

# THE ULTIMATE GUIDE FOR COLLEGE BOUND UNDOCUMENTED GEORGIA STUDENTS

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## INTRODUCTION

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- 2 Immigration Overview
- 3 Purpose
- 4 How to Use This Guide

## TWO YEAR TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

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- 6 List of Schools in Georgia
- 7 Applying
- 8 Tuition and Financial Aid

## FOUR YEAR PUBLIC COLLEGES

---

- 11 Georgia Law and HB 87
- 12 Dream Act and other State Legislatures
- 14 List of schools in Georgia

## FOUR YEAR PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

---

- 16 List of schools in Georgia
- 17 Applying
- 18 Financial Aid Opportunities

## FINANCIAL AID REGARDLESS OF SCHOOL CHOICE

---

- 20 Scholarship Bank
- 22 Loans

## FAQ/ ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

---

- 24 Frequently Asked Questions
- 27 Additional Resources
- 31 Additional Web Resources
- 32 Bibliography

# INTRODUCTION

“Absolute identity with one’s cause is the first and great condition of successful leadership”

Woodrow Wilson

# IMMIGRATION OVERVIEW

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One must understand that the current flow of immigration is largely the result of relationships between various countries and the socioeconomic inequality that separates them. The intrinsic problem of our current immigration system encompasses not just one erroneous idea but a chain reaction of numerous ineffective policies, views, and sequence of events taken place in America's history. Illegal immigration is a widespread, heated issue. Recent immigration laws such as SB 1070, HB 87 and the recent Alabama law have intensified problems of unemployment, racial profiling and discrimination among the general population of immigrants.

These laws have a tremendous effect not only on the unauthorized immigrants residing in the country, but on businesses and the surrounding community as well. What many people seem to ignore or purposely overlook are the millions of children of undocumented immigrants who didn't choose to move to the United States, but feel this is their home and are stuck in a system where they cannot legally drive, vote, work, or take advantage of several work study and financial aid opportunities in college. Most undocumented students came to the United States at a very young age. Many came to the U.S. with valid documentation but lost their legal status when they overstayed their visas. The large majority have attended school in the country for their entire high school career and some have even attended an American school since pre-K or Kindergarten. Some know no other nation but the United States of America.

There isn't a more evident place where we can see the extent of dysfunction in the United States immigration system than in some of Georgia's public high schools. It is here that undocumented students receive much of their knowledge and decide to drop out of high school or further their education in college. Around 65,000 undocumented students who have lived in the United States for a minimum of five years graduate from high school each year. These children make up almost fifteen percent of the total undocumented immigrant population in the United States. Many of them are academically prepared for postsecondary education as is evident by their GPA, transcript and standardized test scores. Though acceptance to college isn't a barrier for many of these students pursuing higher education in most states, they face obstacles when applying for financial aid since federal grants, loans, and scholarships generally require the applicant to provide a social security number, green card or proof of residency or citizenship. For most students, it is tough to accept being rejected, not for lack of knowledge or credentials but for lack of a social security number. Due to economic barriers and lack of motivation these students face in high school, only an estimated five to ten percent of undocumented students attend a college or four year institution after graduation. It's crucial to recognize that decisions made by policy makers, local and national government authorities and colleges and universities have tremendous impact on the lives of these students. By making college education gradually less and less accessible to these students we are potentially lowering the socioeconomic status of future generations, not to mention declining the largely hidden potential of students from a wide range of backgrounds.

While K- 12 education was guaranteed in *Plyler vs. Doe* (1982), the Supreme Court failed to adequately address the fate of undocumented students once they enrolled for post-secondary education. . Contradictions such as these in our immigration laws have prevented many of these students from achieving their educational goals and have brought a greater dilemma; whether to provide these students with the same opportunities granted to legal residents by establishing some kind of pathway to legalization.

# PURPOSE

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This guide is directed toward school counselors and students advocates, but primarily towards the undocumented youth in Georgia high schools who desperately seek a college education. There is a huge misconception that students who are undocumented or have not resolved their immigration status cannot attend college. This is not true. A large number of undocumented high school students graduate each year, but only a select few continue their education in college. The potential society is losing as these students fail to continue their education is grand. Because we feel that education delivers unlimited opportunities, we have attempted to provide undocumented students with the general information needed to apply to a college in Georgia, or possibly to an out of state institution. Obtaining higher education for these students is considerably difficult, but education is something that once achieved cannot be taken away from the individual. We hope to make these students aware that despite being denied admission to the top five Georgia public colleges, there are many other colleges and universities willing to accept them, both in and out of the state of Georgia.

Our purpose is to provide a route for teachers, students and counselors. By providing information on the college application process, scholarships and other types of financial aid, we hope among other things, to answer student's most pressing questions. There are many gray areas in the application, admissions and financial aid processes that make it difficult to apply to colleges, scholarships and other types of financial aid. However, understanding their status and immigration laws can help students make wise decisions when it comes to college planning. Though most of the information we have provided is specific to the state of Georgia, generic tips are applicable to a wider audience. Since changes in legislature are occurring quickly, we've attempted to include the most updated information; nonetheless, feel free to verify our information and resources with your high school counselor, teacher or potential college.

# HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

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This guide is meant to give you easy, go-to information. Clearly we don't intend to provide you with all of the information that is available. If you find that you already know much of the information presented, it may be more effective to view only select sections of the guide that you are interested in. If you find it helpful, pass this guide along to friends, students and counselors who may find it practical as well.

## **To students:**

RELAX. You've found the right help. We are here to tell you that are not alone. Though the exact number of illegal immigrants in the state of Georgia is almost impossible to predict, experts believe there are nearly 480,000 illegal immigrants in the state of Georgia. Clearly, there are a multitude of other students in your same situation also looking for college options. Despite the financial barriers, we hope to reiterate the right you have as an individual to pursue higher education. This guide is meant to give you smart, trustworthy tips to put you one step ahead in your research process. We hope to give you the basics on applying to college and financial aid to get you where you want to go. This guide was designed with your interests in mind, so don't be afraid to exploit all of our resources. Good luck in your application and college search process!

## **Teachers and counselors:**

Using this guide may help you provide direct access and other resource to undocumented students who request assistance in their college application and financial aid process. By listing many of the basic technical schools in Georgia as well as financial aid options, we hope to provide a one stop resource for information regarding scholarships, grants, loans, school applications and more. We feel that undocumented students much like first generation college students highly benefit from being exposed to college information early on in their high school years. This way, they are reassured that there are college options and resources available to help them finance their education. We hope to encourage the student to take rigorous courses and take necessary measures to prepare for college once they realize that there are college options available in Georgia and other surrounding states.

