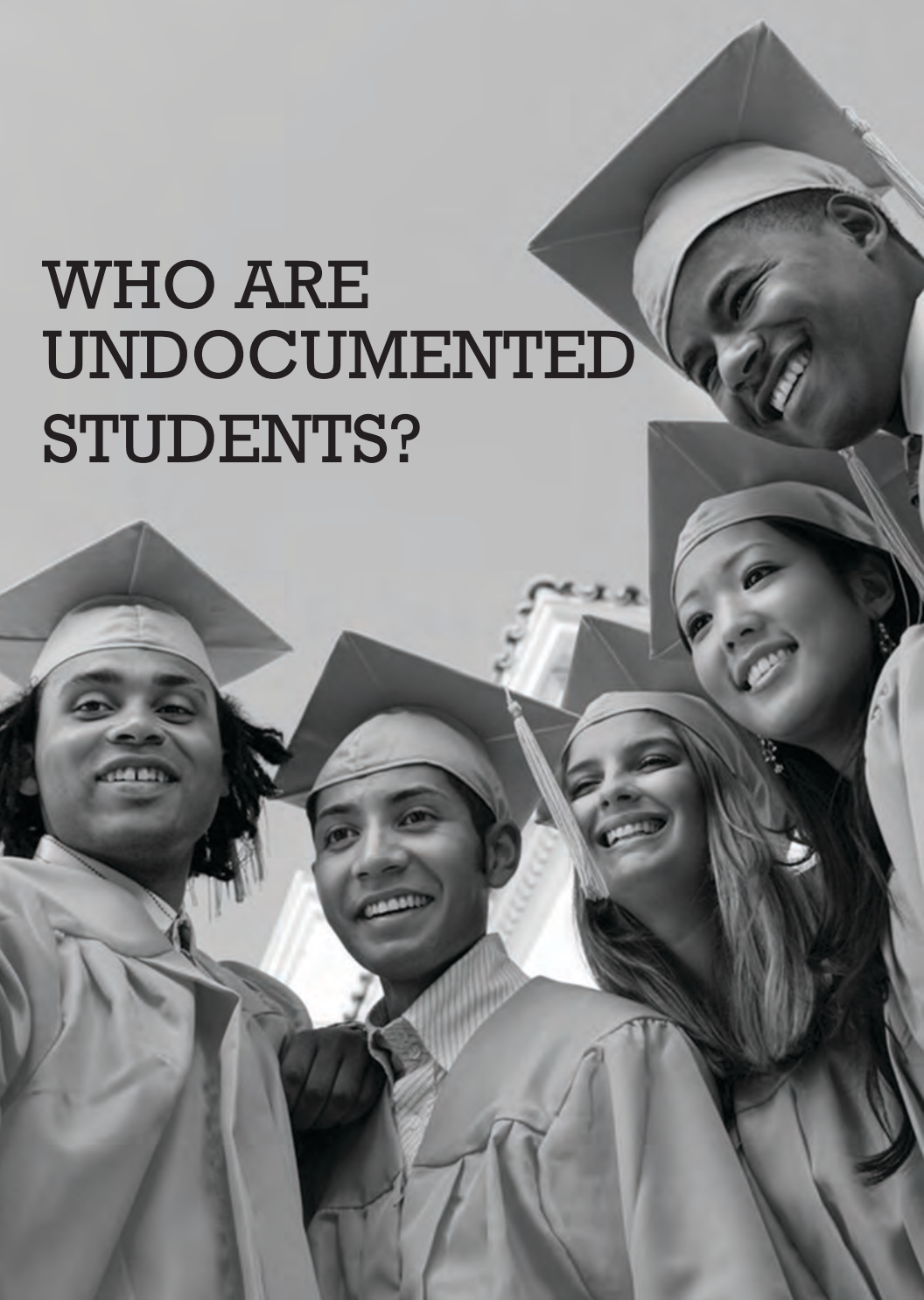
This booklet has information for educators, students and parents about how undocumented students can apply to, pay for and succeed in college.



