**Rev. 6/2023**

**Undocumented and DACA Student Financial Aid FAQ’s**

**Eligibility for Financial Aid**

**As an undocumented or DACA student, am I eligible for Federal Student Aid?**

No. Undocumented students, including DACA students, are not eligible for Federal Student Aid. ***However, you may be eligible for state financial aid and private scholarships.***

**As an undocumented or DACA student, am I eligible for in-state tuition?**

DACA and undocumented students may qualify for in-state tuition. Visit <https://www.nvcc.edu/dreamers/tuition.html> to view the eligibility requirements.

**Virginia Alternative State Aid (VASA) Eligibility**

**What is the VASA application?**

Students who are unable to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) may be considered for **state financial aid** by submitting the Virginia Alternative State Aid (VASA) application at <https://www.schev.edu/financial-aid/financial-aid/federal-state-financial-aid/vasa>.

**Who should complete VASA application?**

Virginian students who are nonimmigrants, undocumented, have Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status or are otherwise ineligible to file the FAFSA and would like to be considered for state financial aid. The VASA application provides access only to state financial aid.

**As an undocumented or DACA student, am I eligible for state student aid?**

You may be eligible for state student aid if you meet the following requirements:

* Meet the requirements to be considered a Virginia student.
* Demonstrate financial need and meet the requirements for a specific state program.

**Who is considered a Virginia student?**

To be considered a Virginia student, the student must demonstrate to the institution that the student meets at least one of the following three provisions:

1. Commonwealth’s domicile requirements (<https://www.schev.edu/financial-aid/in-state-residency>);
2. Military dependent provision (<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title23.1/chapter5/section23.1-505/>); or
3. Tuition equity provision (<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title23.1/chapter5/section23.1-505.1/>)

Students not meeting at least one of these requirements cannot be considered for most state financial aid programs. For example, students currently on an F-student visa, H3-trainee visa, J-exchange visitor visa, or M-vocational visa would not be eligible.

However, other individuals, including students with a nonimmigrant status, undocumented status, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status, could be eligible for state financial aid if they:

* Completed at least two years of high school in Virginia or the recognized equivalent,
* Finished high school in Virginia after July 1, 2008, and if they
* Filed at least two years of Virginia income tax returns (or if at least one parent/guardian filed Virginia taxes for at least two years in the case of dependent students).

**What happens after I submit the VASA application?**

After you submit the VASA application at <https://www.schev.edu/financial-aid/financial-aid/federal-state-financial-aid/vasa> and the application status indicates “Satisfied” on that website, the results will be sent to NVCC if you selected NVCC on your VASA application. Students may be asked to submit additional documents before eligibility is determined.

**When is the deadline to complete the VASA application?**

If you are ineligible to submit the FAFSA and wish to apply for state financial aid, you should submit the VASA application by the priority application date noted below based on when you plan to enroll.

* Fall Semester: March 1
* Spring Semester: October 1
* Summer Semester: April 1

**How often should the VASA application be completed?**

The VASA application uses information provided for a specific tax year and therefore needs to be completed annually.

**Should I complete the FAFSA or VASA application?**

Complete a quick questionnaire at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FAFSAorVASA> for more guidance.

**Scholarships Eligibility**

**What kind of scholarships can I apply for as an undocumented student?**

Private scholarships have various criteria. If you meet the requirements stated for the scholarship you should apply. Review scholarships offered by NOVA’s Foundation at <https://nvcc.academicworks.com/>. Also, check out the list of scholarships for undocumented students (DACA, TPS, and Asylum Seekers) provided at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/15SXT8niFN4ATjzE-ocVYa3SVeBwZ1kVaniW9Sqw44EI/edit>.