What you (teacher or counselor) can do:

- Explain requirements for financial aid
- Explain your state's law
- Connect student with necessary resources

# TWO YEAR TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

“Success is sweet: the sweeter if long delayed and  
attained through manifold struggles and defeat”

A. Branson Alcot

# LIST OF TWO YEAR TECH SCHOOLS IN GEORGIA (Do not require proof of lawful presence)

**Albany Technical College**  
1704 South Slappey Blvd.  
Albany, GA 31701-2648  
[www.albanytech.edu](http://www.albanytech.edu)

**Altamaha Technical College**  
1777 West Cherry Street  
Jesup, GA 31545  
[www.altamahatech.edu](http://www.altamahatech.edu)

**Chattahoochee  
Technical College**  
980 S. Cobb Drive  
Marietta, GA 30060  
[www.chattahoocheetech.edu](http://www.chattahoocheetech.edu)

**Columbus Technical College**  
928 Manchester Expressway  
Columbus, GA 31904-6572  
[www.columbustech.edu](http://www.columbustech.edu)

**Georgia Northwestern Technical**  
One Maurice Culberson Drive  
Rome, GA 30161-6757  
[www.gntc.edu](http://www.gntc.edu)

**Georgia Piedmont Technical**  
495 North Indian Creek Drive  
Clarkston, GA 30021  
[www.gptc.edu](http://www.gptc.edu)

**Gwinnett Technical College**  
5150 Sugarloaf Parkway  
Lawrenceville, GA 30043-5702  
[www.gwinnetttech.edu](http://www.gwinnetttech.edu)

**Lanier Technical College**  
2990 Landrum Education Drive  
Oakwood, GA 30566  
[www.laniertech.edu](http://www.laniertech.edu)

**Middle Georgia  
Technical College**  
80 Cohen Walker Drive  
Warner Robins, GA 31088  
[www.middlegatech.edu](http://www.middlegatech.edu)

**Moultrie Technical College**  
800 Veterans Parkway North

**Athens Technical College**  
800 U.S. Hwy. 29 N  
Athens, GA 30601-1500  
[www.athenstech.edu](http://www.athenstech.edu)

**Atlanta Technical College**  
1560 Metropolitan Pkwy. SW  
Atlanta, GA 30310  
[www.atlantatech.edu](http://www.atlantatech.edu)

Moultrie, GA 31788  
[www.moultrietech.edu](http://www.moultrietech.edu)

**North Georgia  
Technical College**  
1500 Hwy 197 N.  
Clarkesville, GA 30523  
[www.northgatech.edu](http://www.northgatech.edu)

**Oconee Fall Line  
Technical College**  
1189 Deepstep Road  
Sandersville, GA 31082  
[www.oftc.edu](http://www.oftc.edu)

**Ogeechee Technical College**  
1 Joe Kennedy Blvd.  
Statesboro, GA 30458-8049  
[www.ogeecheetech.edu](http://www.ogeecheetech.edu)

**Okefenokee Technical College**  
1701 Carswell Avenue  
Waycross, GA 31503  
[www.okefenokeetech.edu](http://www.okefenokeetech.edu)

**Savannah Technical College**  
5717 White Bluff Road  
Savannah, GA 31405-5591  
[www.savannahtech.edu](http://www.savannahtech.edu)

**South Georgia  
Technical College**  
900 South Georgia Tech Parkway  
Americus, GA 31709-8104  
[www.southgatech.edu](http://www.southgatech.edu)

**Augusta Technical College**  
3200 Augusta Tech Drive  
Augusta, GA 30906  
[www.augustatech.edu](http://www.augustatech.edu)

**Central Georgia  
Technical College**  
3300 Macon Tech Drive  
Macon, GA 31206  
[www.centralgatech.edu](http://www.centralgatech.edu)

**Southeastern  
Technical College**  
3001 East 1st Street  
Vidalia, GA 30474  
[www.southeasterntech.edu](http://www.southeasterntech.edu)

**Southern Crescent  
Technical College**  
501 Varsity Road  
Griffin, GA 30223  
[www.sctech.edu](http://www.sctech.edu)

**Southwest Georgia  
Technical College**  
15689 U.S. Hwy. 19 N  
Thomasville, GA 31792  
[www.southwestgatech.edu](http://www.southwestgatech.edu)

**West Georgia  
Technical College**  
176 Murphy Campus Blvd.  
Waco, GA 30182  
[www.westgatech.edu](http://www.westgatech.edu)

**Wiregrass Georgia  
Technical College**  
4089 Val Tech Road  
Valdosta, GA 31602  
[www.wiregrass.edu](http://www.wiregrass.edu)

Tip:

Research colleges and universities ahead of time to learn about entrance requirements, financial aid and possible scholarships!

# APPLYING

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General undergraduate admission to the technical colleges mentioned above depends much on the rigor of your high school classes as well as your performance in them. In addition to looking at your transcript and GPA, colleges focus on your standardized test scores (SAT, ACT, COMPASS tests) and extracurricular activities (community service, clubs and religious activities). Colleges generally prefer few consistent activities rather than an endless amount of activities done on and off throughout your high school career. While admission to a technical school tends to be a little easier than admission to state or private schools, you should strive to have a higher than average application. The competitiveness of the schools mentioned above varies, but as a general rule these colleges will not accept students without a **minimum** 2.0 or 2.20 GPA. The higher your GPA and standardized test scores, the more likely you are to be accepted and qualify for financial aid. Since most of these schools are smaller than state schools, you are likely able to speak personally with a representative or admissions counselor regarding the application or financial aid process.

Note that not all schools require you to take the SAT or ACT. If you plan to attend a school in the Technical College System of Georgia you are eligible to take the COMPASS test. Athens Technical College and Georgia Gwinnett College both administer the COMPASS test. Contact a school or glance their website for testing dates, fees and other test taking policies.

Many of these schools are not subscribed to the Common App, so be prepared to fill out a different application for each school. Freshman applications for these schools may be found and submitted through their website. Most technical schools will not have an interview option unless they are particularly interested in some area of your application or they require the interview for admission to a particular program.

## Application checklist:

- SAT/ ACT/ COMPASS test scores
- Student Application
- \*Teacher Recommendation
- \*Essay
- Transcript
- Counselor form
- Mid- term grade report

\*While not all colleges require an essay or letter of recommendation, you may want to include these in your application package if you feel they would more accurately reflect your high school achievements or improve your chances of acceptance. Additionally, the essay gives you an opportunity to show colleges who you are and highlight attributes not covered on your transcript or standardized tests.

# TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID

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Unfortunately, undocumented Georgia students are ineligible for in-state tuition. This means that students must pay either out of state tuition or international student fees which can be up to four times as much as the tuition charged to legal Georgia residents. Illegal residents of the state also cannot take advantage of Georgia's most common merit based aid such as the HOPE scholarship or HOPE and Pell grants. As an undocumented student, you should avoid applying to state or federal financial aid because you are required to provide adequate documentation and will not receive the financial aid unless you do so. Despite the high tuition, there are several financial aid opportunities that are private, institution based or awarded due to merit that do not require the student to be a permanent resident or United States citizen.

For a brief idea of tuition rates for the aforementioned colleges, look at Pg. 31 under our *additional resources* section. Below we have included the tuition fees of a few of these colleges.

Some of the pros of attending a technical college or community college are the lower costs of tuition, flexible schedules and smaller class sizes. Additionally, many of these schools serve as transition schools for students who wish to transfer to a four year school after their first year.

## **Athens Technical College's policy towards undocumented students:**

(<http://www.athenstech.edu/Catalog/Tuition%20and%20Fee%20Information.pdf>)

"Residents of the State of Georgia who are undocumented aliens will pay tuition at a rate of two times the regular rate. All fees, including registration, student activity, supply, accident insurance and instructional and technology support, are the same as for in-state residents. International students may enroll in classes for which space is available and may not displace students desiring to enroll who are residents of the state."

