

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Admissions

Will colleges decline a student admission based on immigration status?

No, colleges will not decline an application based on immigration status. However, some private schools will consider these applicants as international students.

Should a student write about his/her immigration status in the college essay?

There is no clear answer to this question. It is a decision the student needs to make on his/her own while weighing all pros and cons.

Are some schools friendlier to immigrant students than others?

Actually, with DACA, you could apply for a Work Authorization Number which allows you the opportunity to be employed legally in the U.S. More importantly, you want to prepare yourself for when the DREAM Act passes. No one can ever take your education away. No one can take away your self-empowerment.

Should a student select “international student” when he/she applies?

For all Texas public schools on Apply Texas students should NOT apply as international students; they should apply as ‘US Freshman’. However, when applying to private schools students should contact the institution to determine if they should apply as international or domestic incoming freshmen.

Why do students have to send everything through mail?

Students need to send the Affidavit of Intent to Become a Permanent Resident and the TASFA in the mail because colleges don’t currently have an online system to track these items.

Financial Aid

How much money is a student eligible for?

Undocumented students are eligible for grant funding from the State, and certain private loans. Refer to www.collegeforalltexas.com to identify the grants students qualify for.

Where should students mail the TASFA?

DO NOT MAIL THE TASFA TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. Students should send a copy of the paper TASFA to the Financial Aid department at each school they are applying to.

Why does a student have to fill out the FAFSA if they are not eligible for federal funds?

Some schools prefer the paper FAFSA. Please refer to the school list on the back of the TASFA to find out if the student’s school of choice uses the TASFA.

What if the student's parents do not file taxes or are unwilling to do so?

Students whose families do not file an income tax return must contact each college or university for their non-tax filer form. This will likely flag their financial aid application for additional review. Encourage students to check their email and each school's financial aid portal frequently to respond as soon as possible to any messages requiring additional information.

Can undocumented students participate in Work Study?

Undocumented students are not eligible for federal funding and therefore are ineligible for Federal Work Study. However, if a student has received a Work Authorization Card through DACA, they may be eligible to work at their school through State Work Study or Institutional Work Study programs. Students should consult with their college/university to see if they hire students on campus outside of the Federal Work Study Program.

If a student was approved for DACA, are they now eligible for federal funds?

No, DACA does not change a student's eligibility for federal aid. However, students are still eligible for State Financial Aid.

If a student goes to college out of state, will they be eligible for financial aid?

Students may be eligible for institutional aid, but not for federal aid.

When should students turn in their financial aid application?

State financial aid funding is limited. Students should submit their application as soon as possible after January 1st.

What if the student has not lived in Texas for three years, can they still get in-state tuition?

Some students who have only been in Texas for one year may still be eligible for in-state tuition. Check with the college/university to see if the student meets any of the additional requirements based on the student's visa status. If they don't, they will not be eligible for State financial aid; however, they could still be eligible for institutional aid. If the student has a strong high school record, you should encourage them to apply to competitive colleges and universities that provide aid for immigrant students. Lastly, you can also refer to the list of scholarships available to undocumented students as a source for additional aid.

What is an ITIN?

ITIN stands for Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. This number allows individuals to comply with US tax laws.

