

Adelante Education Coalition

Access to Education for All

Frequently Asked Questions

1) Can I enroll in a college if I do not have a Social Security number?

Yes. The University of North Carolina System and many private colleges and universities accept undocumented students. You can also:

- Enroll in *non-degree seeking* courses, such as English as a Second Language, at the NC Community College System's 58 local community colleges
- Participate in the Learn and Earn Program at your high school
- Attend proprietary or online schools
- Enroll in online programs sponsored by universities in your country of origin
- Return to your country of origin to study

2) Can I earn college credits while in high school if I do not have a Social Security number?

Yes. NC's Learn and Earn program allows students to earn college credits while still in high school; in no more than five years, students can earn a high school diploma and finish with two years of college credit or earn an associate's degree, at no cost!

In addition, qualified students in participating public high schools can take a variety of online college-credit courses at no cost through Learn and Earn Online. Students earn both high school and college credit for completed courses. Access to these courses is provided during the regular school day and an online course facilitator will assist students in the classroom.

To begin the process of enrolling in Learn and Earn, contact your school guidance counselor. They will provide you with specific information regarding your high school.

<http://www.nclearnandearn.gov/>

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/learnandearnonline/>

<http://www.learnandearn.nc.gov/learnEarnHighschools.htm>

3) What universities in my country of origin offer online degree programs?

The following list includes universities in Mexico that offer online degree programs geared towards people living in the United States¹. If you are interested in other countries, contact universities in that country directly.

Universidad del Valle de Atemajac (UNIVA) <http://unadis.univa.mx/>

Universidad Popular Autónoma del Estado de Puebla <http://online.upaep.mx/>

Universidad de Guadalajara Virtual <http://www.udgvirtual.udg.mx/>

Tec Milenio <http://www.tecmilenio.edu.mx/>

Consortio Clavijero <http://www4.clavijero.org.mx/>

4) How do I enroll in a community college or university if I have a Social Security number?

You should call the admissions office or go to the web site of the college or university to whom you plan to apply, but below are basic requirements for most colleges.

Application requirements at NC's community colleges include (1) a completed application and (2) current high school transcript. With the exception of the Certificate Programs in the Vocational Division, you will need a high school diploma or a GED. You will also need to schedule a placement test, which determines if you qualify to take college-level courses or if you will be required to take

¹ <http://www.educamexus.org>

pre-curriculum (developmental) courses prior to starting your college-level coursework. If you have obtained a score of 520 on the SAT Verbal and Math or a score of 21 on the ACT Math or ACT English, your placement exam requirement may be waived.

Application requirements at NC's public universities include (1) a completed application, (2) current high school transcript, including grades 9-11, senior year courses in progress, overall grade point average and class rank, (3) personal statement/essays, (4) official ACT or SAT test scores (please note that certain exam scores are used to place enrolling students in the appropriate Math, English, and foreign language courses), (5) teacher recommendation and/or counselor statement (not required at all universities but are recommended), and (6) a non-refundable \$70 application fee.

5) Will I be eligible for in-state tuition at NC public colleges or universities if I am undocumented or don't have a social security number?

No, you will not be eligible for in-state tuition at this time; you are required to pay out-of-state tuition.

6) What is the cost of a regular class for someone that is paying out-of-state tuition at NC public colleges or universities?

The tuition fee for out-of-state students at all community colleges in North Carolina is \$233 per credit; if you are taking a 3 credit hour class it would be a total of \$700 per class. Typically a student takes between 24 and 30 credit hours per year for a total of \$5,999 - \$6,999 per year.

The tuition rate for out-of-state students varies at public universities. It ranges from about \$10,000 to \$13,000 per year. If you want to live on campus, it costs an additional \$5,000 - \$7,000.

7) Where can I go for financial help if I am not eligible for in-state tuition?

Look for scholarships that do not require you to be a US Citizen or do not ask for your documentation status. Here are a few links:

www.maldef.org/pdf/Scholarships_072003.pdf

www.nygearup.org/collegesense/students/scholar_undoc.htm

www.latinocollegedollars.org/

www.fastweb.com

www.thencshp.org/resources/students/index.shtml

www.l.cfn.org/Student_Planner/Online_Learning_Opportunities/Online_Learning_Opportunities.aspx

Counselors and teachers may also be able to recommend local, community scholarships and may write letters of recommendation or review applications for you.

8) What is the DREAM Act and does it have any hope of passing?

The DREAM Act is a bill that has been introduced in the US Congress for several years. If passed, the "Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act" would facilitate access to college for immigrant students in the US by restoring states' rights to offer in-state tuition to immigrant students residing in their state. The DREAM Act would also provide a path to citizenship for hardworking immigrant youth who were brought to the US as young children and a path to pursue higher education or military service, enabling them to contribute fully to our society.

The DREAM Act is not a law², but hopefully will be re-introduced in the future. You can help by contacting US Senators and Representatives from NC and telling them your story and why it is important to YOU that the DREAM Act is passed. To find your elected official, go to: <http://www.ncleg.net/> and click on Representation. You can also contact their offices directly by dialing the U.S. Capitol switchboard number: (202) 224-3121.³

² <http://www.nilc.org/immlawpolicy/DREAM/index.htm>

³ http://www.nclr.org/section/dream_act_support