

General Resources

Know Your Rights

- You cannot be denied admission to a public Arizona college or university based on your immigration status.
- You are not required to show a state issued ID or social security card to apply for admissions to any college.
- Federal law protects personally identifiable student education records under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and is applicable to all schools receiving federal funds.
- Note: All male individuals regardless of their immigration status are required by federal law to sign up for Selective Service. Failure to do so can result in future problems with U.S. citizenship adjustment and support from other government benefit/aid programs.
 - **What is Selective Service Registration?**
The process by which the U.S. government collects names and addresses of men age 18 through 25 to use in case a national emergency requires rapid expansion of the Armed Forces. It is not a draft. It will only be activated in case of a national emergency. For more information please visit: <http://sss.gov>



You have the DREAM. We have the resources.

What can I do to make education accessible to all students, regardless of their immigration status?

- Get involved on campus and in the community! Volunteer with ScholarshipsA-Z
- There are many student organizations that are working to pass legislation and advocate on behalf of other students. (e.g., AZ DREAM ACT, RISE, ORANGE COUNTY DREAM TEAM, SAHE, AACHE, CADENAS)
- Create your own student support group in your school if one does not already exist.
- Share the ScholarshipsA-Z website (link to www.scholarshipsaz.org) with community members, students, parents and educators.
- Help more students attend college by donating (link to donations page)
- Contact your state/national legislators to advocate for the DREAM Act.

SCHOLARSHIPS



a-Z

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General Scholarship Vocabulary

(Source: Phoenix Union High School District Resource Guide)

Budget – should include a list of costs for expenses and any income. Costs include tuition, books, transportation, housing, meals, medical and personal items. Student budgets are usually available from the financial aid office of your target institution.

Copies of applications – keep copies of all applications to colleges and scholarships so that information can be quickly revised.

Letters of recommendation – should highlight strengths, abilities, goals, personality and indicate financial need (if appropriate) and potential for success. If your recommender addresses your letter as “To Whom It May Concern,” you may request a copy, which can be used for more than one application. Make sure that the letter is written to the right organization before using it again.

OFFICIAL Transcripts - document that lists all of your classes and grades with an official seal of the school/college. It should be sealed in an envelope by the school so it remains official. It can be obtained from your academic advisor/counselor. Most scholarships will require this document. Do not wait until the last minute to request this from your counselor. (These transcripts from high schools are usually free. It may cost a small fee if you are requesting it from a college. Often times you can request multiple transcripts (e.g., 10, 20) at a time. Request a bunch and you’ll have them for the future.)

UNOFFICIAL Transcripts – document that lists all of your classes and grades. You can usually access these for free. Check with your admissions office, counselor, or academic advisor to get a copy if you cannot print one out from your school website. Each student should keep a copy of the unofficial transcript in the event that an unofficial transcript is acceptable.

Personal statement – strong, clear, positive essay, which includes information on student’s experiences and background, current activities and challenges, plus information regarding goals and aspirations integrated with the sponsoring scholarship organization’s mission statement. Save a copy of all personal statement drafts, which can be adapted for various applications. For help creating a personal statement, please visit your counselor, academic advisor.

Resume – is a detailed list of your education, work, volunteer, and leadership experiences. This is usually a 1-page document that describes you and your skills. It will be useful when answering college or scholarship essay questions. For help creating a resume, please visit your counselor, academic advisor.

Miscellaneous – sometimes a photo is requested. Keep a couple wallet size photos in your folder. Samples of your work (essays, poems, art work, etc.) can also be requested for competitive awards.

***Persistence pays.** Meet deadlines and follow through as appropriate. The work is difficult but your reward is FREE MONEY, which will help you pay for college.

Tips for Success in College

Education is a Personal Challenge...it is up to YOU!

- Improve your academic reading and writing!
- Establish an educational plan early.
- Challenge yourself.
- Take and excel in as many AP/IB/ Honors classes as possible; college admission is becoming more competitive.
- Take advantage of dual enrollment programs. Take classes in local community colleges while in high school. This can save you money and time plus give you an edge over others applying to college. (Dual enrollment is free, if not less expensive for you while in high school. Ask your high school counselor for more information.)
- Seek out free tutoring services that can help sharpen your skills.
- Be involved in your community.
- Inform and educate other students about educational opportunities for undocumented students. Students that lack proper legal documentation will undoubtedly need to work harder than other students.
- Ask questions.
- Look for guidance.
- Apply for scholarships.
- Be patient. Current laws may take time to pass.
- Contact individual colleges for application fee waivers if needed.
- Set your standards high. Let NOTHING stand in your way.

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After College, Now What?

(Information provided by [Educators for Fair Consideration](http://e4fc.org/home.html) link to <http://e4fc.org/home.html>)

Employment

Some undocumented students who are in the legalization process are eligible for a U.S. work permit. Check with your immigration attorney for more information. This permit may be adequate for you to work legally. There also may be opportunities to start your legalization process through employer sponsorship under rigorous requirements otherwise known as H1B1 Visas. For more information, consult a licensed immigration attorney. Violating the terms of your visa status may be enough to prohibit you from future adjustment of your status. Sometimes, entrepreneurship is also an option. For example, you may be able to apply for a business license and start your own business. All you need is a Tax Identification Number (TIN).

Internships/ Fellowships

Internships are often made available to high school students, college students, and/or recent graduates interested in receiving supervised practical training in their field or profession of interest. Internships are a great way to get “real world” experience while applying to graduate/ professional school. In doing so, you will get work experience and/or community service experience. Internships are also a great way to meet people and develop networks that may help you while you are in college, and after you graduate and are seeking employment. Fellowships refer to money granted by a university, foundation, or other agency for advanced study or research. Fellowships can be viewed as paid internships, for which some undocumented students may be eligible.

Research

Working on your own research with faculty members at a college or university is one way to get research experience and possibly earn money. Sometimes undocumented students may be eligible to receive a “stipend” for their contributions. A stipend is a sum of money allotted on a regular basis, such as a salary for services rendered or an allowance for books, etc. All students regardless of their immigration status may be eligible for stipends if the source of funding is tax exempt and is not tied to federal or state funds. If it comes directly from a public college or university’s funds, undocumented students are not eligible. Remember, government funds are not available to undocumented students. So where would the stipend come from?

Networking

If you want to increase your opportunities for employment upon graduation, networking with college/university staff members and faculty while you are in college is extremely

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important. You should also try to connect with local professionals in your field of study to determine the types of job opportunities that may be available to you after college. Other students on your college campus may also be able to provide you with this type of information or connect you with people who can help. The size and quality of your academic/professional network will largely determine your access to opportunities and information while in college and when you begin exploring potential careers. Remember, it is not always what you know but whom you know that counts.

Legal Advice

Before you graduate please seek the legal advice of a certified immigration lawyer. See if there exists a probability of legally adjusting your status. Marriage should not be your first option. Derived citizenship from this method has become more difficult and could actually jeopardize your opportunity of legally adjusting based on certain immigration guidelines.