ABOUT

The National Forum on Higher Education for the Public Good

The mission of the National Forum is to promote greater awareness, understanding, commitment and action in support of the ways that higher education serves our diverse democracy. This mission is expressed in a wide range of programs and activities that focus on student opportunity, community engagement, state and federal policy, and the relationship between the public, private and philanthropic sectors in furthering an educated and just society.

DACA & the DREAM ACT
Impact on Undocumented Students and Financial Aid Professionals

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More Information
Visit the National Forum on Higher Education for the Public Good for additional resources including fact sheets and reports:
http://thenationalforum.org/

USCIS Website for DACA recipients:
http://www.uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals
Background

Every year, approximately 65,000 undocumented students graduate from U.S. high schools. Without passage of the federal Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program comes as a welcome temporary relief from deportation for roughly 1.8 million immigrant youth who might be eligible for the program.

Given the complex policy environment, financial aid professionals must keep abreast of any changes in federal and state policy and find ways to support undocumented youth.

DACA & the DREAM Act

DACA:
The DACA program allows certain eligible undocumented youth to request deferred action and temporary relief from deportation.

DREAM Act:
The DREAM Act is a legislative proposal that would provide a pathway to citizenship for undocumented youth who have lived in the country continuously prior to the bill’s enactment.

Differences between DACA and the DREAM Act

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<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>DACA</th>
<th>DREAM ACT</th>
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<td>Under 31 years of age as of June 15, 2012, entered the U.S. before 16th birthday, resided in U.S. at least 5 yrs prior to June 15, 2012 and be physically present, currently in school and have graduated or obtained high school diploma or GED</td>
<td>Have no criminal background</td>
<td>Must have been under the age of 35 as of bill’s enactment</td>
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<td>Submit to USCIS a completed I-821D, I-765, I-765WS with supporting documents, biometrics, $465 fee, and two passport photos</td>
<td>Similar requirements to DACA</td>
<td>Have continuously resided in the U.S. for at least five years prior to bill’s enactment and have been physically present.</td>
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Application process

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<th>Benefits</th>
<th>DACA</th>
<th>DREAM ACT</th>
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<tr>
<td>A social security number, work authorization, a 2 year stay from removal, and access to driver’s license</td>
<td>A permanent pathway to citizenship via conditional permanent residency</td>
<td>The DREAM Act is not yet law.</td>
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Support Undocumented Students

Staff members at colleges and universities can assist undocumented students at the colleges and universities by:

1. Arranging a meeting with key stakeholders at your institution to assess how DACA impacts your institution and student population.
2. Partnering with community organizations and/or undocumented-youth student groups and hold information sessions about DACA and the DREAM Act.
3. Training staff about DACA and the DREAM Act.
4. Compiling helpful resources, including factsheets, brochures and a list of legal resources for undocumented youth.