Tuition:

\$ 2,060 per 12 credit hours per semester

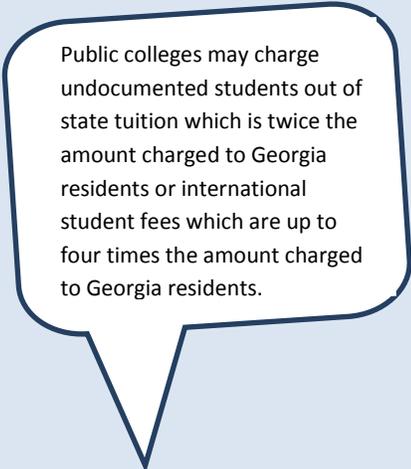
(Out of state tuition charges)

## **Atlanta Technical College's policy towards undocumented students**

<http://www.atlantatech.edu/admissions/AtlantaTechnicalCollegeFeeSchedule.php>

Tuition: \$ 4,104 per 12 credit hours per semester

(International student charges)



Public colleges may charge undocumented students out of state tuition which is twice the amount charged to Georgia residents or international student fees which are up to four times the amount charged to Georgia residents.

## **Institutional Aid:**

**Athens Tech- (<http://www.athenstech.edu/Foundation/scholarship.cfm>)**

[High School Merit-Based Scholarship](#) is offered each annually to a High School student graduating from one of the high schools based upon rotation of schools in Athens Technical College's service area. For 2011-2012, these schools are Madison County, North Oconee County, Oconee County, Oglethorpe County, Monroe, Loganville, and Walton Career Academy.

[Award for Excellence in Technical Instruction Scholarship](#) is awarded each year to the applicant with the highest cumulative GPA.

[Robert G Shelnett Memorial Scholarship](#) is offered each year to a student who demonstrates the highest-level evidence of good citizenship, work ethics, and leadership at Athens Technical College.

[David C White Memorial Scholarship](#) is offered each year to a student in a Technical division eligible program.

**Gwinnett Technical College ([http://www.gwinnetttech.edu/content.cfm?PageCode=gpcf\\_scholar](http://www.gwinnetttech.edu/content.cfm?PageCode=gpcf_scholar))**

[Walton Electric Membership Company Scholarship](#) Two scholarships of \$500 each will be awarded for use from Summer Semester through the following Spring Semester. Funds are to be used for tuition, books, or program supplies.

[Jean Sheaffer Scholarship](#) One \$250 scholarship to be used during an academic year, Summer Semester through Spring Semester. Scholarship funds are to be used for tuition, books or program supplies and used solely for the benefit of the individual receiving the scholarship. Before funds will be disbursed, the Foundation Office must receive a note of thanks from the recipient to the donor(s) to be mailed by the Foundation Office.

[AMERICMED EMS](#) It is the donor's intent that a scholarship for \$1,500 be awarded over the course of the paramedic program. Scholarship funds must be used for tuition and fee, books, program supplies, or related educational needs. You must be enrolled in the program prior to applying.

# FOUR YEAR PUBLIC COLLEGES

“You cannot uneducate the person who has learned to read, you cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore”

César Chávez

# GEORGIA LAW AND HB 87

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In October of 2010 the board of Regents put into effect a law that bans undocumented students from enrolling in the state's most popular public colleges. These colleges include the **University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, Georgia State, the Medical College of Georgia and Georgia College and State University**. These colleges stopped accepting undocumented students beginning fall semester of 2012.

This policy is referred to as 4.1.6. It is worded as follows:

**A person who is not lawfully present in the United States shall not be eligible for admission to any University System institution which, for the two most recent academic years, did not admit all academically qualified applicants (except for cases in which applicants were rejected for non-academic reasons).**

House Bill HB 59 is a bill that would ban undocumented students from attending ANY public college in the state of Georgia. The bill would essentially require all 35 public colleges in Georgia to verify the immigration status of their students. The bill failed get to the House in 2011 but may be recalled in 2012.

Currently undocumented students in the state of Georgia are able to apply to any public or private college in Georgia with the exception of UGA, Georgia Tech, Georgia State, the Medical College of Georgia and Georgia College and State University. However, institutional policies towards undocumented students vary.

**HB 87** is a law passed in March of 2011. HB 87 does the following:

- Forces businesses with more than 10 employees to use the E-verify database to check each worker's status.
- Punish people who use fake identification to get a job with up to \$250,000 in fines and 15 years in prison.
- Allows police officers to check a suspect's immigration status as long as they have "reasonable suspicions"
- Gives training to police officers to enforce immigration laws
- Outlaws use of foreign consular identification cards for any official purpose

Though HB 87 isn't directed specifically towards undocumented students the law is designed to difficult daily tasks for undocumented persons- such as entering a government building to which they must provide some form of identification.

# “DREAM ACT” AND OTHER STATE LEGISLATURES

The DREAM Act has been introduced in congress several times beginning in 2001. It’s most recent version was introduced in 2010 but lacked five votes in the senate to pass. The Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act would give undocumented students who comply with the necessary requirements the opportunity to apply for permanent residency. It would also make students eligible for federal work study and student loans.

Due to increasing frustration and lack of the federal government to address the issue, states themselves have introduced legislation designed to increase or limit the educational opportunities of undocumented students. Most states’ legislatures revolve around changing in- state tuition, the ability of undocumented students to enroll in college and ability of the students to receive federal financial aid.

While no state can legalize the status of unauthorized immigrants, twelve states have conditionally granted undocumented high school students in- state tuition. Students seeking in- state tuition in these states must meet **at least** the following requirements:

- Attended a high school in the state for a minimum of three years (not necessarily consecutive). Some states require student to live in the state a minimum of four years.
- Graduated from a state high school or received GED in the state
- Must be enrolled in a public state college or university
- Sign an affidavit with post-secondary institution stating that the student has filed an application to legalize his or her immigration status and intends to become a legal resident as soon as he or she is eligible.

*~ Note that qualifying for in- state tuition does not change your legal status or make you eligible for federal financial aid.*

## STATES THAT OFFER IN-STATE TUITION TO UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

STATE	YEAR OF PASSAGE/LAW NUMBER	FINANCIAL AID
California	2001 AB 540	Yes
Connecticut	2011 HB 6	No
Illinois	2003 HB 0060	Limited
Kansas	2004 HB 2145	No
Maryland	2011 HB 470	No
Nebraska	2006 LB 239	No
New Mexico	2005 SB 82	Yes
New York	2002 SB7784	No
Rhode Island	2001	
Texas	2001 HB 1403	Yes
Utah	2002 HB 114	No
Washington	2003 HB 1079	No

*In 2001 Texas became the first state to grant unauthorized immigrants in- state tuition. In 2008 Oklahoma ended its support for instate tuition for students unable to prove lawful presence in the country. In 2011, Wisconsin revoked a similar law enacted in 2009 which gave undocumented immigrants with proper requirements the opportunity to pay in- state tuition fees.*

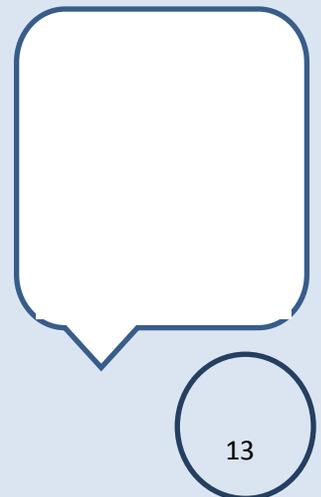
The legislation that these states offer represents a struggle to grant undocumented students, who would otherwise qualify, the opportunity to pay in-state tuition. Since there is no federal law that clarifies state's rights with respect to in-state tuition for undocumented students, there is a constant fight at the state level between those who favor and those who adamantly oppose higher educational opportunities and increased financial aid for undocumented students.

