



Future Ready Resources for Immigrant, Refugee, Undocumented and DACA Students

Application Writing Support

[College Essay Advisor: Free Resources](#)

This web-based business provides a writing advisor to coach college applicants through the process of writing required essays. While this service requires a fee, there is also a **FREE RESOURCES** section that has YouTube tutorial links, writing tips lessons that you can download. You have to call them to get a cost quote for the full site services.

[College Vine Essay Writing Support](#)

This site offers peer-reviewers that will read your essays and offer edits and feedback on how to make your college application essay-writing stronger. The site says accounts are FREE but does not say if there are fees required for services within the site.

[College Vine Application Guidance](#)

Students are able to build a profile on this site that lists their preferred colleges, and organize the requirements to submit an application at each school. There is a page that provides links to the major colleges and universities in the U.S. and lists their admission requirements. The site also links to essay and application writing guidance and offers videos from coaches on related topics.

College or Career?

[Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education](#)

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), signed into law on July 22, 2014, presents a unique opportunity for collaboration among the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), the U.S. Department of Education (ED), States, local workforce development areas, other workforce and education partners, as well as social service providers, in order to improve the lives of our nation's out-of-school youth (OSY). Schools can access technical assistance documents on this page.



[Supporting the Educational and Career Success of English Language Learners under WIOA](#)

[Preparing English Learners for Career Pathways](#)

(A LINCS letter - Literacy Information and Communication System)

This issue brief is a part of the LINCS ESL Pro suite of resources on Preparing English Learners for Work and Career Pathways. The purpose of this issue brief is to provide teachers and administrators with practical ideas and present a broad overview of considerations for connecting ELA to career pathways. It is intended to serve as an introduction to the topic of career-focused contextualized instruction that teachers and administrators can use as a springboard to additional in-depth resources on this topic.



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[What Can I Do With This Major?](#)

Whether you're exploring majors or searching for information about your chosen field, this website will help. Learn typical career areas and types of employers that hire in these fields, as well as strategies to make you a more marketable candidate.

Comparing Award Letters

[Big Future Webinar on Comparing Award Letters \(webinar\)](#)

This page shares a webinar with Myra Baas Smith, Former Financial Aid Director, and former college board member of Yale University and Smith College. The webinar addresses how to assess an award letter, and compare offers from different institutions. This site also has downloadable documents that can be used to track and compare awards.

[Compare Aid Calculator](#)

An online calculator to compare financial awards for up to four institutions at a time. You can save and retrieve the results any time by creating an account.

[Federal Student Aid – Comparing Award Letters](#)

The Federal Student Aid page walks future college aid recipients through information regarding financial awards, as well as understanding, applying for and managing student loans.

[FinAid Information on Award Letters](#)

This article discusses some of the more common best practices adopted by financial aid administrators concerning the content of the award letter.

Search for Undocumented-Friendly Colleges

Many colleges and universities may provide a system of support for undocumented students. The links below highlight some U.S. colleges that highlight their support system and welcome students who do not yet have citizen status.

[Best Colleges for Undocumented Students](#)

This page contains college guide information on general college information, application procedures, and an overview of the rights of undocumented students in the U.S.

[Colleges for Undocumented Students](#)

Choosing the right state to attend college as an undocumented student is one of the main focus areas of this website. The site includes an interactive map that shows which states offer the most education access such as in-state tuition offers for undocumented students.



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[Maximizing the College Choice Process to Increase Fit & Match for Underserved Students](#)

This “Research-to-Practice” brief synthesizes scholarly research on college choice, fit and match, features an interview with the National College Advising Corps, and serves as a tangible resource to practitioners working to improve student success and retention in college.

[Sanctuary Campuses Map](#)

On this website you will find a graphical display of the budding sanctuary campus movement. Xavier Maciel and Aparna Parikh have meticulously tracked efforts at hundreds of colleges and universities and created this helpful map.

[Undocumented Friendly Colleges](#)

This guide shares helpful information on undocumented-friendly colleges.

