

# Opportunities for Higher Education: A Guide for Undocumented Students

CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE:

APRIL 2012

## Top 5 Reasons to Attend College

### 1. A Better Paying Job :

College graduates, on average, make more than those who only completed high school. Lots of jobs require the kind of specialized training that only a college program can give, from vocational programs to doctorates.

### 2. Individual Growth

College is freedom. When you attend college, you are free to live on your own, according to your own priorities. As you carve out your own custom tailored living and learning experience, you can't help but grow as a person. College is a time for self-improvement and development, so if you want to grow and mature as an individual, college is the perfect space for self-progress.

### 3. Find Your Direction

Hesitant, then, because you don't know what kind of career you want and thus couldn't possibly select a major? Here's a secret: you're not alone. Truthfully, lots of college graduates don't even know exactly what they want to do when they finish college. That said, with so many options to look into, college is a good place to explore and start getting some idea of what it is that you might like to do.

### 4. Start a Tradition!

Hesitant because no one else in your family has gone to college? Don't be nervous, be the first! They will admire your courage and fortitude.

### 5. Create Lasting Memories

Be it academic achievements or that one time you and your roommates totally went out for a chili dog run at 1 a.m. and ate yourselves senseless while watching reruns of old TV shows - if you don't end up saying "those may have been the best years of my life," then your post-grad life must be epic.

# DREAM Act

The purpose of the **Development, Relief and Education of Alien Minors Act**, also called the DREAM Act, is to help those individuals who meet certain requirements, have an opportunity to enlist in the military or go to college and have a path to citizenship which they otherwise would not have without this legislation. Supporters of the DREAM Act believe it is vital not only to the people who would benefit from it, but also the United States as a whole. It would give an opportunity to undocumented immigrant students who have been living in the U.S. since they were young, a chance to contribute back to the country that has given so much to them and a chance to utilize their hard earned education and talents.

## Requirements:

The following is a list of specific requirements one would need in order to qualify for the current version of the DREAM Act.

- Must have entered the United States before the age of 16 (i.e. 15 and younger)
- Must have been present in the United States for at least five (5) consecutive years prior to enactment of the bill
- Must have graduated from a United States high school, or have obtained a GED, or have been accepted into an institution of higher education (i.e. college/university)
- Must be between the ages of 12 and 35 at the time of application
- Must have good moral character (no criminal record)

The bill has not passed; it was passed in the House but not the Senate.

To help undocumented students afford to attend college, 11 states have passed laws that provide undocumented students with the opportunity to receive in-state tuition. **California, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin** permit undocumented students who have attended and graduated from the state's primary and secondary schools to pay the same college tuition as other state residents. Note that four of these states are among the top 10 that have the most potential DREAM Act beneficiaries. The laws in these 11 states require undocumented students to: **1) attend a school in the state for a certain number of years; 2) graduate from high school in the state; and 3) sign an affidavit stating that they will apply to legalize their status as soon as they are eligible to do so.**



**SUPPORT THE  
DREAM ACT**

# Breaking the Myths: Facts about College

There are three main areas on the path to higher education where undocumented students may have special concerns or face obstacles: admission, tuition, and financial aid.

## College and university admission policies

**Myth:** Undocumented students cannot legally attend college in the United States.

**Fact:** There is no federal or state law that prohibits the admission of undocumented immigrants to U.S. colleges and universities, public or private, nor does federal or state law require students to prove citizenship in order to enter U.S. institutions of higher education. However, institutional policies on admitting undocumented students vary.

For example, many 4-year state colleges in Virginia (following a 2003 recommendation by the state attorney general) require applicants to submit proof of citizenship or legal residency, and refuse admission to students without documentation. This policy is not, however, a state law. In many other states, public institutions accept undocumented students but treat them as foreign students so that they are ineligible for state aid and for the lower tuition charged to state residents.

## College and university tuition policies

**Myth:** All states require undocumented students to pay out-of-state tuition fees.

**Fact:** Many state institutions charge undocumented students out-of-state tuition fees. But, in recent years, 10 states—Texas, California, New York, Utah, Illinois, Washington, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Kansas—have passed laws that permit undocumented students to pay in-state tuition rates under certain conditions. For example, California's law requires the undocumented student to have attended a state high school for three or more years, to have graduated from a state high school, and to sign an affidavit promising to file an application to legalize his immigration status. Counselors in any of these states should familiarize themselves with that state's specific prerequisites.

