

Immigrant Student Opportunities for Going to College



Courtesy of cdashnaw.wordpress.com



What we will cover

- Legal information
- Prepare for college
- Getting into a college or university
- Financial Aid
- Scholarships
- Other ways to find money
- Stories from students

Most of the Latinos Who Go To College are...

- First generation
- Low income
- Less academically prepared than their peers, based on their high school education
- Enrolling to Community Colleges
 - They tend to concentrate in non-selective universities
- www.edexcelencia.org

Legal Overview



Courtesy of collegeboard.com



The DREAM Act

- The **Dream Act** is a piece of proposed federal legislation that would provide achieving undocumented high school students the opportunity to obtain permanent residency.

The DREAM Act

- Some of the act's provisions:
 - ❑ Proof of having arrived in the United States before age 16.
 - ❑ Proof of residence in the United States for a least five (5) consecutive years since their date of arrival.
 - ❑ Having graduated from an American high school, or obtained a GED.
 - ❑ Good moral character

The DREAM Act

- What it would do:
 - Undocumented youth would be able to attend college at in-state tuition.
 - They could also serve in the Armed Forces
 - At the end of a 6 year period, if they completed 2 years in the armed forces, graduated from a community college, or completed two years at a university, they would be eligible to become a permanent resident.

Tuition Equity at the State Level

- Since 2001, ten states have enacted tuition equity legislation. California, New York and Texas being the most notable.
- Tuition equity legislation is NOT immigration reform
- Allows undocumented students to attend public colleges and universities in their home state at resident tuition rates.
- Most tuition equity legislation requires:
 - Students attend high school in the state from 1-3 years
 - Graduate from high school in that state
 - Provide an affidavit stating that the student has

What's Going on Now?

- Several states, including Massachusetts, Connecticut, Virginia and Wisconsin, have or are currently debating tuition equity policy.
- Most of these bills follow the pattern set by the preceding states that have enacted tuition equity policy.
- Like in Colorado, public support for the bills facilitates their passage into law



Courtesy of jegass.com



In Colorado...

- Colorado legislators have attempted, on several occasions, to pass tuition equity legislation.
- The latest attempt was in the 2009 legislative session with Senate Bill 170.
- Would have permitted students who graduated from Colorado high schools to attend public colleges and universities at an in-state tuition rate
- Was narrowly rejected in the Senate earlier this year.

Dual Enrollment,

ASCENT Law (Accelerating Students through Concurrent Enrollment)

- Establishes a statewide concurrent-enrollment plan that gives high school students an opportunity to earn a college degree while finishing high school.
- Must enroll in 9th grade
- Must keep a minimum GPA in high school and college
- Must provide own transportation/books

Dual Enrollment,

Ascent Law

- Ask your high school counselor
- Enroll even if you are not sure you want to do it
- If one counselor does not give you an answer, keep asking!
- Ask at your local community college

Understand the Law

- Students must be U.S. Citizens or legal residents to apply for federal financial aid. (It is ok if your parents are not, so long as you, the student) has legal status.
- **Know your state's laws** regarding undocumented students and stay up-to-date on changes in the laws. In Colorado, only Colorado residents are eligible for state financial aid. Without legal status, you are not eligible for Colorado Financial aid.
- **There are scholarships available** to undocumented students.
- Currently, there is no official role a school can play in helping students become documented.

Everyone Can Go to College

- **There is no federal or state law that prohibits the admission of undocumented immigrants to U.S. colleges and universities.** Nor does federal or state law require students to prove citizenship in order to enter U.S. institutions of higher education. However, institutional policies on admitting undocumented students vary.
- **Many state institutions charge undocumented students out-of-state tuition fees** (even if the student is a longtime resident of the state), and this policy can put college out of their reach financially.
- <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/guidance/financial-aid/undocumented-students>



Prepare for college

- Earn excellent grades
- Get involved in school and with community
- Take college prep classes
- Take college courses while in high school
- Practice the ACT/SAT
- Research your options
- Stay updated on immigration information



College Options

- In state
 - Community Colleges
 - 4-year Colleges/Universities
 - Private Universities
- Out of state
 - (Surrounding Partnerships, Private Universities)



In State

- Colorado Community College System
 - 13 community colleges in CO
- Metro State – Extended Campus
- Must pay out-of-state tuition

Out of State

New Mexico-Colorado Tuition Reciprocity Agreement:

- Allows 300 students from Colorado to enroll in different colleges throughout New Mexico at in-state tuition rates
- Over 90 students can attend the University of New Mexico at in-state tuition rates
- Check at school
- Agreement ended June 30th 2009, no announcement on renewal yet.

