

National Association for College Admission Counseling
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Advising Undocumented Students for College Admission

Disclaimer:

This document is intended to assist college admission counselors and high school counselors in advising undocumented students during their college search and application process. Since both federal and state legislation and financial aid guideline changes occur often, this document may not always be current.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Do I have to report an undocumented student to the INS if they tell me they are an illegal immigrant?

No. As of 3/21/07 there is no state or federal legislation that requires anyone to report undocumented students and/or their families.

What do I do if a student does not have a SSN to provide on their application?

If the SSN is an optional field, the student should leave it blank. If it is a required field, the student should contact the institution or organization they are applying with and inquire directly. Each institution handles this differently.

Is there financial aid for undocumented students to attend college?

Yes, in some states and at some institutions. Each institution handles this differently. As of 3/21/07 undocumented students are not eligible for any Federal Student Aid. Students may be eligible for institutional or state aid. Often this is listed in the eligibility criteria for admission or scholarships. If in doubt, the student should contact the institution directly.

Should I send undocumented students to northern schools because they will seem more “exotic” rather than sending them to schools in the South?

Undocumented students, as all other students should be advised to select an institution that is the “best fit” for them academically and socially. Their residency should be a secondary issue. While there are schools in the country that deal with undocumented students more often and know how to facilitate their application process, there are many schools in the country that would like to have the opportunity to enroll these students and may have some financial incentives available as well.

Is it true that all undocumented students have not done their “paperwork” and never intend to for fear of being deported?

No. In fact, many of the undocumented students have completed their INS paperwork to legally immigrate to the US. However, depending on their country of origin, the length of time to process their “paperwork” could take up to twenty years. Many are “waiting” for a response.

Resources for Advising Undocumented Students

NACAC-National Association for College Admission Counseling

<http://nacacnet.org/MemberPortal/>

NASFAA-National Association for Student Financial Aid Administrators

<http://www.nasfaa.org/Home.asp>

Legislative Links:

US Senate

<http://www.senate.gov/>

US House of Representatives

<http://www.house.gov/>

The White House

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

Updates on Dream Act

<http://www.nacacnet.org>

Various:

US Department of Education

<http://www.ed.gov/index.jhtml?src=a>

Updates to Immigration Laws

<http://www.nilc.org>

Example of a guide for Immigrant Students/Parents:

<http://www.cheis.net/studentresources>

Example of FAFSA replacement

<http://hb1403.com/files/2006-2007%20Texas%20Application%20for%20State%20Financial%20Aid.pdf>

Joevenes Inmigrantes por un futuro Mejor

<http://www.uhjfm.org/>

MALDEF

<http://www.maldef.org/>

Your State Legislature

Individual College/University contacts in the Admission and/or Financial Aid offices

