March 1, 2018

Dear students, families, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of Penn:

I write to update you on Penn's resources for undocumented students, including those with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) status.

We hope this set of resources, along with ongoing, in-person information sessions and outreach initiatives, will provide support to our Penn community.

Please feel free to share this information widely. We will periodically update the University’s DACA website (www.vpul.upenn.edu/undocumented.php).

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Valarie Swain-Cade McCoullum
Vice Provost for University Life
DACA and Undocumented Student Resources

The University of Pennsylvania benefits greatly from the rich diversity of all undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. As part of that commitment to inclusion, Penn provides access and support to undocumented students, including those with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) status.

We have established a phone number and email address for questions and referrals to DACA resources and support:

215-573-3222 (3-DACA)
DACAinfo@upenn.edu

If you require immediate assistance - e.g., if you or someone you know has been taken into custody by immigration or law enforcement - contact

for 24-hour assistance to be connected to necessary services.
All Penn students can benefit from accessing University resources and forging relationships with caring, committed staff and faculty. Examples of supportive spaces that can be helpful to undocumented students and those with DACA status include:

**Penn DACA Resources and Support**
DACAinfo@upenn.edu  
215-573-3222 (3-DACA)

**Legal Assistance**

**Penn Law Transnational Legal Clinic**
215-898-8044

The Penn Law Transnational Legal Clinic is available to provide DACAmented and undocumented members of the Penn community free and confidential legal consultations to answer any questions pertaining to immigration status and possible immigration enforcement actions. Clinic office hours are Monday-Friday, 9am-5:30pm. Appointments are preferred.

If you need legal representation, the clinic will either represent you directly or provide you with a referral to an outside immigration lawyer. If you are an international student and/or are here on an F-1, J-1, or H-1 visa, you should first contact

**International Student and Scholar Services**
isss@pobox.upenn.edu  
215-898-4661

If you require immediate assistance - e.g., if you or someone you know has been taken into custody by immigration or law enforcement - contact

for 24-hour assistance to be connected to necessary services.
Cultural and Community

Center for Hispanic Excellence: La Casa Latina: 215-746-6043
Graduate Student Center: 215-746-6868
LGBT Center: 215-898-5044
Makuu: Black Cultural Center: 215-573-0823
Pan-Asian American Community House (PAACH): 215-746-6046
Penn Women's Center: 215-898-8611

Health and Wellness

Counseling and Psychological Services, including providers trained to assist students with cultural and family of origin concerns: 215-898-7021
Student Health Service: 215-746-3535

Academic and Pre-Professional

Career Services, including DACA work rights, employers who hire undocumented students, and graduate school resources: 215-898-7531
Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships (CURF): 215-746-6488
Tutoring Center: 215-898-8596
Weingarten Learning Resources Center
(Office of Learning Resources: Office of Student Disabilities Services): 215-573-9235

Financial


Student-to-Student Resource

Penn for Immigrant Rights
Undocumented students and those with DACA status may wish to consult external resources in the Philadelphia region or nationally. Examples of resources that could be helpful include the following, none of which are explicitly endorsed by the university:

**National Resources**

- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
- Educators for Fair Consideration, includes scholarship information and resources for faculty and staff working with undocumented students
- National Immigration Law Center
- USCIS DACA
- United States Department of Education Supporting Undocumented Youth
- United We Dream

**Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Resources**

- African Cultural Alliance of North America
- Asian Americans United
- Esperanza Legal Services
- HIAS PA, statewide immigration organization offering immigration and legal services
- Juntos
- Nationalities Service Center
- Penn State Center for Immigrants’ Rights Clinic: Immigration After the Election
- Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition
- Philadelphia Pro Bono Legal Services
- Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Associations Coalition
- Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians
ADMISSIONS

Q: Do I need to have Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) to apply to Penn?
A: Any person can apply to Penn regardless of citizenship status or country of origin.

Q: Is admission need-blind or need-aware for undocumented students?
A: Students with American, Mexican, and Canadian citizenship and residency meet Penn’s requirements for need-blind admissions. Students from countries other than USA, Mexico, and Canada are under need-aware policies.

Q: If I am admitted as an undocumented student without health care, how can I seek medical treatment while at Penn?
A: All Penn students are required to have some form of medical insurance. Undocumented students qualify for the Penn Student Insurance Plan (PSIP) so they can receive care at Student Health Service and other providers. Students without the means to pay for PSIP may receive assistance from Student Financial Services (SFS) to cover the cost.

Q: Once admitted, how should I travel to Philadelphia to begin my studies at Penn?
A: Please consult legal resources to ensure that changing current events have not impacted ease of travel. Generally, domestic flights require an official government identification for which students can present currently valid passports from their countries of citizenship. Students should contact the local consular office of their country of citizenship to inquire about obtaining a valid passport. DACA students with a work permit may use their permit as ID. Students should travel with their Penn admissions letter and other relevant information, such as high school transcript, attesting to their student status.

