

# COLLEGE ACCESS – 1ST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS

\* REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS &  
FINANCIAL ABILITY



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# COLLEGE ACCESS



# PRESENTATION

- Presentation on college access for 1<sup>st</sup> generation and/or immigrant students
  - regardless of immigration status (undocumented, DACA, TPS) and financial ability
- Preparing in High School
- College Application process
- Tips for 1<sup>st</sup> generation college students
- Advice for undocumented/TPS/DACA
- Advice on financial aid



# PREPARING IN HIGH SCHOOL (9<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)

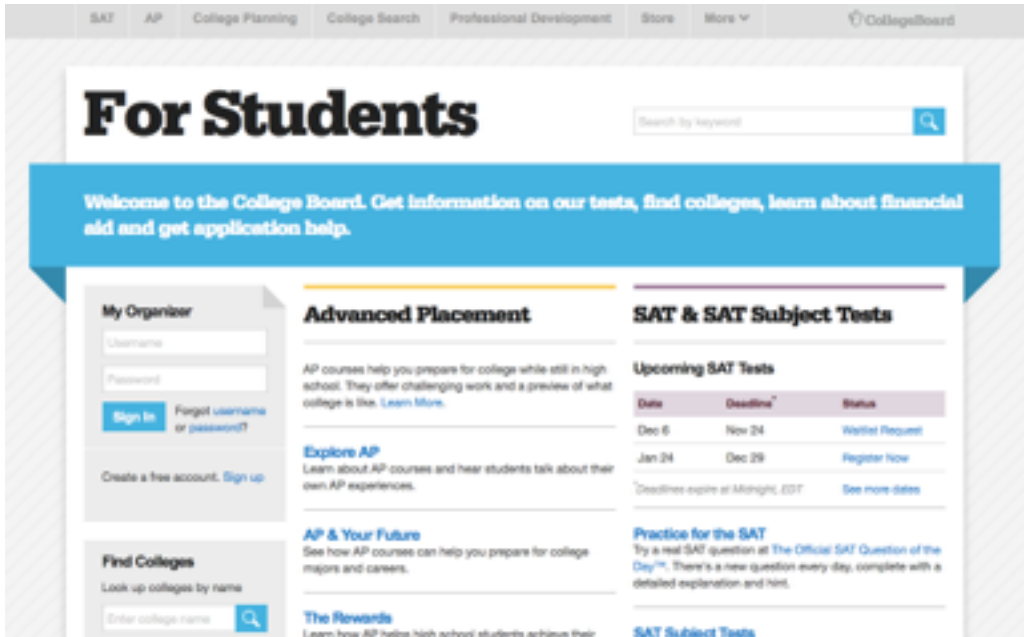
- Grades
- Build relationships with key teachers and excel in key subjects
- Honors/Advanced/Advanced Placement level classes
- Extracurriculars
  - Sports, Clubs, Activities
  - Dedication, Diversity & Leadership in extracurriculars
- Extracurriculars (outside of school)
  - Volunteering, Working, Babysitting siblings
- Skills
  - Languages, Arts, Robotics, etc.
- Research colleges and financial aid
- Prepare for SAT/ACT preparation

**\*many universities do not require SATs now!**

**Frequently Asked Questions: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/applying-to-college-faq>**



# APPLICATION PROCESS (11<sup>TH</sup> & 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)



-Research colleges <https://student.collegeboard.org/>

-location, size, studies, housing, scholarships/ Two year, Four year/ Public, Private

\*More scholarship \$\$ in private colleges

\*undocumented students pay out of state tuition; DACA & TPS pay in-state rate!

-Visit colleges and classes, Minority students trips, interviews (on campus and alumni)

-Create list of Reach, Middle, Safety

-Consider early decision (binding; only one) or early action (non-binding; as many as you like)

-Take SATS/Acts/or none (Signup at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) )

-Send scores to schools w/ fee (either at time of test or online at [Collegeboard.com](http://Collegeboard.com))

-Ask Guidance for fee waivers (More info here: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/college-application-fee-waivers?affiliateId=cbhomeinit&bannerId=A2Ofewaivers-Slot6>)

-Prepare your applications & ask for fee waivers [www.Commonapp.com](http://www.Commonapp.com)

-Check deadlines!!!





# TIPS FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS

- Plan your college process early
- Seek help from high school counselour or college admission preparation group
- Ask soccer coach, job supervisor, extracurricular adviser, faith leader, etc. to write letter
  - Provide them your essays, resume and list of colleges
- Prepare resume listing jobs, extracurriculars, skills, accomplishments
- Prepare videos/photos of accomplishments (soccer, art, etc.)
- Tell your story! (30% of college students are 1<sup>st</sup> generation) & be proud!
- Prepare for hidden expenses: outings, books, etc.
- Realize your challenges are challenges of all
  - Academic, cultural environment with unspoken rules and cultural ways
  - Find social, academic, financial support
  - Seek support while in college
  - Professors, office hours, mentors, financial aid advisers, people of color/minority groups, multicultural office, student life office, conseling services
- Take advantage of college
  - Writing centers, internships, fellowships

# ADVICE FOR UNDOCUMENTED/TPS/DACA STUDENTS

**-Yes, you can! Look up information on college opportunities**

- <http://www.chooseyourfuture.org/college/undocumented-students>
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/for-undocumented-students#>
- <http://www.bestcolleges.com/resources/undocumented-students-guide/>
- <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/guidance/financial-aid/undocumented-students>

**-Find a local organization: La Comunidad in Everett; Student Immigrant Movement ([www.Simforum.com](http://www.Simforum.com))**

