



What Institutions Can Do to Support Dreamers — Both With and Without DACA

Dreamers are immigrant students who came to the country at a young age and have done some or most of their primary education in the US. They are either fully undocumented or have DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), TPS (Temporary Protective Status), or another status that is not a green card or citizenship.

Undocumented students, or Dreamers, often face significant barriers to full integration into our campuses and communities due to their immigration status. These barriers can limit their access to opportunities, such as higher education and career advancement, and can also have a negative impact on their mental health and well-being. However, colleges and universities have the power to make a difference by creating a welcoming and supportive environment for Dreamers. By doing so, these institutions can help undocumented students thrive academically and personally, providing them with the tools and resources they need to succeed in their chosen fields to continue to contribute to their communities.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of what institutions can do to improve undocumented student success on your campuses:

1. **Create a welcoming environment:** Openly acknowledge that undocumented students have a right to postsecondary education, ensure admission processes aren't burdensome, create safe spaces on campus, respect confidentiality, and provide visible portals for information.
2. **Ensure access to opportunities:** Make sure internships and fellowships are available for Dreamers (including those without DACA), and understand state laws regarding tuition, aid, scholarships, and licensing. <https://bit.ly/DreamerFellowships>
3. **Identify allies:** Establish connections between allies to build a referral system for students, educate and provide ally training for staff and faculty, and inform them about laws that affect immigrant students and policies that can help their academic success. www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/states/
4. **Offer access to both undergraduate and graduate programs:** Many careers and professions require graduate degrees; we need to make sure that these programs are not just opened, but also funded.
5. **Use your voice!** College and University Leaders can also use their voices to advocate for laws and policies that support the inclusion of Dreamers. This can include promoting state and federal legislation that would provide more access to higher education for undocumented students. By doing so, institutions can not only help their own students but also contribute to a richer, more diverse, and equal educational environment for all.

For more information and resources on supporting undocumented students, visit:

- Beyond DACA: A Directory of Resources for Undocumented Students & Individuals (https://www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/effective_practice/beyond-daca-a-directory-of-resources-for-undocumented-students-individuals/)
 - Directory of Presidents' Alliance Resources to Support DACA recipients, Undocumented Students, Dream Legislation, and Institutions of Higher Education (<https://www.presidentsalliance.org/directory-daca/>)
 - Higher Ed Guide to Tuition, Financial Aid & Other Funding for Undocumented Students (<https://www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Higher-Ed-Guide-In-State.pdf>)
 - 5 Things Colleges and Universities Can Do in the Wake of the Fifth Circuit's Decision on DACA (<https://www.presidentsalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/5-Things-Colleges-Can-Do-DACADecisionResource-Final-10.2022.pdf>)
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