The Illegal Immigration Reform and Responsibility Act of 1996 states that undocumented persons "shall not be eligible on the basis of residence within a State for any postsecondary education benefit unless a citizen or national in the United States is eligible for such a benefit." Hence it does not prohibit individual states from offering in-state tuition but requires other citizens to receive the same benefit. Still, there is much controversy to this law, since states have the power to create legislation that grants undocumented students in-state tuition and decide what constitutes a "resident" or "postsecondary benefit."

In recent years the political environment for the immigration debate has tensed partially due to the economic instability in the country. State's policies with regards to undocumented students and in-state tuition have begun to fluctuate and create disparity between policy makers. In the state of Oregon SB 742 is the state's fourth attempt to grant undocumented students in-state tuition. The North Carolina college system has changed its policy towards undocumented students five times since 2001. Not surprisingly, more immigration laws have been enacted in an attempt to halt the large amount of unauthorized immigration. The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) reports that in 2010 alone, more than 1,400 immigration bills were introduced in the United States.

#### **State approaches towards undocumented students vary.**

- From the list above California, New Mexico and Texas allow students access to state aid. The rest of the states from the previous chart grants students in-state tuition but not state financial aid.
- Arizona, Georgia, Colorado, Indiana and Oklahoma explicitly prohibit undocumented students from receiving in-state tuition.
- The state of Alabama bans undocumented students from all public two year colleges.
- South Carolina bans undocumented students from all public colleges.
- The state of Georgia bans undocumented students from a few public colleges including Georgia Tech, the University of Georgia, the Medical College of Georgia, Georgia State and Georgia College and State University.
- The remaining states have no state wide policy to ban or provide in-state tuition rates for undocumented students.



# LIST OF FOUR YEAR PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN GEORGIA

(Must pay out of state tuition if allowed to attend)

## **Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College**

2802 Moore Hwy.  
Tifton, GA 31794  
229-391-5020  
[www.abac.edu](http://www.abac.edu)

## **Albany State University**

504 College Drive  
Albany, GA 31705  
229-430-4724  
[albanystate.edu](http://albanystate.edu)

## **Armstrong Atlantic State University**

11935 Abercorn St.  
Savannah, GA 31419  
912-344-2575  
[armstrong.edu](http://armstrong.edu)

## **Augusta State University**

2500 Walton Way  
Augusta, GA 30904  
706-737-1725  
[www.aug.edu](http://www.aug.edu)

## **Clayton State University**

2000 Clayton State Blvd.  
Morrow, GA 30260  
678-466-4959  
[www.clayton.edu](http://www.clayton.edu)

## **College of Coastal Georgia**

3700 Altama Ave.  
Brunswick, GA 31520  
912-279-5860  
[www.ccca.edu](http://www.ccca.edu)

## **Columbus State University**

4225 University Ave.  
Columbus, GA 31907  
706-565-3649  
[www.colstate.edu](http://www.colstate.edu)

## **Dalton State College**

650 College Dr.  
Dalton, GA 30720  
[www.daltonstate.edu](http://www.daltonstate.edu)

## **Fort Valley State University**

1005 State University Drive  
Fort Valley, GA 31030  
478-825-6211  
[www.fvsu.edu](http://www.fvsu.edu)

## **Gainesville State College**

P.O. Box 1358  
Gainesville, GA 30503  
678-717-3639  
[www.gsc.edu](http://www.gsc.edu)

## **Georgia College & State University**

231 W. Hancock St.  
Milledgeville, Georgia 31061  
478-445-2633  
[www.gcsu.edu](http://www.gcsu.edu)

## **Georgia Gwinnett College**

1000 University Center Lane  
Lawrenceville, GA 30043  
678-407-5000  
[www.ggc.edu](http://www.ggc.edu)

## **Georgia Southwestern State University**

800 Wheatley St.  
Americus, GA 31709  
229-931-2280  
[www.gsw.edu](http://www.gsw.edu)

## **Georgia Southern University**

P.O. Box 8158  
Statesboro, GA 30460  
912-478-3955  
[www.georgiasouthern.edu](http://www.georgiasouthern.edu)

## **Gordon College**

419 College Drive  
Barnesville, GA 30204  
770-358-3083  
[www.gdn.edu](http://www.gdn.edu)

## **Kennesaw State University**

1000 Chastain Road, MB #1601  
Kennesaw, GA 30144  
770-499-3080  
[www.gdn.edu](http://www.gdn.edu)

## **Macon State College**

100 College Station Drive  
Macon, GA 31206  
478-471-2761  
[www.maconstate.edu](http://www.maconstate.edu)

## **Middle Georgia College**

1100 Second Street, S.E.  
Cochran, GA 31014  
478-934-3057  
[www.mgc.edu](http://www.mgc.edu)

## **North Georgia College & State University**

Highway 60 South  
Dahlonega, GA 30597  
706-864-1935  
[www.northgeorgia.edu](http://www.northgeorgia.edu)

## **Southern Polytechnic State University**

1100 South Marietta Parkway  
Marietta, GA 30060  
678-915-7778  
[www.spsu.edu](http://www.spsu.edu)

## **Savannah State University**

3219 College Avenue  
Savannah, GA 31404  
912-356-2186  
[www.savannahstate.edu](http://www.savannahstate.edu)

## **University of West Georgia**

1601 Maple Street  
Carrollton, GA 30118  
678-839-6552  
[www.westga.edu](http://www.westga.edu)

## **Valdosta State University**

1300 N. Patterson Street  
Valdosta, GA 31698  
229-333-5959  
[www.valdosta.edu](http://www.valdosta.edu)

# FOUR YEAR PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

“Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected  
are as outraged as those who are.”

Benjamin Franklin

# LIST OF FOUR YEAR PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN GEORGIA

(Do not require proof of lawful presence)

## **Agnes Scott College**

141 East College Avenue  
Decatur, GA 30030  
[www.agnesscott.edu/](http://www.agnesscott.edu/)

## **Art Institute of Atlanta**

6600 Peachtree Dunwoody  
Road,  
NE 100 Embassy Row Atlanta,  
GA 30328  
[www.artinstitutes.edu/atlanta/](http://www.artinstitutes.edu/atlanta/)

## **Atlanta College of Art**

1280 Peachtree Street  
Northeast Atlanta, GA  
[www.aca.edu/](http://www.aca.edu/)

## **Berry College**

2277 Martha Berry Highway  
Northwest Mount Berry, GA  
30149  
[www.berry.edu/](http://www.berry.edu/)

## **Brenau University**

Northeast Brenau Lane  
Gainesville, Georgia 30501  
[www.brenau.edu/](http://www.brenau.edu/)

