

Undocumented/DACA Student FAQ (Staff/Faculty)

What does it mean to be undocumented?	The term ‘undocumented immigrant’ refers to anyone residing in any given country without legal documentation. It includes people who entered the U.S. without inspection and proper permission from the government, and those who entered with a legal visa that is no longer valid.
What does DACA mean?	Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is a temporary program enacted in 2012 that provides relief from deportation and work authorization for immigrants brought to America as children. While there have been attempts to end the program by several presidential administrations, the program has been upheld by the Supreme Court and several other smaller courts.
What is the difference between being undocumented and having DACA?	DACA students are undocumented by nature of their DACA status. To hold DACA status you must be undocumented and have been brought to the US as a child, as well as meet certain other criteria. So, one could say that all DACA students are undocumented, but not all undocumented students are DACA students.
Can undocumented/DACA students legally attend college in the US?	There is no federal or state law that prohibits the admission of undocumented immigrants to U.S. colleges, public or private. Federal or state laws do not require students to prove citizenship in order to enter U.S. institutions of higher education. Yet institutional policies on admitting undocumented students vary. Additionally, undocumented students are not eligible for any federal or state financial aid, so the cost of attendance is often even more burdensome on them than their documented peers.
How many undocumented/DACA students are on Daemen’s campus?	The community of undocumented/DACA students at Daemen is largely unknown, but based on experiences of admissions counselors working with students it seems to be extremely small. The financial strain once informed that they cannot utilize federal

	<p>financial aid is often too much for students to continue through the admissions process, and even those few who do come to campus often do not stay long past their first year. Despite this, any student you may come across who is undocumented/DACAmented will likely be fearful of the repercussions of disclosing their status to an authority figure, in case of deportation or reporting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This means that being educated on the issues and needs of students is important to keeping them safe and their information confidential.
What are the laws surrounding reporting undocumented/DACA students on a college campus?	According to FERPA, school officials cannot disclose personal information about students — including their immigration status.
How do I know if a student is undocumented/DACAmented?	<p>Students who are undocumented/DACAmented are unlikely to offer this information or to disclose their status, especially to an authority figure such as a campus security officer, out of fear of being reported to ICE or another government body. This makes supporting them sometimes difficult because it is hard to know when to offer resources and when not to. Some ways that undocumented/DACA status may manifest are (but are not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hesitancy to discuss issues around their family or their home life • Increased anxiety, especially when engaging with police or law enforcement • Difficulty accessing basic necessities (food insecurity, housing instability, etc)
What are the best practices for working with or supporting undocumented/DACA students?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not request information about a student's immigration or documentation status under any circumstances. Students should be empowered to share that information when and where they feel safe to do so. • Challenge your assumptions of what an undocumented person looks like. Despite what the media tells us, not all undocumented people or immigrants are Spanish-speaking, Latinx, or from Mexico. In fact, of the refugee and special immigrants that were relocated to NYS in 2020, over 74% were from four source

	<p>countries: The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Burma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If a student discloses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assure them that they are not in danger of being reported to ICE, deported, etc. ○ Ask what type of resources would be most of assistance to them - legal, academic, financial, etc (the CDI has a webpage with links to resources that can be distributed if helpful) ○ Let the student know that Daemen supports them no matter what their documentation status is and that there are people here to help them. Offer them the link to the CDI's Undocumented Student Resources page and let them know where our office is (DS115). Our staff is here 8:30am-4:30pm and can assist them if they would like any further support. ● Understand your obligations if ICE were to show up on campus seeking a student (FERPA does not allow you to disclose any student information to anyone unless under warrant) ● Consider showing support for undocumented/DACA students through public placards, buttons, etc. These let students know that you are a safe authority figure to come to if they are in danger or if they need help ● Be considerate and intentional in your use of language. Never refer to people as “illegal” or “aliens,” only “undocumented” or “immigrants”
Who do I reach out to with any additional questions or concerns?	Bee Taylor (they/them pronouns) is the Coordinator of Diversity & Inclusion and can be reached at btaylor@daemen.edu , 716-839-7224, or in DS115.