Iowa College/Universities DACA/Undocumented Information/ Supports

[Des Moines Area Community College \(DMACC\)](#)

DMACC welcomes all students, regardless of immigration status. We encourage you to continue your education here. DMACC provides a friendly and supportive environment for you and your family

[Grand View University](#)

Grand View added to the list of college and university presidents who have endorsed a statement urging our nation’s leaders to support DACA students on our campuses nationwide. November, 23, 2016

[Grinnell College](#)

Statement from President Kington Regarding DACA, September 05, 2017

[Iowa State Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#)

This is a link to the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Members of the Iowa State community who have specific questions about what the DACA announcement means for enrollment or financial aid status are given a list of offices and their contact information which students can contact with questions.

[Simpson College](#)

Article from campus newspaper, The Simpsonian, about college president signing petition to support DACA. December 22, 2016

[The University of Iowa](#)



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[University of Northern Iowa](#)

The University of Northern Iowa is committed to student success, which includes providing a campus culture that reflects and values the evolving diversity of society and promotes inclusion. As a campus community we strive to fully support all of our students, including undocumented students, families and those most directly affected by the recent phase-out of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). We have compiled information and resources to help students and their families navigate these barriers while continuing to move toward their educational goals.

Financial Aid/Supports

[ACT fee waivers](#)

2020-2021 document provides information on how to request a test fee waiver from ACT.

[Federal Student Aid](#)

This is the Frequently Asked Questions page of the Federal Student Aid page.

[Financial Aid and Undocumented Students](#) This is an information page from Federal Student Aid. The questions and answers in this document provide information about student financial aid for undocumented students as well as guidance for a specific group of undocumented students who have received Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). We have grouped the questions and answers into two categories: "Eligibility for Financial Aid" and "Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) Form."

[Financial Aid for Non U.S. Citizens](#)

This is an additional page from Federal Student Aid that directly addresses the questions and answers related to federal aid options for non U.S. citizens.

[SAT fee waivers](#)

2020-2021 document provides information on how to request a test fee waiver from SAT.

[OELA Financial Aid Webinar](#)

This May 13, 2020 webinar provides information about FAFSA completion. Students' completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is essential for financial assistance while attending a college or a career school. OELA speaks with Isaiah Ellis, a Federal Student Aid (FSA) Outreach Specialist to learn about FAFSA® updates and new tools and resources from FSA that can help students prepare and pay for college or a career school.



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Organizations/ Sites that offer Information and Resources

[8 Awesome Organizations that Help Low Income Students Get to College](#)

From the CollegeRaptor website, this list shines the spotlight on eight incredible organizations that have a passion for equality, college success, and bright students.

[Latinos CAN Coalition](#)

The Latinos CAN is a statewide initiative that strives to eliminate the educational attainment gap for Latino students in Iowa. We work in partnership with various statewide agencies and organizations to create systems change which will aid Latino students in earning a postsecondary education.

Test Prep Support

[ACT Compass Practice Test for ESL Students](#)

The ACT Compass test is a placement test that many colleges use in their admissions processes. The Compass tests include modules in reading, writing skills, **essay** writing, math and English as a Second Language (ESL). This site provides access to practice tests for the ACT Compass test.

[ACT Supports now offered to ESL Students \(2016\)](#)

ACT first provided support on the ACT® test to U.S. students who are English learners starting in the fall of 2017. The goal of the supports is to help ensure that the ACT scores earned by English learners accurately reflect what they have learned in school. This page discusses support available to students who are classified as English Learners at the time that they take the ACT.

[ACT Vocabulary list for ESL Students](#)

ESL ACT Vocabulary is compiled for non-English speakers to cover the gap. Basically, words in this list aren't very difficult, but they are likely used on ACT test papers and confuse the foreign test takers. These words are usually ignored by mainstream ACT vocabularies because of simple or common. To help ESL students study by mother language, this list includes definitions in 20 languages.

General Scholarships

[Asian Pacific Fund](#) Has several scholarships for students from Asian and Pacific Islander descent. The Asian Pacific Fund administers 10 scholarship programs to help undergraduate and graduate students achieve their education goals. .



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[College Board: Opportunity Scholarship](#)

The College Board Opportunity Scholarships program is open to students in the United States, Puerto Rico, and U.S. territories, regardless of citizenship status.

