

Paying for College: Dreamers, Immigrants, and International Students

FAFSA Citizenship Terminology

- U.S. Citizens
 - Naturalized and born citizens
- Eligible Non-Citizens
 - Students with documentation that Federal Student Aid considers “eligible” for federal aid
 - Categories include: Permanent Residents (Green Card), Refugees, Asylum Grantees, etc.
- Ineligible Students
 - Students with documentation that Federal Student Aid considers “ineligible” for federal aid or those without documentation
 - Categories include: Undocumented Students, students with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Temporary Protection Status (TPS), Deferred Enforced Departure (DED), etc.
- International Students
 - Foreign students who are going to attend (or are attending) college in the United States
 - International students are ineligible for federal aid from the FAFSA

FAFSA Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Undocumented Parents

Q: Can a student complete the FAFSA if they are a U.S. Citizen, but their parents are undocumented?

A: Yes. Their parent(s) will need to create an FSA ID and provide consent on the student’s FAFSA to qualify for any aid. If parents are hesitant about sharing personal information, please know that the Department of Education’s current policy states that it does not share data with immigration enforcement entities.

Ineligible Students

Q: If a student is ineligible for federal student aid such as grants, work-study, or student loans, what options do they have to pay for college?

A: Private scholarships are an option. If a student needs to do the FAFSA to qualify for a scholarship, work with their college’s financial aid office or Dream Centers (UofU/SLCC). In-state tuition may also be applicable – ask the college or university about qualifications under House Bill 144.

Eligible Non-Citizens

Q: How would a student know if they qualify as an “eligible non-citizen”?

Q: Can a student complete the FAFSA if they are an “eligible non-citizen”?

A: Yes. Eligible non-citizens should complete the FAFSA, they will need to provide their “Alien Registration Number” and Social Security Number on the form.

Examples categories are: U.S. permanent residents (Green Card), refugees, or asylum grantees.

Please review documentation that Federal Student Aid stipulates as “eligible” on the following website:

<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility/requirements/non-us-citizens>

International Students

Q: Can I file the FAFSA as an international student?

A: Most foreign citizens are not eligible for federal aid and will need a student visa to study in the U.S. Ask college admissions for more information about International Student Services.

Resources

House Bill (HB) 144

Utah law allows undocumented students to pay in-state tuition if the student:

- Attended a Utah high school for at least 3 years
- Has a Utah high school diploma or Utah GED
- Signs and submits an HB 144 affidavit.

House Bill (HB) 118

- For students who are foreign nationals or legally admitted into the United States with F-1, H-4, or J-1 visas.

House Bill (HB) 102

- Provides earlier access to in-state tuition depending on the student’s immigration status.

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Scholarship Resources for Refugee and Asylee Students

- One Refugee – onerefugee.org
- Immigrants Rising - immigrantsrising.org/resource/overview/
- University Alliance for Refugees and At-Risk Migrants (UARRM) - uarrm.org/toolkit
- Opportunity Scholarship & Financial Aid Estimator: studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/
- thedream.us

Resources for Undocumented Students

- University of Utah Dream Center: dream.utah.edu
- Salt Lake Community College Dream Center: slcc.edu/dreamcenter/