## **Brewton Parker College**

201 David-Eliza Fountain Circle,  
P. O. Box 197  
Mount Vernon, GA 30445  
[www.bpc.edu/](http://www.bpc.edu/)

## **Clarke Atlanta University**

223 James P. Brawley Drive,  
SW Atlanta, GA 30314  
<http://www.cau.edu/>

## **DeVry University- Georgia**

One West Court Square  
Ste. 100  
Decatur, GA 30030  
<http://www.devry.edu/>

## **Emmanuel College**

181 Spring Street  
Franklin Springs,  
Georgia 30639  
[www.ec.edu/](http://www.ec.edu/)

## **Emory University**

201 Dowman Drive,  
Atlanta, Georgia 30322  
[www.emory.edu/](http://www.emory.edu/)

## **LaGrange College**

601 Broad Street,  
LaGrange, GA 30240  
[www.lagrange.edu/](http://www.lagrange.edu/)

## **Life University**

1269 Barclay Circle,  
Marietta, GA 30060  
<http://www.life.edu/>

## **Luther Rice University**

3038 Evans Mill Road  
Lithonia, GA 30038  
[www.lru.edu/](http://www.lru.edu/)

## **Mercer University**

1400 Coleman Avenue,  
Macon, Georgia 31207  
[www.mercer.edu/](http://www.mercer.edu/)

## **Morehouse College**

830 Westview Drive  
Atlanta, Georgia 30314  
[www.morehouse.edu/](http://www.morehouse.edu/)

## **Morehouse School of Medicine**

720 Westview Drive  
SW Atlanta, GA 30310  
<http://www.msm.edu/HomePage>

## **Oglethorpe University**

4484 Peachtree Road  
Northeast Atlanta, GA 30319  
[www.oglethorpe.edu/](http://www.oglethorpe.edu/)

## **Piedmont College**

595 Prince Avenue  
Athens GA 30601  
[www.piedmont.edu/](http://www.piedmont.edu/)

## **Reinhardt College**

300 Reinhardt Circle  
Waleska, GA 30183-2981  
[www.reinhardt.edu/](http://www.reinhardt.edu/)

## **Savannah College of Art and Design**

342 Bull Street  
Savannah, GA 31402  
[www.scad.edu/](http://www.scad.edu/)

## **Shorter College**

315 Shorter Avenue  
Rome, Georgia 30165  
<http://www.shorter.edu/>

## **Spelman College**

350 Spelman Lane  
S.W. Atlanta, GA 30314-4399  
<http://www.spelman.edu/>

## **Thomas University**

1501 Millpond Road,  
Thomasville, Georgia 31792  
<http://www.thomasu.edu/>

## **Toccoa Falls College**

325 Chapel Drive  
Toccoa Falls, GA 30598  
[www.tfc.edu/](http://www.tfc.edu/)

## **Truett-McConnell College**

100 Alumni Drive  
Cleveland, Georgia 30528  
<http://www.truett.edu/>

## **Wesleyan College**

4760 Forsyth Road  
Macon, Georgia 31210  
[www.wesleyancollege.edu](http://www.wesleyancollege.edu)

## **Young Harris College**

1 College Street P.O. Box 68  
Young Harris, GA 30582  
<http://www.yhc.edu/>

# APPLYING

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Applying to private colleges is easier than you think. Most of these colleges allow their applications to be completed through the **Common App**. The Common App is a college admission application that allows students to apply to multiple colleges with a single application. Colleges may also require a supplement which can also be submitted through the Common App web site. The application will require you to submit an essay, list your classes, activities, clubs and community service. These colleges also have the option of completing and submitting their application online.

Admission to these colleges varies. Private schools in general tend to be much smaller than public schools and usually have smaller applicant pools. Competiveness among them also ranges.

The small size of the colleges offers several advantages to potential students. You are easily able to call or email a college representative and ask questions or schedule an interview. Keep in mind that colleges consider interest when viewing applicant's files. Private colleges also tend to be more specialized. Many of the above specialize in fields such as medicine or liberal arts. When completing applications be sure to send in the following:

## Application checklist:

- SAT or ACT
- Student Application
- Teacher Recommendation
- Essay
- Transcript
- Counselor form
- Mid- term grade report

### Tip:

Get to know a college better by scheduling a campus visit or informal interview. This way you will be able to speak personally with a representative from the college and ask your most persistent questions in addition to seeing the facilities on campus.

# FINANCIAL AID OPPORTUNITIES

The following chart summarizes financial aid available to undocumented students.

	<b>US citizen</b> Holds a US passport or US birth certificate	<b>Legal Permanent Resident</b> Has a green card	<b>Visa Holder</b> Has valid, non- expired visa	<b>Undocumented</b> Has no documentation or pending application
Federal Aid	YES	YES	NO	NO
State Aid	YES	YES	NO	NO
Georgia Hope, Federal Pell and other government grants	YES	YES	NO	NO
In- state Tuition	Yes if student is a Georgia resident	Yes if student is a Georgia resident	In rare cases- depends on visa	NO
Government sponsored student loans	YES	YES	NO	NO
Institutional Aid	YES	YES	Depends on visa and school’s policy	Depends on school’s policy
Work Study	YES	YES	NO	NO
Scholarships	Depends on eligibility requirements	Depends on eligibility requirements	Depends on eligibility requirements	Depends on eligibility requirements

Financial aid: Most available financial aid for undocumented students varies on a school by school basis. It is up to the school to decide how much financial aid, if any is available for undocumented students. Colleges typically have institutional based scholarships that range from a couple of thousand dollars to covering entire tuition. **Note that the financial aid options listed below are just samples.** You can find many more institutional based aid on the colleges’ websites.

**Oglethorpe Need-based Grants** are available to full-time day undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need by completing the FAFSA. Oglethorpe Need-based Grants in conjunction with federal, state, private, or institutional assistance cannot exceed the student’s financial need.

**Academic Scholarships and Grants-** Merit-based Tuition scholarships are awarded to full-time entering students by the [Office of University Admissions](#). Merit-based awards are applied to tuition only. If another source pays full tuition, the merit-based award is cancelled. Mercer University funds are renewed for a total of 8 semesters and are not available for summer semester. Mercer scholarships and grants require full-time enrollment (at least 12 hours).

# FINANCIAL AID REGARDLESS OF SCHOOL CHOICE

“All great achievements require time”

Maya Angelou

# SCHOLARSHIP BANK

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Students may apply for financial aid through competitive scholarships. Your chance of earning the scholarship is determined by a variety of factors including the competitiveness of the scholarship, prestige and eligibility criteria. Keep in mind that you are **competing** for the scholarship meaning that the scholarship isn't awarded to every applicant. Scholarships below fall into two categories; those that do not require permanent residency or citizenship to be redeemed and those directed specifically towards undocumented students. When looking for additional scholarships keep in mind that legitimate scholarships do not ask for an application fee. Contact each scholarship provider or view their website for application details and additional requirements.

General scholarships:

## **Fountainhead essay contest**

Essay submissions are evaluated in a fair and unbiased four-round judging process. Judges are individually selected by the Ayn Rand Institute based on a demonstrated knowledge and understanding of Ayn Rand's works. No application is required. Contest is open to students worldwide. Entrant must be in the 11th or 12th grade.