## Federal, state, and institutional financial aid policies

**Myth:** There are no financial resources for undocumented students.

**Fact:** Though undocumented students cannot legally receive any federally funded student financial aid, including loans, grants, scholarships, and work-study programs, there are scholarships that are specifically for undocumented students. Look for some of these scholarships on Pages 5–6.



# List of Available University and Colleges

## Indiana Colleges & Universities

Goshen College  
 Holy Cross Colleges  
 Indiana University - Bloomington  
 Saint Mary's College

## Illinois Colleges & Universities

Aurora University  
 Bradley University  
 Chicago State University  
 College of Dupage  
 College of Lake County  
 DePaul University  
 Dominican University  
 Eastern Illinois University  
 Elmhurst College  
 Illinois College  
 Illinois Institute of Technology  
 Illinois State University  
 Illinois Wesleyan University  
 Knox College  
 Lake Forest College  
 Lewis University  
 Lincoln Christian University  
 Loyola University Chicago  
 Northeastern Illinois University  
 Northern Illinois University  
 North Central College  
 Oakton Community College  
 Roosevelt University  
 Southern Illinois University Carbondale  
 Southern Illinois University Edwardsville  
 Southern Illinois University Urbana Cham-  
 paign  
 University of St. Francis  
 Western Illinois University

## Out-of-State Colleges & Universities

Carleton College  
 Cornell College  
 Marquette University  
 Northern Michigan University  
 Oberlin College  
 Occidental College  
 Pomona College  
 Pitzer College  
 Saint Louis University  
 Santa Clara University  
 Seton Hall University  
 University of Puget Sound  
 University of Wisconsin-Parkside  
 Wartburg College  
 Whitman College



Choose Your Future: <http://www.chooseyourfuture.org/college/undocumented-students>

# Scholarships Made Just for You!

## **Discover Card Tribute Award Scholarship**

Award Amount: Up to ten scholarships of \$25,000 each

Deadline: January 31, 2011

Requirements:

- \* 2.75 GPA
  - \* Any high school Junior enrolled in an accredited U.S. high school
  - \* Can apply regardless of citizenship status
  - \* Demonstrated accomplishments in leadership, community service and has faced a significant road block or challenge
- American Association of School Administrators

801 N. Quincy St. Suite 700

Arlington, VA 22203-1730

Phone: (703) 841-1543

Fax: (703) 528-2146

[www.discoverfinancial.com/community/scholarships.html](http://www.discoverfinancial.com/community/scholarships.html)

## **MetroPCS Scholarship Program**

Metro PCS Community Scholars Program

PO Box 181713

Dallas, TX 75218

[www.metropcs.com](http://www.metropcs.com)

Keyword: Scholarship

Award Amount: \$1,000

Deadline: See Website

Requirements:

- \* Demonstrate community involvement
- \* Planning to enroll in a two-year/four-year college
- \* Must demonstrate financial need and academic excellence

## **HACU-CLASE**

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)-Coors

Light Academic Success in Education Award (CLASE)

Contact:

8415 Datapoint Drive, Suite 400

San Antonio, TX 78229

(210) 692-3805

[www.hacu.net/scholarships](http://www.hacu.net/scholarships)

Award Amount: \$1,000

Deadline: See website

Requirements:

- \* Full-time undergraduate or graduate students of any major in the U.S. (including Puerto Rico) or Mexico
- \* U.S. applicants must possess a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.2 and must be enrolled at one of HACU's member or partner colleges.
- \* For more details, please visit the website

## **A.R.E Scholarship**

(Undocumented Graduating Senior & Continuing College Students)

The Association of Raza Educators

PO Box 226768

Los Angeles, CA 90022

Contact:

[rasaeducators@aol.com](mailto:rasaeducators@aol.com)

[www.razaeducators.org](http://www.razaeducators.org)

Award Amount: \$1,000

Deadline: March 31st

Requirements:

- \* No Minimum GPA required, but will be taken into account
- \* Undocumented students are encouraged to apply.

## Even More Scholarships!

### “Que Lleva Café” Scholarship

Chicano Organizing & Research in Education

P.O. Box 160144

Sacramento, CA 95816

Contact: Jaime L Del Razo

[jdelrazo@ca-core.org](mailto:jdelrazo@ca-core.org)

Award Amount: \$500- \$1,000

Deadline: February 2011

Requirements:

\* Must be a graduating undocumented high school senior of Chicano/ Latino descent who will enroll in an accredited college or university in the U.S. or Puerto Rico for the 2011-2012 academic year.

\*Must demonstrate academic promise and must demonstrate their academic potential whether by GPA, college acceptance, recommendations, or essay.