[Harrell Foster Care Scholarship](#)

The Harrell Foster Care Scholarship application is now open. This is a \$2,000 scholarship for African American high school seniors in the state of Iowa who have been in foster care and want to attend any college/university. Richard and Linda Harrell fostered over 30 African American children over the course of 20 years. Mr. Harrell's passing inspired a scholarship opportunity for this specific population of students. **The application is due Friday, April 30.** Students can print the application and submit via post mail OR complete a [Google Form application](#). Please connect with Brittany Beard, GEAR UP Coach, bbeard@eicc.edu.

[Iowa College Aid Last Dollar Scholar](#)

The Last-Dollar Scholarship is available to:

NEW HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES who enroll in a qualified program of study full-time or enroll in an eligible program part-time along with an approved work-based learning program for the fall immediately following high school graduation, apply for all other available state and federal grants and scholarships, and meet ongoing requirements. **ADULT LEARNERS** (age 20 and older) who enroll in a qualified program of study full-time or part-time, apply for all other available state and federal grants and scholarships, and meet ongoing requirements.

[I Can Succeed](#)

The mission of the ICAN is to help prepare students for future success. On this page of their website, ICAN has compiled a list of scholarships in good faith. This is in no way a complete list of all available scholarships. The organizations listed, not ICAN, are responsible for administering the scholarships.

DACA DREAMERS Scholarships and/or Funding Options

[Act On A Dream Scholarship Database](#)

Act on a Dream is a student-led, student-run organization at Harvard College focused on supporting and advocating for the immigrant community on campus and beyond.

[Drake University](#)

Undocumented and DACA students are eligible to receive most of Drake's scholarships and its need-based grant.



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[Dream Iowa Scholarships](#)

DREAM Iowa's mission is to increase knowledge, attitudes, skills, so that families understand and select services that will produce sustainable financial outcomes. The Resource tab on their website lists scholarship opportunities.

[Dream Scholarship Fund](#)

KRC will offer three scholarship awards of \$1500 each to Asian American and Pacific Islander students. Because there are far fewer scholarship opportunities for undocumented students, *a special category has been set aside* for such students. Undocumented students will get advantages in the other categories as well.

[DREAMer's Roadmap](#)

This downloadable app offers a road map to help students find scholarship opportunities so that they can attend the post secondary path of their choice.

[Grandview University Immigrant Iowan Scholarship](#)

A child of immigrant parents or an immigrant themselves can apply for the *Immigrant Iowa Scholarship*, which covers full tuition, room, & certain fees. Only 1 award/year. Students are also eligible for merit based scholarships.

[Grinnell College](#)

Grinnell College considers undocumented/DACAmented/refugee students for admission under their international admission policies. This means that they are considered under a "need aware" admission policy. If the students are admitted, Grinnell will meet 100% of their demonstrated need (this is true for all of our admitted students who apply for financial aid – domestic or otherwise). Grinnell College has extended offers of admission to undocumented/DACAmented/refugee students for the last several years.

[Iowa State University Science Bound Scholarship](#)

Undocumented students are eligible to receive the Science Bound scholarship. This is a full tuition scholarship for students in eligible majors. Science Bound participation starts in eight grade for most students, and students must be in the Science Bound program prior to coming to ISU to be considered for the scholarship. Undocumented students are also eligible to apply for scholarships through their college or major that do not require US citizenship.

[Iowa State University OneApp Scholarships](#)

Prospective and current ISU students complete one application called **OneApp** to apply for all ISU scholarships. These scholarships are competitive, and applicants are not guaranteed to receive funding. However, it is open to every student, regardless of citizenship or nationality.



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[Migrant Students Foundation](#)

The Migrant Students Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the hundreds of thousands of existing migrant farmworker families within the U.S. today by helping them connect with scholarships, internships and service learning opportunities.

[My Undocumented Life: Scholarships Open to Undocumented Students](#)

The mission at My Undocumented Life is to provide up-to-date information and resources to undocumented students, their families, and allies (including educators, counselors, and administrators). We post scholarship opportunities that are open to undocumented students, strategies for navigating the educational system while undocumented, information on how to apply for DACA, key upcoming immigration-related events, news on immigration policies, and much more. Most importantly, we want to provide a *sense of community* to our diverse group of readers.

