

Applying for College

Tips for filling out your **application**

Applying for college makes everyone nervous, even more so if you are undocumented. One very important thing to remember is that you are not alone.

- **Do not claim you're a U.S. citizen or permanent resident if you're not.** You may choose to leave questions about citizenship or immigration status blank. (Making a false claim of U.S. citizenship or providing fraudulent information on an application can have serious consequences on your future immigration status or lead to criminal prosecution.)
- If the application asks for your Social Security Number, leave it blank unless you have your own valid Social Security Number, for example, through DACA.
- Fill out the rest of the application completely.
- If you are leaving some answers on your application blank, you may not be able to fill out the online application, as many will not let you continue to the next page until every section is complete. If that's the case you will have to send your application through the mail.

For more information, check out: The College Board's Guide to Applying for College

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/quick-guide-the-anatomy-of-the-college-application>

Will a school tell immigration I'm **undocumented**?

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), schools are not allowed to share your personal information from school records without your permission. There are some exceptions where the school may share your information without your consent, such as reporting suspicions of fraud involving Federal student aid or false claims of U.S. citizenship.¹

Keep in mind however, every school is a little different and has their own admissions policies. You can ask your high school counselor to help you find out more information, or ask a school's admission office directly. It can be very helpful to discuss your status with the admissions counselor so that he or she can tell you more about how the school's policies and resources that apply to you.

"It is best to speak to an admission advisor if you are confused about applying, and the universities policies for DACA students. Don't be afraid to tell them your situation, you may find that more opportunities may be presented when you're honest."

Xochitl Cossyleon

¹ 20 USC 1232g; 34 CFR 99.31; 34 CFR 668.16(g)