<http://www.unm.edu/~unmreg/reciprocal.htm>

<http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/Programs/>

Out of State

- **SOME SCHOOLS OUT OF STATE ARE MORE AFFORDABLE!**

Nebraska:

Chadron State College:

<http://www.csc.edu/> ----- \$12,588 per year, tuition & fees + room & board

Peru State College (Offers in-state tuition to all students regardless of residency):

<http://www.peru.edu/> ----- around \$9000 per year, tuition & fees + room & board

Wayne State College:

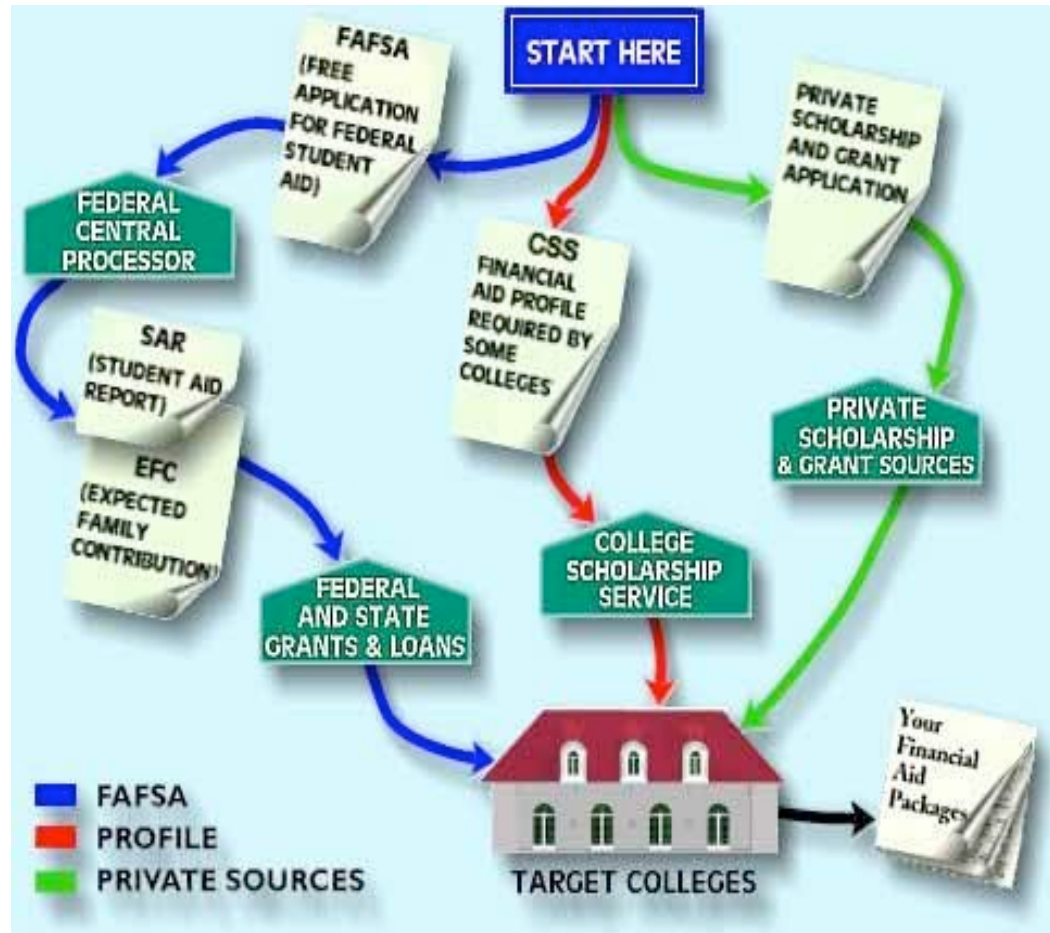
<http://www.wsc.edu/> ----- around \$14,000 per year, tuition & fees + room & board

Western Nebraska Community College:

<http://www.wncc.net/> ----- around \$7500 per year, tuition & fees + room & board

- ***Do your research! There are several opportunities at individual schools.***

Financial Aid



Courtesy of www.ehow.com



Courtesy of www.cognitionignition.com/

How Much Does College Cost?

Average cost=
Tuition+Room & Board

AVERAGE COSTS PER ACADEMIC YEAR		
Community College	Public University	Private University
In-state Tuition \$1,309-\$3,483	In-state Tuition \$10,852-\$15,269	\$22,218-\$38,562
Out-of-state Tuition \$6,432-\$8,603	Out-of-state Tuition \$21,855-\$26,397	