[QuestBridge Programs](#)

Any high school junior, regardless of citizenship, currently attending high school in the U.S. is eligible for the College Prep Scholars Program. Additionally, U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents living abroad are eligible for the program. International students living outside the U.S. are not eligible.

[Simpson College Access Grant](#)

Look for the description of the Access Grant on this college page of grants and scholarships. The grant specific page will become available when the college begins to again accept applications. Simpson College offers at least 1 full tuition scholarship to a student that identifies as undocumented or DACA status. They will also be awarding several smaller grants (up to \$10,000) on a case by case basis. In addition, they are eligible for all merit based aid offered by the college.

[The Dream](#)

TheDream.US scholarships are for highly motivated DREAMers who want nothing more than to get a college education but are unable to afford the cost. They have no access to federal aid, limited access to state aid, and they sometimes face paying out-of-state tuition.

[The Golden Door](#)

The golden door scholarship supports undocumented students invest in their education and define their future. As a Golden Door Scholar, each student receives a scholarship empowering her or him to earn a bachelor's degree and pursue a dream career. Eligible students may be high school seniors, recent high school graduates, or currently enrolled in college pursuing an undergraduate degree.

[University of Iowa](#)

All the merit based scholarships are available to undocumented students, based on the student's high school GPA and your ACT score.



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[University of Northern Iowa](#)

DACA/DREAMers and undocumented students can apply for our UNI Scholarship Application and could potentially be eligible merit based admission scholarships as well as DACA and undocumented student resources .

ESL Students who want to attend college (articles)

[Getting Ready for College: What ELL Students Need to Know](#)

Article from the Colorin Colorado website. Note: This article is Part 1 of a two-part series. [Creating a College-Going Culture for English Language Learners](#) follows this article.

Future Ready Supports for High School EL/Undocumented Students

[Advising Undocumented Students](#)

This page on the CollegeBoard website outlines some key topics educators and counselors should cover with students who are not yet U.S. citizens, and wish to attend college.

[Career Resources for DACA and Undocumented Students Eastern Washington University](#)

This university page provides information for students who are preparing to enter the workforce. The page includes links to websites that provide additional information on the right to work in the U.S. before citizenship is attained.

[College Guide for Undocumented Students](#)

The following guide aims to help these students navigate the many exciting options available to them, in order to reach their educational goals. The page is also available in Spanish.

[The Case for Undocumented Students in Higher Education](#)

Even with DACA, undocumented students are still greatly in need of financial assistance for higher education. In this publication, we hope to encourage scholarship providers and other funders to consider the merits of these hardworking, high-achieving students. We wish to show that these youth are some of the most industrious students America has to offer, that they are powerful role models in our communities, and that increased financial assistance will allow them to more fully contribute to U.S. society.

[The DREAM US Resource Library](#)

Welcome to TheDream.US' resource library. Here you will find a list of links, toolkits, guides, references and other information pertinent to DREAMers.



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[Undocublack Network: A network for Black Undocumented People](#)

Founded in January 2016 the UndocuBlack Network is a multi-generational network of currently and formerly undocumented Black people that fosters community, facilitates access to resources, and advocates to transform the realities of our people, so we are thriving and living our fullest lives.

A Note to Schools

This list represents areas in which immigrant, refugee, and/or undocuments students and their families may need direct support in making Future Ready decisions. If school-hosted events include family members, it is important to consider the language access needs of all family members. This may include but not be limited to interpreters, translated documents used in information sessions, and sign-language interpreters as needed.

Choosing a Career

Choosing a College

Filling out College Applications

Finding Scholarships

Reference Letters

Setting up College Visits

Test Preparation - ACT, SAT, College Entrance Exams (test taking strategies and preparation)

Writing Scholarship Essays

If you have suggestions for sites, resources, or additional information that should be added to this document, please email Janet Hiatt at jhiatt@heartlandaea.org or Cindra Porter at cporter@heartlandaea.org