**-Look for colleges that have large endowments (to give financial aid regardless of status, based on your need and status), look for diversity in students (geography, background, skills), want the best students regardless of ability to pay**

**-Research colleges and ask current student group, past/current students or admissions officer if they accept undocumented students, are a need blind school & give financial aid regardless of status, and if they give financial aid to transfer students**

**Here is a good list of colleges and their policies!!!**<http://getmetocollege.org/hs/financial-aid/info-for-undocumented-students/school-policies-towards-undocumented-students>

**-Some colleges may have statement on website:**<http://www.whitman.edu/about-whitman/diversity/statement-on-undocumented-students>

[www.admissions.vassar.edu/apply/answers/](http://www.admissions.vassar.edu/apply/answers/)

**-Confirm your in-state tuition for TPS/DACA students in public Mass universities & colleges**



# ADVICE ON FINANCIAL AID

- "Sticker price" – Federal aid – College aid – Outside scholarship = Actual price
- Compare public vs. private colleges; Less money for transfer students (particularly undocumented students)
- Look at endowment of school
- Talk to past and current students re. their scholarships and financial aid
- Need blind schools
- Four main sources: Federal government, state government, colleges, private organizations; Also work-study jobs and loans
- Need based vs. Merit based aid
- Consider diversity (geographic, ethnic, skills, etc.) = More financial support
- \* Fill out FAFSA AND Individual College Financial Aid forms

FAFSA ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov))

- Prepare information (SS# or Alien Registration #, most recent federal income tax returns, W-2s, Federal student aid pin)
- Fill out the FAFSA for free; Ask for help
- First come, first served for FAFSA and college financial aid

**- Fill out the FAFSA EVERY YEAR**

\* For more info on specific situations:

<http://www.nerdwallet.com/nerdscholar/fafsa/guide>

*Ex. You can still submit the FAFSA if your parents are undocumented.*

*When the application asks for your parents' social security numbers, please enter 000-00-0000.*



The image shows the homepage of the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) website. At the top, it features the FAFSA logo and the slogan "START HERE GO FURTHER FEDERAL STUDENT AID". Below the logo is a navigation bar with icons for Home, About Us, Student Aid on the Web, File Site, Contact Us, and Browse Help. A search bar is located on the right side of the navigation bar. The main content area has a large blue banner with the text "Get help paying for college" and "Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)". A prominent "Start Here" button is centered on the banner. Below the banner, there are several sections: "Deadlines" with a link to "Information about your deadlines.", "School Code Search" with a link to "Find your college's school code. Also find detailed information about your college.", "FAFSA Filing Options" with a link to "Learn about the other options for filing your FAFSA.", "Announcements" with a bullet point about "Alert! If you have recently been issued a Social Security Number, you may encounter an error when you try to start your FAFSA. If this occurs, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243 for additional instructions on how to complete your FAFSA.", and "Thinking About College?" with a link to "Use FAFSA-Incator to see how federal student aid can help you pay for college!".

# SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS

- Apply to schools that would love to have you (Think of diversity, geography, studies, skills)
- Look up scholarships for 1<sup>st</sup> generation college students, minority students, students of color, African American, Hispanic/Latino, women students, particularly those interested in science and math, and for specific careers: nursing, journalism, engineering

For example:

- <https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-type/first-in-family-scholarships/>
- <http://www.fastweb.com/college-scholarships>
- <http://www.collegescholarships.org/scholarships/first-in-family.htm>
- <http://collegeapps.about.com/od/grantsandscholarships/tp/first-generation-scholarships.htm>
- <http://www.maldef.org/> & <http://www.latinocollegedollars.org/>

For example: Hispanic Scholarship Fund General College Scholarship: \$1,000-\$5,000 available to students with 3.0 GPA or higher;

“No Essay” Scholarship of \$2,000, next drawing Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, available to students going to college in next year: <https://colleges.niche.com/scholarship/apply.aspx?source=fw>

# SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDOC STUDENTS

- Apply to schools that would love to have you (Think of diversity, geography, studies, skills)
- Look up scholarships for 1<sup>st</sup> generation college students, minority students, students of color, Hispanic/Latino, women students, particularly those interested in science and math, and for specific careers: nursing, journalism, engineering that DO NOT REQUIRE SS# or residency
- Look up scholarships specifically for undocumented students  
Good info! <http://www.chooseyourfuture.org/college/undocumented-students#aid>

For example:

- [Educators for Fair Consideration Undergraduate Scholarship list: http://e4fc.org/resources/scholarshiplist.html](http://e4fc.org/resources/scholarshiplist.html)
- <http://scholarshipupdates.org/tags/scholarships--financial-aid-for-undocumented-students.html>
- <http://blog.collegegreenlight.com/blog/2014-2015-scholarships-for-undocumented-students/>
- [http://www.nygearup.org/collegesense/students/scholar\\_undoc.htm](http://www.nygearup.org/collegesense/students/scholar_undoc.htm)
- <http://www.scholarshipexperts.com/blog/paying-for-college/scholarships-undocumented-students>

Check out: Prudential Spirit of Community Awards of \$5,000 for students who made a difference through volunteering

QuestBridge National College Match Program of \$1000,000 for students with outstanding academic ability despite economic hardship

# MASS. JOBS WITH JUSTICE

To get involved, contact:

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*\*Please feel free to share this presentation with students and families! Please make sure to credit Mass. Jobs with Justice & Massachusetts Teachers Association Community Engagement project. For more info, check out [www.massjwj.net](http://www.massjwj.net)!*