## ABOUT OREGON GEAR UP

We believe that college is not a dream, it's a plan. A federally-funded program, we support low-income middle and high schools across the state in increasing college access and success. Learn more at our website, [oregongearup.org](http://oregongearup.org) or find us on social media.

# WHO ARE UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS?



**THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED**

**11,200,000**

undocumented immigrants in the U.S.

**1.1 million**

are children under the age of 18

**65,000**

undocumented students graduate from high school every year

**7,000-13,000**

undocumented students enroll in college each year



An undocumented student does not have legal citizenship status in the U.S. Undocumented students are from the Americas, Asia, Europe and Africa; not all are Latino/a.

Most college-bound undocumented students:

- Have lived in the U.S. most of their lives
- Were brought to the U.S. at a young age by their families
- Learned English and think of themselves as Americans
- Attended elementary, middle & high school in the U.S.
- Lack a way to become legal residents or citizens under current law

# LAWS & REGULATIONS

## **THERE IS NO FEDERAL LAW THAT BANS UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS ATTENDING COLLEGE IN THE U.S.**

However, state and university policies vary. It is easier to apply, be accepted, and have support services available in certain states and at specific colleges.

Many state institutions charge undocumented students out-of-state tuition fees (even if the student is a longtime resident of the state). Students may even have to apply as an international student and receive an F-1 visa.

Undocumented students are not able to:

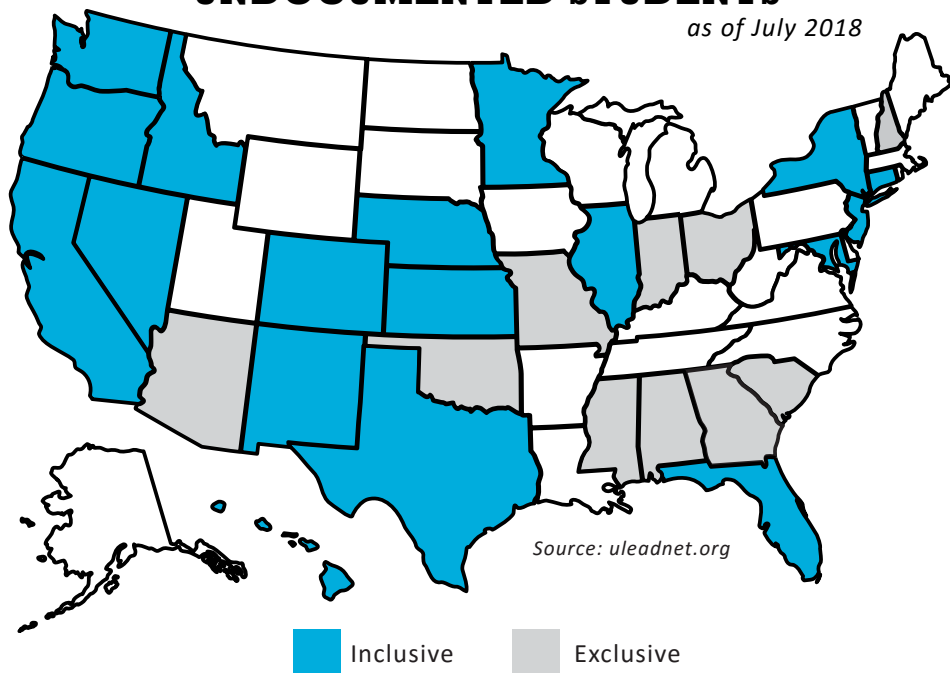
- Receive federal financial aid
- Participate in federal support programs such as TRiO
- Study abroad
- Take professional state licensing exams (e.g. nursing)

**Oregon passed a law in 2013 that lets certain undocumented students pay in-state tuition (“tuition equity”).**

- Students must have attended school in the U.S. for at least five years, attended and graduated from an Oregon high school for at least three years, and have plans to become a U.S. citizen or official permanent resident.
- When applying, students must complete an Affidavit and Request for Exemption form.

