Tania Wilcox
Director of College Partnerships
What does undocumented mean?

An undocumented immigrant is a person who lacks lawful status granted by federal authorities.

- Overstayed a visa and fell out of status
- Entered the U.S. without inspection at a border or port of entry

Some undocumented persons have DACA providing them with temporary lawful presence.
Undocumented Immigrants in the U.S.

1. About 11 million undocumented
2. 4.5M citizen children have at least one undocumented parent
3. 1.3 M undocumented Asian immigrants
4. 400,000-600,000 undocumented immigrants of African, Afro Latino and West Indian descent

Source: Pew Hispanic Center and Department of Homeland Security
Reasons to immigrate include:

• Escape poverty
• Seek better living conditions
• High presence of violence in home countries
• Escape domestic violence
• Reunite with family
• Wars
• Study in the U.S.

TheDream.US Scholar
1. Few undocumented students complete undergraduate higher education

- 122,600 high school seniors are undocumented each year
- 65,000 graduate from high school each year
- 31,850 are likely to attend a postsecondary institution each year
- 1,950 are likely to graduate with a degree each year

Method: The graduation rate for undocumented students at the national level is 63 percent. The college attendance rate is then calculated using the percent at the national level of 49 percent.

2. Undocumented students face high education costs and receive no federal financial aid

- 57% of undocumented students reported being extremely worried about paying for college
- 74% of undocumented students that left school reported doing so due to financial difficulties

Undocumented students do not qualify for any form of federal financial aid

For the 2013-14 school year, the maximum federal Pell Grant covered:

- 63% of average public four-year institution tuition and fees
- 170% of average public two-year institution tuition and fees

Source: Center for American Progress, Infographic: Inside the Labyrinth: Undocumented Students in Higher Education
The Undocumented Student Experience and DACA
Undocumented Student Profile

- Most are first-gen and less likely to have basic college knowledge, family income and support, post-college plans, academic preparation, and social capital.

- Are less likely to engage in extracurricular activities on campus and are more in need of professional mentoring and leadership opportunities.

- More likely to experience guilt and/or shame by going away to college.

- More prone to take leave of absences from college.

- Work many more hours each week while enrolled in college than their peers and have less disposable income.
Undocumented status impact on students

- Fear of Deportation (Self or family members)
- Not eligible for federal financial aid programs and federally funded programs or benefits
- No SSN; limited in qualifying for anything that requires a SSN*
- Not eligible for the Affordable Care Act
- No work authorization, no paid internships & fellowships*
- Not eligible for some careers when licensure/background checks are required
- Cannot travel when official ID is required*
- Not eligible to work in chosen profession after graduation*

*Students with DACA do not have these obstacles all the time.
Transition to a Nightmare
2.1 million have been in the US since childhood

Protected Status

K-12 education is free and legal
Most institutions in childhood do not require legal status
Immigration status rarely limits activities

Transition to Adulthood

Late adolescence triggers legal limitations due to immigration laws
- Working
- Driving
- Education
- Financial Aid
- Socializing

Awake to a Nightmare

Succession of blocked opportunities
Fear, stigma, changed social patterns
Forced decisions—reveal or conceal
Physical/ emotional manifestations

Reactions in Transition to illegality

**Dislocation**
- A period of shock, anger, frustration and despair

**Retooling**
- Second shock when adolescents realize status will shape the rest of their adult lives

**Reorientation**
- Adoption survival strategy separates youth from the peers and others

**Adoption**
- Lying as a daily survival strategy to stay in the shadows

Defending and Surviving instead of Living and Thriving

What can this impact lead to?

- Barriers to many public benefits/resources
- No path to residency or citizenship
- Higher Education = Unaffordable/Limited accessibility
Mental Health Issues

- Deportation
- Family Separation

- Uncertain Future
- Pressure

- Substance Abuse
- Suicide

- Blaming
- Alienation

Fear
Anxiety
Depression
Shame

Source: Center for American progress, Infographic: Inside the Labyrinth: Undocumented Students in Higher Education

Source: Penn for Immigrant Rights, Dream Activist PA, & Immigration Policy Center
Laws affecting
Undocumented Students
Assembly Bill 540

- Allows qualified students to pay in-state tuition at California’s institutions of higher education.

- Does not grant permanent residence, pathway to citizenship, nor protection from deportation.

- To qualify as an AB 540 student, undocumented students must:
  - Have attended a CA high school for 3 years or more full academic years (between grades 9 through 12. They do not need to be consecutive years).
  - Have or will graduate from a CA high school or have attained a G.E.D.; or received a passing mark on the California High School Proficiency Exam.
  - Register or be currently enrolled at an accredited institution of public higher education in CA.
  - File or plan to file an affidavit as required by individual institutions, stating that he/she will apply for legal residency as soon as possible.
  - Not hold a valid non-immigrant visa (F, J, H, L, A, E, etc.). Students that do not qualify for AB 540 can still attend a CA college as long, but they must pay out-state tuition.
CA Dream Act

The California Dream Act is a combination of two bills, Assembly Bill (AB) 130 and AB 131. Together, these bills allow undocumented and nonresident documented students who meet the AB 540 provisions to be treated the same as resident students.

Undocumented AB 540 students apply for aid by completing the California Dream Act Application, via the California Student Aid Commission, [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov).
**DACA**: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
2012 Presidential Order; not a law

VS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amnesty</th>
<th>May stay in the U.S. without being deported during 2 years (renewable)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pathway to Citizenship</td>
<td>Ability to apply for work authorization and SSN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Status</td>
<td>Deferred deportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Permanent Residence (Green Card)</td>
<td>Ability to apply for driver’s or professional license</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# DACA Eligibility

To Qualify one must:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have come to the U.S. before age 16</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Must have lived in U.S. continuously from June 15, 2007</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have born on or after June 16, 1981</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be over 15 and under 31 years old</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be currently in school; graduated from high school; have a GED; or be an honorary discharged veteran</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have not been convicted of a felony, a “significant misdemeanor”, or 3 or more separate misdemeanors</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not pose a national security or a public safety threat as determined by DHS</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Websites: [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) and [www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov)

ICE hotline: 1-888-351-4024  USCIS hotline: 1-800-375-5283
Supporting Undocumented Students
Counselors need to:

• Provide a safe environment for undocumented students

• Respect students’ confidentiality and never “out” a student.

• Openly acknowledge that undocumented students have a right to postsecondary education.

• Establish connections between allies to build a referral system for students.

• Be informed about the laws that impinge upon students’ lives, and policies and practices that can contribute to their academic success.
Colleges Admissions

• Connect undocumented students to colleges that provide services.
  – Dream Centers and/or Dream Coordinators -- Task forces
  – Special Scholarships -- Ally Trainings
  – President have signed statements of support

• Assume there are undocumented students in group settings and always talk about available resources

• Messages for students and parents
  – No one can ever take away your education
  – Being in college may help if a DREAM ACT is passed at the federal level
  – A college degree means better jobs, better pay
Vital Advice to students and families

– Do not use someone else’s SSN

– Do not apply for or utilize any public benefit for which the person is not entitled; grounds for deportation

– Never claim to be a USA citizen

– Individual and family should file federal and state taxes as appropriate

– Do not lie on any application
Resources

Educators for Fair Consideration

DREAMer's Roadmap

National Immigration Law Center

United We Dream
Thank You

"My first blessing was to receive DACA status. My second blessing was to receive TheDream.US scholarship."

-Grace Couch, TheDream.US Scholar