<http://essaycontest.aynrandnovels.com/TheFountainhead.aspx?theme=blue>

## **La Mujer Universal Scholarship (for women only)**

Sponsored by the Delta Alpha Chapter at the University of Georgia. only one winner will be selected to receive the \$500 prize. Requirements include a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale, leadership abilities and must attend a public high school in the Atlanta Metropolitan area. At least one parent must be of Latino heritage.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MuSSryZd1Tt5YYzz-AK7p6SHnx12AQ-5JkCuJsmZrIQ/edit?hl=en\\_US%23+&pli=1#](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MuSSryZd1Tt5YYzz-AK7p6SHnx12AQ-5JkCuJsmZrIQ/edit?hl=en_US%23+&pli=1#)

### Tip:

Start a scholarship folder to keep information about potential scholarships organized and at your reach. Plus save past essays and personal statements!

## **SALEF's "Fulfilling Our Dreams Scholarship" Fund**

financial assistance and support to undergraduate, graduate and professional often making the difference in whether a student can attend college or not.

Applicants must be of Latino ethnicity and plan to reside in California. Awards from \$500-\$2,500.

[https://www.collegetoolkit.com/scholarships/awards/fulfilling\\_our\\_dreams\\_scholarship/6180.aspx](https://www.collegetoolkit.com/scholarships/awards/fulfilling_our_dreams_scholarship/6180.aspx)

## **Veterans of Foreign Wars Scholarship**

Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Competition Award Range: Up to \$30,000 Minimum GPA: N/A Scholarship requires applicant to voice their opinion in a three- to five-minute essay based on an annual theme in the scope of patriotism. Must be younger than 20 years of age. An original 3-5 minute essay recorded on a standard cassette tape or CD on the given theme for the year.

<http://www.vfw.org/index.cfm?fa=cmtty.levelc&cid=1836>

### **Pride Foundation Scholarship:**

Applicant must be a resident of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, or Washington but may study elsewhere. Preference is given to students who are self-identified lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT), members of LGBT families, or straight-allies who have been strongly supportive of the LGBT community . Scholarships emphasize demonstrated commitment to human and civil rights for all people More than 50 scholarships offered; fill out one application Designed to promote leadership and diversity in the sexual minority community.

<http://www.pridefoundation.org/scholarships/>

### **Dr. Alma S Adams Scholarship**

The scholarship, named for founding Legacy board member, Dr. Alma S. Adams will award two \$5,000 scholarships to pursue undergraduate or graduate studies at an accredited institution of higher education in the United States. The awards will be granted on a competitive basis for the following: a) a record of commitment to community service on behalf of an underserved community, preferably related to tobacco prevention and/or control and b) the best use of the visual arts, media, creative writing or other creative endeavor to convey culturally appropriate health messages aimed at raising awareness of tobacco's harmful impact. Minimum 3.0 GPA required.

<http://www.legacyforhealth.org/adams-scholarship.aspx>

### **Share your story scholarship contest**

Submit a common application essay. Essays will be judged and the top 150 essays will go into Share Your Story Book. <http://www.shareyourstoryessays.com/Home.php>

### **Davis Putter Scholarship**

The first and most important qualification for a Davis-Putter Scholarship is active participation in struggles for civil rights, economic justice, international solidarity or other progressive issues. We also evaluate the applicant's financial need and ability to perform academically at the college level. Davis-Putter scholars are both graduate and undergraduate students and must be enrolled in an accredited school and receiving college credit for the time period covered by their grant.

<http://www.davisputter.org/apply.html>

### **Status Specific Scholarships:**

#### **MyUsearch scholarship**

Scholarship will be open to both international and undocumented students, i.e.: any students who are NOT citizens of the United States. We will award \$1000 to the international student who can best answer (with a **video** or an **essay**):

**“How will the completion of a US degree impact your life, your family and your home community?”**

<http://myusearchblog.com/myusearch-scholarship-for-international-and-undocumented-students>

#### **Que Llueva Café Scholarship**

This Scholarship was founded with the intent of providing a direct response to what is an unfair immigration system that continues to deprive aspiring new scholars from continuing their education in the only country they have ever known, the U.S. [http://ca-core.org/que\\_llueva\\_cafe](http://ca-core.org/que_llueva_cafe)

#### **Additional Scholarship Sites:**

<http://maldef.org/pdf/Scholarships.pdf>

[www.latinocollegedollars.org](http://www.latinocollegedollars.org)

[www.iefaf.org](http://www.iefaf.org)

[www.hacu.net](http://www.hacu.net)

[www.edupass.org](http://www.edupass.org)

[www.fondofuturo.com](http://www.fondofuturo.com)

<http://www.ilrc.org/scholarship.html>

<http://www.e4fc.org/home.html>

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

<http://www.collegeispossible.org/>

# LOANS

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It is common for students to have to borrow money to help finance their education. You and your parents should think about taking out a loan only after all other financial aid options have been exhausted. Consider offers from several lenders before making a final decision since you will most likely use that one lender for your entire college trajectory. Don't be afraid to compare options and ask questions regarding your loan. After all, you will be paying that money back plus interests later on.

Undocumented students **DO NOT** qualify for federal student loans. Undocumented students may apply for private student loans to help offset the costs of their education. These loans make it possible for undocumented students to attend colleges they cannot otherwise afford. Beware that unlike federal student loans, private loans are not guaranteed by the government. There are no limits to the interest rates and fees that these companies can charge. For this reason, make sure you are informed about potential risks before signing a contract. Also keep in mind that lending companies view credit scores when considering how much money to lend. Students who do not have a credit history or have bad credit will usually have to pay higher rates than those who have a parent co-sign the loan or those who have a good existing credit score.

The following are just a few of the companies that offer private loans to students. Contact your bank to see if they offer student loans.

**City Student Loans:** <https://www.studentloan.com/privatestudentloans/undergraduatecollegeloans.htm>

**Chase Student Loans:** <http://www.chasestudentloans.com/chase-student-loans/college-students.html>

**Sallie Mae:** <https://www.salliemae.com/student-loans/>

**Discover Student Loan:** <http://www.discoverstudentloans.com/>

**US Bank Student Loans:** <http://www.usbank.com/student-lending/loans.html>

**Commerce Bank Student Loans:** <http://www.commercebank.com/personal/student-services/loans/private-student-loans.asp?rd=1>

**Student Loan Network:** <http://www.studentloannetwork.com/>

**Wells Fargo** <https://www.wellsfargo.com/student/planning/steps/private>

For more information about private student loans, rates and other details visit the following site:

<http://www.finaid.org/loans/privatestudentloans.phtml>

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

“Believe you can and you’re halfway there.”

Theodore Roosevelt

# FAQ

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Who is considered undocumented?

Undocumented immigrants are those who:

- Have entered the US without a visa and are not permanent residents/citizens
- Have overstayed their visas
- Don't have green cards, permanent residency, current visa or citizenship.

Am I considered undocumented if I am a legal permanent resident or citizen but my parents are undocumented?

- No, since you are a legal resident or citizen you are therefore documented and able to receive federal and in-state financial aid. However, you may have trouble filling out the FAFSA in this case. If your parents do not have a valid social security number or if their social security number is valid for work purposes only use 000-000-0000 as their social security number on the FAFSA form.

Will my counselor reveal my status to immigration authorities?

- FERPA, (Family Educational Acts and Privacy Act) a federal law, requires counselors and school personnel to keep student's information, including citizenship status private unless there is a "need to know" circumstance or a court order is issued.