Q: As an undocumented Penn student, will I be able to pursue summer internships or research opportunities?
A: Undocumented students with DACA may apply to a range of pre-professional opportunities, but are ineligible for positions that require citizenship, such as jobs in the federal government. Students without DACA could qualify for internships with stipends. See "External Resources" for more information.
**FINANCIAL AID**
*Visit Student Financial Services (SFS) for even more useful information*

**Q:** As an undocumented student, am I eligible for financial aid at Penn?

**A:** Yes, undocumented students are eligible for institutional financial aid in the form of Penn grants, which do not need to be repaid. They must complete the CSS Profile and the Penn Financial Aid Supplement Form (PFAS). Visit SFS for more specific information.

**Q:** What kind of financial aid does Penn offer?

**A:** Penn is proud of its need-blind admissions policy for students who hold American, Mexican, and/or Canadian citizenship. An applicant’s financial need is considered for citizens from other countries than the U.S., Mexico, and Canada. Penn promises to meet the demonstrated financial need of all admitted undergraduate students, for eight semesters. Undocumented students qualify for institutional aid in the form of Penn grants. Students and families may opt to borrow to pay for the expected family contribution.

**Q:** As an undocumented student, can I take out a loan?

**A:** Undocumented students with a co-signer who is a U.S. citizen can borrow from private lenders. Undocumented students are not eligible for federal financial assistance, including federal loans. Student Financial Services will work closely with undocumented students to review borrowing options.

**Q:** Are undocumented students eligible for financial aid for summer courses?

**A:** All students go through the same process to apply for summer financial aid. Contact Student Financial Services for more information.

**Q:** I don’t have a bank account, how can I manage my money at Penn?

**A:** SFS Advisors will work with students to review local banking or credit union options and can help students set up a direct deposit account to facilitate transfer of funds.

**CAMPUS LIFE**

**Q:** Can I do study abroad, international research or global internships if I am undocumented, with or without DACA status?

**A:** Effective September 5, 2017, DACA status students are no longer eligible to apply for advanced parole permission to travel abroad. Undocumented students with or without DACA status are strongly advised against international travel due to the risks associated with leaving and re-entering the country without necessary immigration documents.

**Q:** Will my immigration status impact my ability to join or lead Penn student organizations?

**A:** Penn has more than 600 student organizations. Most groups do not require background checks, but some organizations that work with minor children require background checks. Groups that receive federal funding may impose restrictions that could impact undocumented students.
STATEMENT FROM PENN PRESIDENT AMY GUTMANN ON THE REPEAL OF DACA

This is a heartbreaking day for our country. President Trump’s decision to repeal the DACA program threatens hundreds of thousands of young people who were raised in America, love this country and are an integral part of the American Dream. We know the Dreamers to be gifted and successful students who have grown up in our communities, attended our schools, and who are poised to make vital contributions to our nation’s economic strength, creativity, and global competitiveness. The repeal of DACA will mean the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs in the United States and hundreds of billions of dollars in economic growth over the next decade. In addition, the direct impact of repeal and deportation will cost tens of billions of dollars. Because this is a matter of grave urgency for our country, I respectfully call upon Congress to act promptly to pass bipartisan legislation to permanently protect the Dreamers. This is both the humane and wise thing to do.

At Penn, we are committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all of our students and we will do everything we can to support and assist the Dream Act students who are valued members of our community.
As you know, the Trump Administration announced that it will begin to phase out the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status granted to an estimated 800,000 young people across our nation, pending further action by Congress.

This shortsighted decision violates our core principles as a University community - indeed, as a nation. This country was founded by immigrants and exiles. We have all, generation after generation, fought and strived to achieve our dreams in the United States.

We will continue to voice our concern for, and our support of, the Dreamers and urge Congress to act to rectify the Administration's decision in the months ahead. More important, we will do everything in our power to protect and defend our amazing Penn students. We vigorously reaffirm the commitments that we first made in November.

* The University of Pennsylvania will ensure that current undocumented and DACA recipients continue to receive financial aid, fellowship stipends, and any related support that is currently being provided or that will be needed for them to complete their studies at Penn.

* The University of Pennsylvania will protect the privacy of its students. While we will comply with all proper legal requests, we will not release information about any student to Immigration and Customs Enforcement or any other law enforcement agency without proper legal authority.

The Office of the Vice Provost for University Life will host an information session to answer questions and express support for our students on Thursday, September 14 from 12-1:30 p.m. at a place to be determined. You will also find an FAQ for DACA and undocumented students at: vpul.upenn.edu/undocumentedAdmissionsAidFAQ.php.

We encourage all affected students to work closely with our staff members who are highly trained to support the specific needs of undocumented and DACA students, especially in Penn Global, the Greenfield Center, La Casa Latina, the LGBT Center, MAKUU, PAACH, and the Women’s Center. They will have the most up-to-date information and can help them work with Student Financial Services and other campus offices, coordinate wellness and academic support, and arrange housing if they need to stay on campus during University breaks and holidays.

We encourage all members of our community to take full advantage of our support resources:

Student Health Service: 215-746-3535
Counseling and Psychological Services: 215-898-7021

It is more vital than ever for us to reaffirm our values of inclusion, diversity, and mutual respect as a shared community. We will continue to keep you informed as the national situation moves forward.