

# Adelante Education Coalition

## Access to Higher Education for Immigrant Students

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### Frequently Asked Questions

1) What is the general policy for admitting undocumented students into NC's 58 community colleges?

In September of 2009, and in March of 2010, the Board of the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) voted to admit undocumented immigrants to the state's 58 campuses. The NC General Assembly adjourned Saturday, July 10, 2010, without enacting a law to void the NCCCS rule adopted in March 2010. *Therefore, the rule allowing admission of undocumented students is now in effect, with some key restrictions.* Undocumented students applying for curriculum courses must have graduated from a US high school and may not displace a lawfully present student if classes are at capacity. These restrictions do not apply for non-curriculum courses such as ESL and GED.

2) Who should I speak with at my local community college about admissions if I don't have a social security number?

Not having a social security number does not make you different than other applicants. Colleges should not inquire about your legal status unless it is related to financial aid. It is recommended that you fill out a paper application that will allow you to leave that part of the application blank. *If you apply on-line you can fill out zeros for that part of the application.*

3) What are my options if the local community college tells me I can't enroll or does not admit me? Is there an appeals process? Can I apply to another community college or four year university?

Since all community colleges are now accepting undocumented students, we first suggest that you return with a copy of the NC Community College System memo (there is a link on [www.adelantenc.org](http://www.adelantenc.org)) and with community supporters (a teacher, parent, pastor, or other community leader). Together you can express that you know the policy has changed. If you want to appeal not being admitted, first see the Director of Admissions. If this is not effective then contact the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

You can also contact one of the following Adelante members for individualized help:

- NC Justice Center, Seonaid Rijo, Litigation Paralegal, 919-861-1466 or [seonaid@ncjustice.org](mailto:seonaid@ncjustice.org)
- NC Society of Hispanic Professionals, Teresa Cerrato, Director of Programs, 919-467-8424 or [mailbox@thencshp.org](mailto:mailbox@thencshp.org)

4) What classes am I eligible for if I don't have a social security number?

You can take any classes you want, just make sure that the programs that you are enrolled in will not require you to take a state certification exam (e.g., nursing). These courses require you to have a social security number.

As we understand it, an undocumented student will not be allowed to register for classes or be admitted into a specific program of study before the "last published (i.e. late) registration period," which is before the first day of classes. This period is not the same as the drop/add period.

5) What documents do I need to take when I go to enroll?

You should call the admissions office or go to the college web site to check, but most colleges require the following items:

- Official copies of high school transcript– you have to call your high school and ask them to send your transcript to the college of your choice. Make sure you know the college admissions office address.
- You will have to fill out an application, which you can obtain from the college website or in person at the admissions office.

6) Will I be eligible for in-state tuition if I am undocumented or don't have a social security number?

No, at this time you are required to pay out-of-state tuition.

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](http://www.maldef.org/pdf/Scholarships_072003.pdf)  
[www.nygearup.org/collegesense/students/scholar\\_undoc.htm](http://www.nygearup.org/collegesense/students/scholar_undoc.htm)  
[www.latinocollegedollars.org/](http://www.latinocollegedollars.org/)  
[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)  
[www.thencshp.org/resources/students/index.shtml](http://www.thencshp.org/resources/students/index.shtml)

Counselors and teachers, especially those with whom you have a good relationship, may also be able to recommend local, community scholarships and may write letters of recommendation or review applications for you.

8) What is the cost of a regular class for someone that is paying out-of-state tuition in a community college?

The tuition fee for out-of-state students in all community colleges in North Carolina is \$248.50 per credit; if you are taking a 3 credit hour class it would be a total of \$994 per class. Typically a student takes between 24 and 30 credit hours per year for a total of \$7952 - \$9940 per year.

9) What is the Learn and Earn Program and how can I participate in it?

Learn and Earn 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! 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. For more information: <http://www.nclearnandearn.gov/>

10) 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 United States Congress for ten years. If passed, the "Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act" would restore states' rights to offer in-state tuition to immigrant students residing in their state and provide a path to citizenship for hardworking immigrant youth who were brought to the U.S. as young children and a path to pursue higher education or military service.

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.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ncsl.org/section/dream\\_act\\_support](http://www.ncsl.org/section/dream_act_support)