Do I need to notify my high school or potential college of my situation?

- While it is by no means necessary to inform your high school that you are undocumented, you may find it helpful to tell a trusted teacher or guidance counselor so they can provide assistance if necessary. They are better able to help you find financial aid if they are aware of your status. Your school may already know of your status based on the lack of a social security number given upon enrollment. If your parents didn't provide a social security number to the school, the school district has most likely assigned you an alternate number which serves only for identification purposes.
- It is advised that you inform or be prepared to tell the colleges and universities of your status ahead of time since they will ask you for your social security number or legal status when you complete their application. Most private schools in the state of Georgia and other colleges are understanding of your situation and will be happy to inform you of application and financial aid procedures. Also keep in mind that the majority of colleges have had undocumented students enrolled in the past or have them currently, thus many are prepared to answer questions you may have.

Where in the application process is being undocumented an issue?

- The top five state funded schools in the state of Georgia will not let a student complete an application if they are undocumented. For many other schools, you are free to apply but your admission is dependent on your family's ability to pay out of state tuition or international student fees, depending on the school. Additionally, many scholarships, student loans, grants and work study programs have as a prerequisite proof of permanent residency or citizenship or require you to submit a valid social security number.

Can undocumented students go to college?

- YES. There is no federal law that bans students from attending a college or university. In the state of Georgia undocumented students cannot currently attend the University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, Georgia State, the Medical College of Georgia and Georgia College and State University. Institutional policies on admitting undocumented students vary but this should not stop you from achieving your educational goals.

When an online college or scholarship application will not let me leave certain fields empty (such as immigration status questions), does this mean the college will not accept undocumented students?

- No, usually if an online application will not let you leave a question empty, it is because of technicality issues, not necessarily because the program or institution will not accept undocumented students. If the appropriate answer choice is not available among the answers and you cannot leave the question blank, contact the admissions office of the school or program director for instructions. You may be asked to complete a paper version of the application.

Can I complete the FAFSA?

- It is not advisable for undocumented students to complete the FAFSA. There are a few schools that may ask you to complete and print out a paper version of the FAFSA and mail it to the college nevertheless, with the sole purpose of determining your income and expected family contributions. In most instances, colleges and universities will accept the College Board's CSS PROFILE or a financial aid form that is specific to the school, both considered alternatives to the FAFSA. Beware that submitting the FAFSA with false information is against the law.

What should I do if my parents are undocumented and I need to complete the FAFSA?

- If you are a US citizen or eligible non-citizen and are completing the FAFSA but your parents do not have a social security number they should fill out 000-000-000 as their social security number. Do not put in an ITN (individual taxpayer number).

Do colleges prefer electronic or hand written applications?

- If you can, complete an electronic application. If you are not able to print out the application and write neatly, you will not be penalized for submitting a paper application. Essays however MUST be typed.

Do I need to take both the SAT and ACT for most colleges and universities?

- No, most colleges only require scores from one of the exams. Since the exams are slightly different, you should attempt both exams at least once, who knows, maybe you will perform significantly better on one than the other.

What kind of Identification should I use for the SAT/ ACT?

- Both tests will accept identification with your name and photo. You can use your school ID or passport (even if it's expired).

If I am currently undocumented and interested in applying for residency, what should I do?

- To find out if you are eligible for permanent residency contact an immigration attorney in your area.

If I am undocumented do I qualify for financial aid?

- Financial aid is classified as either merit or need based. The type and amount of aid undocumented students can receive depends on the available funds of the college. Very few institutions offer need based aid to undocumented students.

Should I apply to a state or private or technical college?

- Choosing which colleges to apply to is essentially a personal choice. You should apply to colleges that fit your possible career choice and have your intended major. You may want to apply to a mix of private and public colleges.

What documents do I need to send with my college application?

- When applying you will usually need to send colleges your standardized test scores (SAT, ACT, COMPASS tests), transcript, counselor forms, application and application essays. You should also send letters of recommendation if required. Some colleges may ask you to complete a financial aid form and return it with the rest of the application by the application deadline.

What is the TOEFL test?

- The TOEFL test stands for Test of English as a Foreign Language. It is a standardized test that measures your English proficiency. Some colleges require students to take the test if you have not completed your entire four years of high school in the United States.

Is it true that some colleges and universities will not let me apply early decision?

- Some colleges will not let undocumented students apply early. Some colleges have early decision 1 and early decision 2, for most you are able to apply early decision 2. You always have the option of completing an application early and turning it in prior to the official deadline.

When should I apply?

- Check the college's website for application deadlines- whether you wish to apply early or regular decision.

Are test scores required?

- Test scores are required- though not all colleges require you to send your ACT/ SAT scores. You can register to take the COMPASS test if you are applying to a technical school but you also have the option of sending your SAT or ACT scores. Sign up to take the SAT/ ACT your junior year of high school and take it again senior year if you have to. This way you won't be nearly as stressed senior year trying to make sure your scores are where you want them to be before sending them in to colleges.

How do I pay an application fee for college?

- You can usually pay an application fee by sending a check directly to the admissions office of the college. If you have a fee waiver that you would like to use you can mail it to the college along with the transcript or supplemental application forms. If you complete an online application, you may be able to use a credit or debit card.

Can my parents and I pay taxes if we are undocumented?

- YES. Paying taxes is strongly advisable for undocumented immigrants. The IRS (Internal Revenue Service) issues an ITN or Individualized Taxpayer Identification Number to individuals who live in the United States regardless of immigration status. ITNS are used to tax purposes only. Despite the fact it's formatted like a social security number (with nine digits) - it is not a substitute for a SS number and cannot be used on anything besides a tax filing form. For more information go to the following website:  
<http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=96287,00.html>

When can I or should I apply for scholarships?

- Apply for scholarships as soon as you can! Most scholarships require students to be a junior or senior in high school, but if the scholarship has no age or grade level prerequisite you should certainly apply.

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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## Questions to ask when...

### Researching a college

- Does the college or university admit undocumented students?
- Am I eligible for merit or need based financial aid?
- Are there other undocumented students enrolled?
- Does the institution offer financial aid specifically to international students? Do undocumented students qualify?

### Filing Applications

- Does the application require a social security number?
- If the application absolutely requires a SS number can you substitute zeros or simply leave it blank?
- Do you need to print out the application and send it electronically if you are using a fee waiver?
- Does the application have an appropriate box to indicate your status?
- Will the college or university accept the CSS profile or an institutional Financial Aid Application instead of the FAFSA?

### Speaking with an admissions counselor/ interview

- Is admission need- blind?
- What kinds of transportation options are available if you can't drive?
- Is there a possibility that you will be eligible for work study or a paid internship program in case you are admitted?
- What programs, organizations and clubs is the college known for?
- Are there any institutional based scholarships or grants available for you?

## Applying.....

(Source: National Association for College Admission Counseling)

**Factors Ranked Considerably Important:** College Prep course grades, strength of high school curriculum, standardized test scores, overall grade point average.

**Factors Ranked Moderately Important:** The Admissions essay, Letters of Recommendation, Demonstrated Interest, Class Rank, Extracurricular commitment.

# College Prep Timeline



**9<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

Take interests and career tests to explore career options

Think about possible majors and education needed for that career

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

Participate in extracurriculars!

