

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### Financial Aid Eligibility for Undocumented Students and DACA Recipients for Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia Higher Learning Institutions

This information is a reference-only resource; changes to federal, state, and local laws may occur at any time and change eligibility requirements. Each student should investigate their individual cases online and at their higher-ed school.

\*This information was last updated May 2021

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#### VIRGINIA

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**Q: Can I apply to a college or university in the state of Virginia as an undocumented student or as a DACA recipient?**

YES.

**Q: Can I apply to a college or university in the state of Virginia as an undocumented student or as a DACA recipient who received a GED?**

YES. Individuals must score 150 points or higher on four subject tests to earn a GED, but to get into a college/university, you need a score of 165 or higher. Applicants to 4-year colleges and universities may need to submit ACT or SAT scores, check with the school. Between two and four years of high school coursework in English, foreign language, science, and social science are also among common requirements for admission. Students who do not have sufficient coursework can use their GED to enroll in a community college and earn the credits required for acceptance at a 4-year school as a transfer student.

**Q: As an undocumented student or DACA recipient, am I eligible for Virginia in-state tuition?**

YES. Undocumented students must meet the following requirements to qualify for in-state tuition, including:

- Attended high school for at least two years in the Commonwealth and either, graduated on or after July 1, 2008, from a public or private high school or program of home instruction in the Commonwealth, or passed a high school equivalency examination approved by the Secretary of Education;
- Submitted evidence that they, in the case of a dependent student, or at least one parent, guardian, or person standing in loco parentis has filed, unless exempted by state law, Virginia income tax returns free at least two years prior to the date of registration or enrollment;
- Register as an entering student in a public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth.

**Q: Can I receive Virginia state financial aid to attend college/university?**

NOT AT THIS TIME. Virginia does not currently provide state financial aid for undocumented students. However, Virginia has passed new legislation that expands access to state financial aid, school-issued aid, and Tuition Assistance Grants for undocumented students if they meet certain requirements beginning in **August 2022**.

**Q: Can I receive financial aid from a Virginia state public college/university?**

Possibly. Some institutions in Virginia may offer the state's DACA recipients access to institutional financial aid, contact your school for more information.

**Q: Can I receive financial aid from a private college/university in the state of Virginia?**

Possibly. Those in private, nonprofit institutions can apply to the [Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant Program](#), as well as apply for private scholarships and grants from the school and external sources. Contact your school for more information.

**Q: As an undocumented student or DACA recipient, am I FAFSA eligible in the state of Virginia?**

NO. Generally, undocumented students and DACA recipients are not eligible for federal financial aid because they do not have a social security number. If you are a DACA

recipient and do have a social security number, you can complete a FAFSA to apply for federal and state aid.

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## MARYLAND

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**Q: Can I apply to a college or university in the state of Maryland as an undocumented student or as a DACA recipient?**

YES.

**Q: Can I apply to a college or university in the state of Maryland as an undocumented student or as a DACA recipient who received a GED?**

YES. Individuals must score 150 points or higher on four subject tests to earn a GED, but to get into a college/university, you need a score of 165 or higher. Applicants to 4-year colleges and universities may need to submit ACT or SAT scores, check with the school. Between two and four years of high school coursework in English, foreign language, science, and social science are also among common requirements for admission. Students who do not have sufficient coursework can use their GED to enroll in a community college and earn the credits required for acceptance at a 4-year school as a transfer student.

**Q: As an undocumented student or DACA recipient, am I eligible for Maryland in-state tuition?**

YES. The Maryland DREAM Act allows qualifying undocumented students to receive in-state tuition at a Maryland community college. If you wish to attend a 4 yr school and receive in-state tuition, you must first complete an Associate's degree at a community college to be eligible.

To qualify for in-state tuition at a community college, students must meet the following conditions:

- Attended a Maryland secondary school for a least three years;
- Graduated from a Maryland high school or received a GED;
- Register at a Maryland community college within four years of high school graduation or receiving a GED;
- Provide documentation that the student or the student's parent or legal guardian has filed an annual Maryland income tax return for three years the individual attended a high school in the state, any period before attending community college, and the period of attendance;

- Sign an affidavit stating that they will apply for permanent residency within 30 days of becoming eligible.