## STATE POLICIES FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

*as of July 2018*



## THE DREAM ACT

Proposed federal legislation that would allow eligible undocumented youth a conditional path to citizenship with completion of a college degree or 2 years of military service; it has never successfully passed both houses of Congress.

In 2012, President Obama created the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program that allows eligible individuals to temporarily remain in the U.S. as well as provide a work permit. However, the program's future is uncertain under the Trump administration. Use the online tool at [immi.org](http://immi.org) to determine a student's eligibility and see answers to FAQ.

A black and white photograph of a grand, classical-style building facade. The image features several tall, fluted columns supporting an ornate entablature with a row of decorative brackets. Arched windows with multiple panes are visible between the columns. The building's exterior is a mix of brickwork and stone. In the lower right, a portion of a dark evergreen tree is visible, and a person wearing a hat is partially seen near the base of the building.

# APPLYING TO COLLEGE





# WITH PREPARATION AND SUPPORT, IT'S POSSIBLE FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS TO ATTEND COLLEGE.

But, states, institutions and even specific majors or career paths offer different opportunities for undocumented students. The situation can vary with each person.



## Students should...

- Continue to work hard and get good grades.
  - Scholarships and opportunities will be more available.
- Take advantage of AP classes or dual enrollment.
  - Earn college credit in high school to save money on future college tuition.
- Ask for help. Seek out a trusted teacher or high school counselor.
- Start early. Have multiple back-up plans.
- Use a paper application if online applications require social security numbers.
- Consider majors and future potential careers.
  - Starting your own business post-college is one way to legally work in the U.S.
  - Many professional fields require a background check as part of hiring or for state licensing exams, such as accounting, healthcare (RN, medical assistants), public safety (police, firefighters, EMT), or cosmetology: (beauticians, hair stylists).

# PAYING FOR COLLEGE



The cost of college is often the biggest barrier for undocumented students.

**Oregon passed laws in 2015 that allow certain undocumented students to be eligible for state financial aid and reduced community college tuition. Eligible students should complete the Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA).**

- Students who qualify for tuition equity and demonstrate financial need are eligible to be considered for the Oregon Opportunity Grant, Oregon's state-funded financial aid program. See [oregonstudentaid.gov/oregon-opportunity-grant.aspx](https://oregonstudentaid.gov/oregon-opportunity-grant.aspx) for more information.
- Oregon Promise provides grants for recent high school graduates to attend community college. The grant will offset tuition costs after state and federal grants are applied with a cost of at least \$50/term for students. See [oregonstudentaid.gov/oregon-promise.aspx](https://oregonstudentaid.gov/oregon-promise.aspx) for more information.

If parents are undocumented, but the student is a citizen, he or she is eligible for financial aid.

- Parents complete taxes using their Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN).
- Parents enter all zeros (000-00-0000) for their social security numbers on the FAFSA.

# ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ SCHOLARSHIPS ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

Undocumented students are eligible for many private and local scholarships. The following offer lists of scholarships that do not require social security numbers.

[fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com)  
[maldef.org/leadership/scholarships](http://maldef.org/leadership/scholarships)  
[dreamersroadmap.com](http://dreamersroadmap.com)  
[scholarshipsaz.org/scholarships](http://scholarshipsaz.org/scholarships)

## OREGON MATCHED COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM

A 5:1 matched savings account also known as an Individual Development Account or IDA. Students can save up to \$1,600 over 3 years which is matched by \$8,000 for a total of \$9,600 for college!

- Available to use at select private/independent Oregon universities.
- See [mycollegesavings.org](http://mycollegesavings.org)
- Other IDAs might be available, see [oregonidainitiative.org](http://oregonidainitiative.org)



# SUCCESSING IN COLLEGE ❖❖❖





## Students should...

- Take advantage of campus resources and support services including tutoring and academic advisors.
- Make connections and network!
- Study hard and get the best possible grades.
- Get involved in student groups to meet people and try out new experiences. This could include student government, sports, volunteer organizations, or more.
- Continue applying for scholarships and funding opportunities each year.
- Know that all student information including grades and citizenship status are confidential under federal law. For more information about the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), see [ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/students.html](https://ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/students.html)

# WANT MORE INFO?

For the most up-to-date information and additional resources, see the following websites.