Talk to parents/ guardians about saving/ financing for college

Stay focused on school work, consider taking advanced courses

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade summer**

Explore possible internships/ apprenticeships

Enroll in a summer enrichment program

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

Attend college fairs and financial aid events

Take the SAT/ ACT

Visit campuses

Explore private scholarship options

Talk to counselor about DUAL/ ACCEL opportunities



**12<sup>th</sup> grade – January- May**

Apply to colleges, send necessary paperwork

Decision time! Its time to decide on a college

Send in required deposit and notify schools where you are attending.

**12<sup>th</sup> grade August- December**

Retake SAT/ ACT or register to take the COMPASS test

Select which colleges you are going to apply, view deadlines

Ask for recommendations

Go over graduation requirements

Create portfolio/ resume

Apply to schools early if desired

\*Adapted from [Getreadyforcollege.org](http://Getreadyforcollege.org)

## Choosing the Right College...

When choosing what colleges to apply to and ultimately, the college you want to go to consider the following:

- Is the institution a college or university?
- What is the size of the student body?
- Is it coed or single sex?
- Is the college religious based?
- What is the location like? ( suburban or rural)
- Is it a two year or four year school?
- What majors does the school offer?
- What are the costs of tuition, meals and books?
- What kind of financial aid is available just for students in your situation?
- Does the college offer on campus living?
- Does the college offer a post graduate program?

\*Costs are important but make sure the college meets your academic and social needs before choosing a college for the financial aid offered.

Public and state universities have reasonable tuitions but limited financial aid for undocumented students since most of their funding comes from the federal government. They are usually bigger in size and can seem overwhelming at times due to their large student body.

Community/ Technical Colleges tend to have the most reasonable tuition. However their resources are very limited and they may not have the program of study you desire. Their flexible schedule allows for part time work but the college may have less of a social network, groups and available clubs.

Private Colleges and Universities offer a number of benefits. Many colleges focus on discussion type classes and endorse holistic learning. Private colleges tend to be smaller but their tuition is usually the most expensive. However, they offer sizeable scholarships that can possibly offset the high cost of tuition.

APPENDIX IIA

BOARD OF REGENTS  
UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA  
TUITION RATES PER S  
EFFECTIVE FALL SEMESTER

( Taken from the University System of Georgia website)

Below are the tuition rates for FY 2012. Please see page 2 for the tuition rates that apply to the FY 2009 cohort of students on the Fixed-for-Four Guaranteed Tuition Plan.

**FLAT TUITION MODEL**

Flat rate of tuition applies to encourage students to take 15 hours and graduate in four years, also known as the finish-in-four model

**IN-STATE**

**OUT-OF-STATE**

	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2011	FY 2012
<b>Georgia Institute of Technology and University of Georgia:</b>				
More than 6 hours	\$3,535.00	\$3,641.00	\$12,640.00	\$12,746.00
6 hours or less	\$2,100.00	\$2,163.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,563.00
<b>Georgia College and State University:</b>				
More than 6 hours	\$3,142.00	\$ 3,236.00	\$11,661.00	\$11,755.00
6 hours or less	\$1,860.00	\$1,916.00	\$6,920.00	\$ 6,976.00

**REGULAR TUITION MODEL (Per credit hour rates apply up to 15 hours)**

	<b>IN-STATE</b>		<b>OUT-OF-STATE</b>	
	<b>FY 2011 (15 Credit Hours)</b>	<b>FY 2012 (15 Credit Hours)</b>	<b>FY 2011 (15 Credit Hours)</b>	<b>FY 2012 (15 Credit Hours)</b>
<b>RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES</b>				
Georgia State University	\$3,535.00	\$ 3,641.00	\$12,640.00	\$12,746.00
Per Credit Hour	\$236.00	\$242.74	\$843.00	\$849.74
Georgia Health Sciences University	\$3,535.00	\$3,641.00	\$12,640.00	\$12,746.00
Per Credit Hour	\$236.00	\$242.74	\$843.00	\$849.74
<b>REGIONAL &amp; STATE UNIVERSITIES</b>				
Sector Rate for institutions	\$2,137.00	\$2,201.00	\$7,944.00	\$8,008.00
Per Credit Hour	\$4143.00	\$146.74	\$530.00	\$533.87
Georgia Southern University	\$42,298.00	\$2,367.00	\$8,286.00	\$8,355.00
Per Credit Hour	\$154.00	\$157.80	\$553.00	\$557.00
Valdosta State University	\$2,298.00	\$2,367.00	\$8,286.00	\$8,355.00
Per Credit Hour	\$154.00	\$157.80	\$553.00	\$557.00
Kennesaw State University	\$2,298.00	\$2,367.00	\$8,286.00	\$8,355.00
Per Credit Hour	\$154.00	\$157.80	\$553.00	\$557.00
University of West Georgia	\$2,298.00	\$2,367.00	\$8,286.00	\$8,355.00
Per Credit Hour	\$154.00	\$157.80	\$553.00	\$557.00
Columbus State University	\$2,298.00	\$2,367.00	\$8,286.00	\$8,355.00
Per Credit Hour	\$154.00	\$157.80	\$553.00	\$557.00
North Georgia College and State University	\$2,298.00	\$2,367.00	\$8,286.00	\$8,355.00
Per Credit Hour	\$154.00	\$157.80	\$553.00	\$557.00
Southern Polytechnic State University	\$2,489.00	\$2,564.00	\$,049.00	\$9,124.00
Per Credit Hour	\$166.00	\$170.94	\$604.00	\$608.27
<b>STATE COLLEGES</b>				
Sector Rate for institutions	\$1,347.00	\$1,388.00	\$5,088.00	\$5,129.00
Per Credit Hour	\$90.00	\$92.54	\$340.00	\$341.94
Georgia Gwinnett College	\$1,600.00	\$1,648.00	\$6,100.00	\$6,148.00
Per Credit Hour	\$107.00	\$109.87	\$407.00	\$409.87
<b>TWO-YEAR COLLEGES</b>				
Sector Rate for institutions	\$1,199.00	\$1,235.00	\$4,638.00	\$4,674.00
Per Credit Hour	\$80.00	\$82.34	\$310.00	\$311.60

# ADDITIONAL WEB RESOURCES

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**National Council of La Raza-**  
(Latino civil rights and advocacy)

[www.nclr.org](http://www.nclr.org)

**National Immigration Law Center-**  
(Promote and protect rights of low income immigrants)

[www.nilc.org](http://www.nilc.org)

**Collegeboard -**  
(College planning and preparation tools)

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

**Dream activists -**  
(Undocumented student legislation)

<http://www.dreamactivist.org>

**Common App -**  
(College applications)

[www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)

**Immigrant Legal Resource Center -**  
(Help immigrants in the legal sector)

<http://www.ilrc.org/>

**Making It Count**  
(Career help, college planning)

<http://www.makingitcount.com>

**United States Student Association**  
(Mobilizing student issues)

<http://www.usstudents.org>

**Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights**  
(Latino rights advocacy)

<http://www.glahr.org/>

**Georgia Undocumented Youth Alliance**  
(Student advocacy and resources)

<http://www.guyaconnect.com/>

**Finaid**  
(Scholarships, loans, and other financial aid)

<http://www.finaid.org>

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