

Undocumented Student Career Guide



Getting Experience While in College:

Internships

- EXCEL Scholarship available for students that need help with financing while in a non-paid internship. There are opportunities for paid on campus internships available for student without DACA upon availability
- You can get up to 8 academic credits upon the completion of an internship.

Volunteer

- Volunteer at your local organizations and non-profits that may be in the field you are interested in

Leadership Roles

- Leadership Certificate Program
- Resolution Leadership Conference
- Schmitt Scholarship Program (leadership project component)
- Become an e-board member of a school organization

How to Find Experience

Make an appointment with Dominican's Career & Professional Success Office located in the Student Success and Engagement office (Crown Link 100) in person, through email (careers@my.dom.edu), or calling (708) 524-6786 (careers.dom.edu)

Continuing Your Education:

Private

- Higher Tuition but may offer better financial aid packages
- Some may not accept undocumented students into their graduate programs

Public

- Lower Tuition but funding will be dominated by public funds from state and federal dollars that undocumented students currently don't have access to

Join a School Organization

- Visit Engage DU to find organization that might interest you

Academic Projects/ Personal Projects

- Speak with your faculty or advisors for opportunities
- URSCI
- Summer Scholars
- NEBO (Non-Employment Based Opportunity)

Networking

- LinkedIn
- Family
- Friends
- Alumni
- Mentors
- Professors
- Coworkers and Supervisors

Networking is an important tool to have because it connects you to people that have gone through similar experiences and/or are allies for undocumented students. They can help guide you when you must decide in your career.

How Career & Professional Success can help

- Mock interviews in person or online
- Help you connect with Handshake and College Career Consortium of Illinois (CCCI) to locate employers that fit you
- Assist with polishing your resume and/or CV to help you become a strong candidate for your future job/internship

Different Types of Schools

Master's Programs: 2-3 year commitment geared towards increasing your knowledge and experience in a specific area

Ph.D. Programs: between 5-7 years and are focused on deeply increasing knowledge in one area to research and teach in academia or to perform a specific task in an industry environment

Professional school programs: prepare students for careers in specific fields, such as medical school, law school, and education programs, and can range from 1-3 years



What Matters in Your Application Process

- Getting a certain test score depending on the graduate program you are applying to (GRE, LSAT, GMAT, and MCAT)
- Your personal statement that differentiates you from the crowd
- Don't feel pressure to disclose your immigration status
- Ultimately, be sincere about your goals and experiences
- Academic Research either independently done or with the help of faculty
- Letters of Recommendation from people that know you well and that are from the area you are applying to
- GPA ; Graduate schools don't expect you to have a 4.0 GPA, so don't get discouraged from applying if you don't have a high GPA
- Resume or CV

Work Options:

Independent Contracting

A self-employed person who produces a specific type of work products in a determined amount of time where the payer (or employing agency) has the right to control or direct only the result of the work and not what will be done or how it will be done. Typically, independent contractors work for different employers/companies while doing the same work for them. When applying for employment, you can use either the SSN (provided with DACA) or an ITIN (obtained regardless of immigration status).

Examples:

- Tutoring
- Promotions
- Computer programming
- Child Care Any other skills that you may have that you think you can sell for profit where there is a need for those qualities

Mental Health

Having to be under stress about your immigration status can cause a serious mental health toll on you

- If you find yourself suffering from anxiety and depression, don't hesitate to contact the Wellness Center at (708) 524-6229 or dom.edu/wellness



How to Pay for College

Finding a school that fully pays for a Master's program is very difficult, but other options to fund for school can be the following:

- **Fellowships:** Designed to support graduate study in a specific field, research to advance work in a particular issue, or the development of a new community-based organization or initiative that is sponsored by a specific organization or association
- **Scholarships:** Ask the schools you are applying to guide you to relevant scholarships; there may be specific scholarships that the institution itself can award you
- **School Loans:** Contact local banks that may allow a private loan with a co-signer or even provide you with a small personal loan
- **Fundraising:** E-mail acquaintances for a small donation or create an online campaign (ex. GoFund me account)
- **Tuition reimbursement:** Check with companies to see if you can qualify for tuition reimbursement as long as you work for them and attend school

Creating a Worker Cooperative

- Agriculture
- Education
- Home services
- Eco-Care Professional Housecleaning Services
- Healthcare

Industry Careers

When to disclose your status?

- Provide information that is true and honest
- If you are not authorized to work, contact Career Development to discuss different strategies to speak with the employer
- If there is a full-time position offer, you could discuss with the employer about the option of being hired as an independent contractor
- How to disclose your status
- If you have DACA, there is no need to disclose your immigration status
- If you do not have DACA, don't feel the pressure to disclose your information since you are not mandated to discuss this information

Additional Resources:

If you do not know who to ask about your major or employment prospects because of your immigration status, look out for faculty, staff, and departments who display the DU Butterfly in their emails, offices and outside their office.

- They have been trained on how to help undocumented students
- They have volunteered to be allies for undocumented students on campus
- It's safe to trust them with any difficulties If you want to learn more about the above topics in more detail, visit [Life After College: A Guide For Undocumented Student published by Immigrants Rising Transforming Lives Through Education](#)