## **Oregon Goes To College**

**[oregongoestocollege.org](http://oregongoestocollege.org)**

- FAQ about tuition equity, state financial aid and reduced community college tuition program in Oregon

## **Immigrants Rising**

**[immigrantsrising.org](http://immigrantsrising.org)**

- Guides for students, parents and educators
- Documentary film

## **Scholarships A-Z**

**[scholarshipsaz.org](http://scholarshipsaz.org)**

- Resource guide for students, parents and educators with yearly checklist

## **United We Dream**

**[unitedwedream.org](http://unitedwedream.org)**

- Resources for teachers, lawyers, activists
- Scholarship listings

## **Dream Activist**

**[action.dreamactivist.org](http://action.dreamactivist.org)**

- Social media hub and resource network led by youth supporting passage of the DREAM Act



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## SOURCES

*Advising Undocumented Students*, CollegeBoard

*Tuition Benefits for Immigrants*, National Conference of State Legislatures, 2015

*Educational Resource Guide for Students Regardless of Immigration Status*, Scholarships A-Z, 2009

*Young Lives on Hold: The College Dreams of Undocumented Students*, CollegeBoard, April 2009

*Fact Sheet*, Educators for Fair Consideration, January 2012

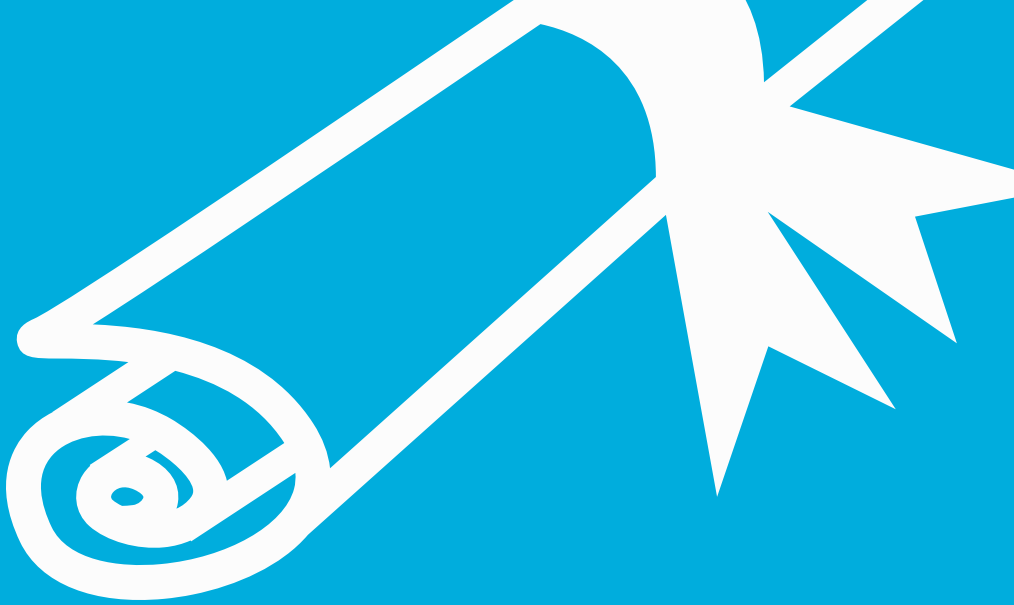
*Session: College Access for Undocumented Students*, GEAR UP West, Portland, OR, October 17, 2011

*Workshop: Working with Undocumented Students*, George Fox University, October 28, 2011

*Gov. John Kitzhaber signs tuition equity bill*, OregonLive.com, April 2, 2013

Diploma icon designed by Ashley Etheridge from [thenounproject.com](http://thenounproject.com)





[oregongearup.org](http://oregongearup.org)

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**COLLEGE.** It's not a dream, it's a plan.

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