\*Student must demonstrate financial need.

### Salvadoran-American Leadership & Educational Fund: SALEF Education for Excellence Program

1625 W. Olympic Blvd. Ste. 706 Award Amount: \$500- \$2,500 awarded annually

Los Angeles, CA 90015 Deadline: April 30, 2011  
(213) 480-1052 Fax (213) 480-2530

Contact: Mayra Soriano

[msoriano@salef.org](mailto:msoriano@salef.org)

Requirements:

[www.salef.org](http://www.salef.org) or [info@salef.org](mailto:info@salef.org)

\* Applicants must be Salvadoran, Central American, or other Latino background

\* Overall GPA should be at least 2.5

\* History of community service and involvement

\* Open to high school, undergraduate, & graduate students. Undocumented students are encouraged to apply.



# Words from the Wise



**Jason Ruiz—Assistant Professor of American Studies at Notre Dame :**

“No matter where you come from or your documentation status, I hope that you'll see college in your future. The average annual income of someone with a college degree in the United States is roughly double that of those who possess a high school diploma. This means that, over a lifetime, a person with a college degree earns more than \$2 million (as opposed to the \$1 million earned by someone with a college degree—a difference of a million dollars!).

Perhaps more importantly, college is a place where you will learn and grow as a person. Despite these tremendous benefits, fewer than 14% of Latinos in the United States currently hold a college degree (less than half the national average). This is the lowest college graduation rate among the racial and ethnic groups in the nation. So by going for a college degree, you can not only expect to make more money over your lifetime, you are poised to become a leader in our community. I won't lie and say that it's easy, but it's worth it—and lots of people will help you along the way. In the end, you, your family, and your community will all benefit from your college education.”



**Rebecca Ruvalcaba—  
Executive Director at La Casa de Amistad:**

“There is so much that can be given and taken away in our lives, but when it comes to an education ‘You’ earn it through hard work and dedication; and everything you learn and absorb NO ONE can take it from you.”



**Albert Gutiérrez—President & CEO at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center:**

“ I have always lived my life on the theme that one should utilize education to increase the number of options that are available . The promise of America is that we are able to pursue individual opportunities and when there are barriers in the way, they need to be overcome with the support of a strong family”

# Additional Resources



### Our Mission

To empower the Latino/ Hispanic community within Michiana by providing educational, cultural and advocacy services in a welcoming, bilingual environment.

## La Casa de Amistad, Inc.

746 South Meade Street  
 South Bend, IN 46619-3235  
 Phone: (574) 233-2120

### Programs and Services:

#### Education/Literacy

- ü Computer Classes (LULAC & Real Services)
- ü GED Preparation in Spanish
- ü ENL/ ESL Classes
- ü U.S. Citizenship Classes
- ü Financial/Budgeting Classes
- ü Pre-K- reading readiness (Yo Puedo Leer)
- ü After school/Tutoring Program
- ü Youth Leadership
- ü Spanish Classes (Summer only)

### Healthy Living

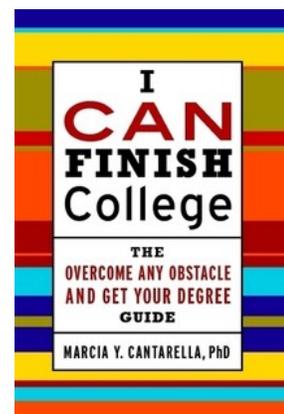
- ü Strengthening Families
- ü Mariposas Group
- ü Food Pantry
- ü Pre-natal Exams & Education (San Joseph Regional Medical Center)
- ü Blood pressure/Blood sugar screening (San Joseph Regional Medical Center)
- ü Nutrition Classes (PURDUE Extension)
- ü Dental Screening at La Casa (The Dental Center)

### Social Services

- ü Immigration Services
- ü Notary & Translations
- ü Letters to Travel
- ü Christ Child Referrals
- ü General information and Referrals

Marcia Cantarella, [I CAN Finish College: The Overcome Any Obstacle and Get Your Degree Guide](#)

Only 43% of college students finish college in Six Years! This book gives advice and guidance about how to overcome ANY obstacle to staying in school. How to Select your Major, What about Financial Aid, What if I Fail a Class, What Classes Should I Take & What Clubs/Groups should I Join? are among the questions answered in this resource for students!



# Acknowledgements

*Irish Blessing:  
May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back  
May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

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## **Institute for Latino Studies**

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Notre Dame, IN 46556  
5746314440  
[www.latinostudies.nd.edu](http://www.latinostudies.nd.edu)