Source: Hispanic Scholarship Fund

How to Pay for College

FINANCIAL AID

FAFSA ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

STATE FINANCIAL AID

PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS

FAFSA

College Opportunity Fund

FAMILY CONTRIBUTION

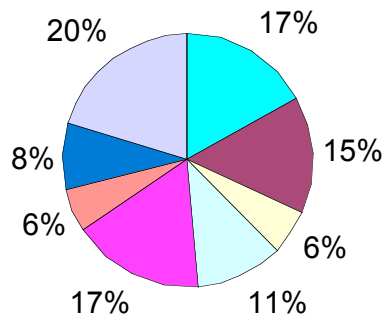
Scholarships

Average Financial Aid Package

4-Year College/University

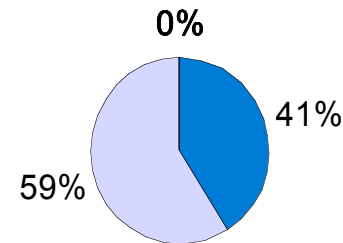
Total Costs \$17,194

FAFSA ELIGIBLE STUDENT



- Federal Grant
- Federal Loan
- Work-Study
- State Grant
- Institutional Grant
- Institutional Scholarships
- Private Scholarship
- Family Contribution

UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT



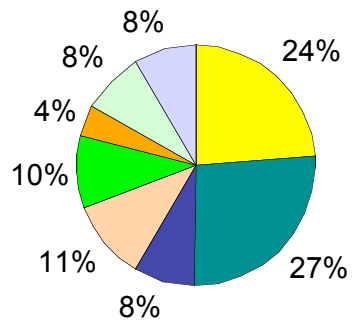
- Federal Grant
- Federal Loan
- Work-Study
- State Grant
- Institutional Grant
- Institutional Scholarships
- Private Scholarship
- Family Contribution

Average Financial Aid Package

Community College

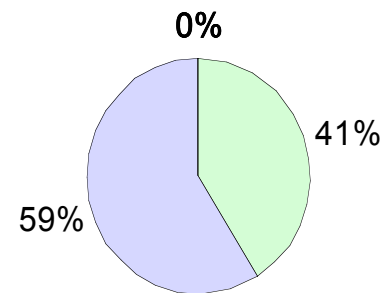
Total Costs \$6,000

FAFSA ELIGIBLE STUDENT



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- Institutional Scholarships
- Private Scholarship
- Family Contribution

UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT



- Federal Grant
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Federal Student Aid

- FAFSA is an application used to determine student eligibility for financial aid, including grants, loans, and work-study programs
- In addition, some schools use the FAFSA to award non-federal aid

Federal Student Aid

- Grants
 - Pell
 - Academic Competitiveness
 - SMART
- Loans
 - Stafford-subsidized and unsubsidized
- Work-Study Programs

Federal Student Aid

- Who is eligible:
 - US Citizens or Permanent/Legal Residents of the United States
 - A US Citizen whose one or both parents are undocumented

Federal Student Aid

- Important Things to Consider
 - ❑ The FAFSA may be rejected when the parents submit a Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) that is valid for work purposes only.
 - ❑ If the parents DO NOT have a SSN, they should use 000-00-0000 on the FAFSA
 - ❑ www.student.ed.gov
 - ❑ www.fafsa.ed.gov



State Financial Aid

- College Opportunity Fund (COF)
- Grants
- Loans
- Work-Study
- Scholarships

State Financial Aid

College Opportunity Fund

- Stipend offered by the State of Colorado to eligible students who attend a participating Colorado Public or private institution
- Each student may receive stipend funding for up to 145 credit hours
- www.cof.college-assist.org



State Financial Aid

College Opportunity Fund

- Who is eligible?
 - US Citizens or Legal Residents with a SSN planning to attend a participating school in the state of Colorado
 - Students only need to apply ONCE in their lifetime



Scholarships

- Financial Aid awarded to a student on the basis of financial need or merit
- There are also scholarships available for specific programs or areas of study



Scholarships

- Your scholarship applications must be competitive.
- Attention to detail matters.
- Community involvement matters.
- Do not miss deadlines.
- Identify people to help you be competitive.

Scholarships

- Databases (for all students)
 - Latin American Educational Foundation
 - www.laef.org
 - National Association of Hispanic Publications Foundation
 - <http://www.scholarshipsforhispanics.org/>
 - Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF)
 - www.maldef.org/education/scholarships.htm
 - Latino College Dollars
 - <http://www.latinocollegedollars.org/>
 - Higher Education Access Alliance
 - <http://www.heaacolorado.org>

Other ways to find money

- Create realistic budget with student and parents
- Open savings account
- Try to work and save money for school
- Create list of community contacts for sponsorship
- Fundraisers—yard sale, tamales, etc.
- If other students are planning to attend same school, plan to live together, share expenses, books
- Talk to people you trust about scholarships and sponsorships
- If someone says “No”, KEEP TRYING, **DO NOT GIVE UP!**

What are options after college?

- Continue pursuing further education
- Study/Work in a different country
- Demonstrate your motivation and commitment for a better future
- Possible sponsorship by a corporation
- **DO NOT GIVE UP!**

Resources

- Latin American Educational Foundation
Olivia Mendoza omendoza@laef.org
www.laef.org
- Higher Education Access Alliance
www.heaacolorado.org
- Sign our thank you cards for legislators who support Tuition Equity and DREAM Act