Students must also meet all other conditions for in-state tuition at community colleges and register at a public four-year institution within four years of finishing a community college degree or earning 60 credits.

**Q: Can I Receive Maryland state financial aid to attend college/university?**

YES. The Maryland State Financial Aid Application (MSFAA) is available to applicants who are ineligible to receive federal aid. The MSFAA allows qualified children of undocumented immigrants, who qualify for in-state tuition under [§15–106.8 of the MD Education Article](#), to apply and be considered for certain types of State need-based financial aid, such as the Educational Assistance Grant, the Guaranteed Access Grant, the Campus-Based Educational Assistance Grant, the Part-Time Grant, the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship, the Near Completer Grant, the Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Award, the Legislative Scholarship Program, and the Richard W. Collins III Leadership with Honor Scholarship. Students are not required to have a Social Security Number to submit the MSFAA. However, students will need to meet the non-resident exemption requirements as described under §15–106.8. of the MD Education Article to qualify for aid.

**Q: Can I receive financial aid from a public college/university in the state of Maryland?**

Possibly. Some institutions in Maryland may offer the state's DACA recipients access to institutional financial aid, contact your school for more information.

**Q: Can I receive financial aid from a private college/university in the state of Maryland?**

Possibly. Some institutions in Maryland may offer the state's DACA recipients access to institutional financial aid, contact your school for more information.

**Q: As an undocumented student or DACA recipient, am I FAFSA eligible in the state of Maryland?**

NO. Generally, DACA recipients are not eligible for federal financial aid because they do not have a social security number. If you are a DACA recipient and do have a social security number, you can complete a FAFSA to apply for federal and state aid.

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## DISTRICT OF COLOMBIA

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**Q: Can I apply to a college or university in the District of Colombia as an undocumented student or as a DACA recipient?**

YES.

**Q: Can I apply to a college or university in the District of Colombia as an undocumented student or as a DACA recipient who received a GED?**

YES. Individuals must score 150 points or higher on four subject tests to earn a GED, but to get into a college/university, you need a score of 165 or higher. Applicants to 4-year colleges and universities may need to submit ACT or SAT scores, check with the school. Between two and four years of high school coursework in English, foreign language, science, and social science are also among common requirements for admission. Students who do not have sufficient coursework can use their GED to enroll in a community college and earn the credits required for acceptance at a 4-year school as a transfer student.

**Q: As an undocumented student or DACA recipient, am I eligible for in-state tuition in the District of Colombia?**

YES. Students must meet certain requirements to access in-state tuition, including:

- Attended high school in the District of Columbia for 3 years, graduated from a high school in the district, or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in the district within the last 10 years; and,

Submits one of the following:

- An official transcript from a District of Columbia public, public charter, or private school as evidence of attendance;
- A diploma from a District of Columbia public, public charter, or private school as evidence of graduation;
- A state diploma from the Office of the State Superintendent of Education; or
- An official certificate of completion equivalent to a high school diploma.

**Q: Can I receive financial aid from the District of Colombia to attend college/university?**

YES. The District of Columbia (D.C.) Act 21-650 allows undocumented students to access local financial aid, such as the [DC Mayor's Scholars Program](#). Undocumented students must meet the same criteria required for in-state tuition under Act 21-650 to access the local financial aid.

**Q: Can I receive financial aid from a public college/university in the District of Colombia?**

Possibly. Some institutions in DC may offer DACA recipients access to institutional financial aid, contact your school for more information.

**Q: Can I receive financial aid from a private college/university in the District of Colombia?**

Possibly. Some institutions in DC may offer DACA recipients access to institutional financial aid, contact your school for more information.

**Q: As an undocumented student or DACA recipient, am I FAFSA eligible in the District of Colombia?**

NO. Generally, DACA recipients are not eligible for federal financial aid because they do not have a social security number. If you are a DACA recipient and do have a social security number, you can complete a FAFSA to apply for federal and state aid.