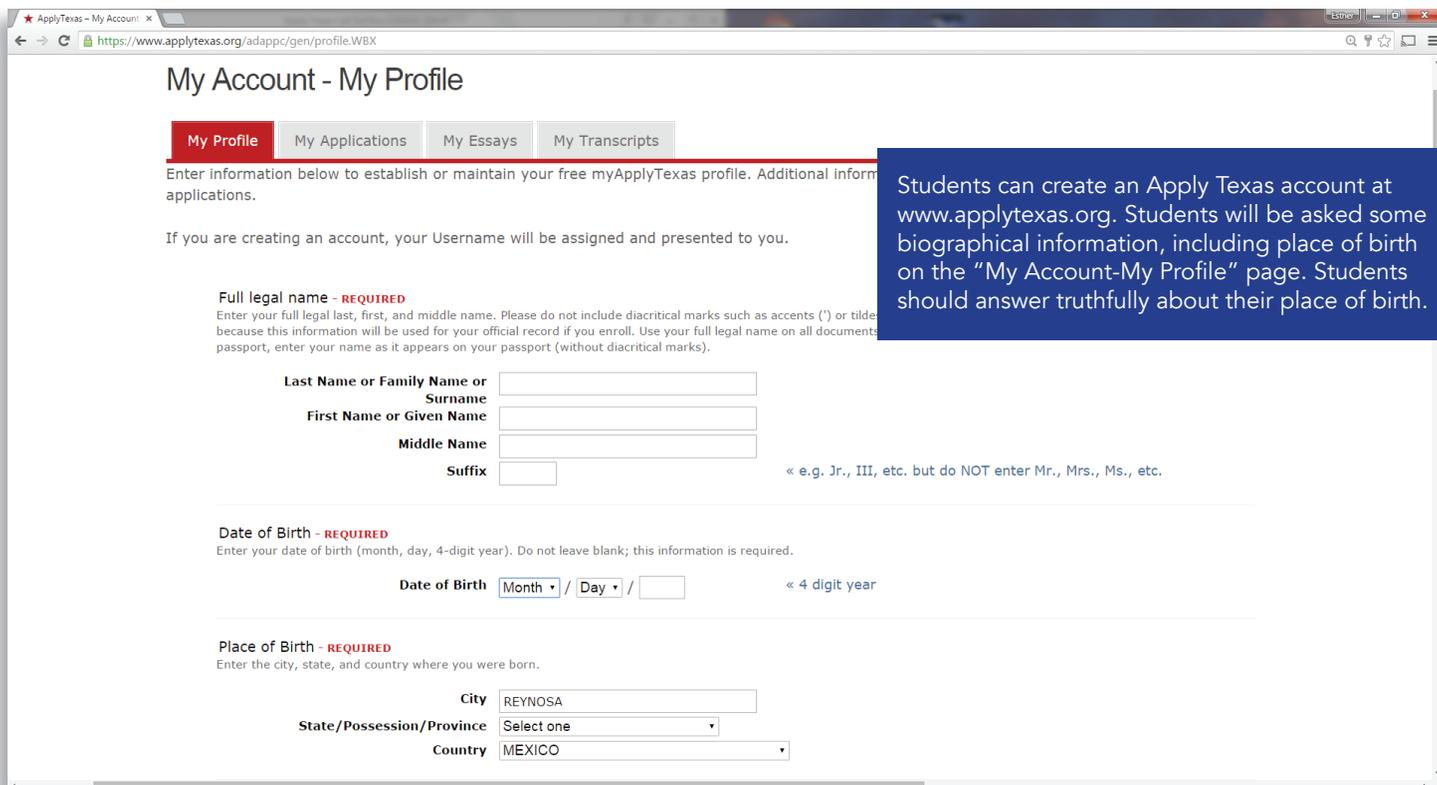
What is a tax transcript?

A tax transcript serves as a receipt from the federal government; it is provided as proof that the government received an individual's tax information.

CHECKLIST FOR APPLYING TO COLLEGE

TARGET COMPLETION DATE	OBJECTIVE	DESCRIPTION
April of Junior Year <input type="checkbox"/>	Register and take the SAT, ACT and/or TSI college admissions tests. www.collegeboard.com www.actstudent.org	The ACT and SAT are offered several times per year on Saturdays. Request that your scores be sent to the universities/colleges you are applying to. If you receive free or reduced lunch, ask your counselor for a fee waiver so you don't have to pay for the test, should you be eligible. The TSI is likely available on your high school campus. Check with your counselor to make an appointment to take the assessment.
Sept/Oct of Senior Year <input type="checkbox"/>	If applying to Texas public institutions, use the ApplyTexas online application even if you are not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident www.applytexas.org If you are applying outside of Texas or to private schools you will find their application link on their websites.	Applications are available on college's websites and in their admissions offices. If you are considering a private institution, contact the admissions office to see whether you can submit an online application. If filling out the Apply Texas Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When asked for a social security number, leave it blank. If you have an SSN through DACA, do NOT use it for college applications, unless the university tells you it is okay. • When asked for visa information, answer accurately. • Make sure you answer YES to the question that says "Have you resided in Texas in the last 36 months of high school" if this is true for you. • When asked if you are a legal Texas Resident, answer YES if you have lived in Texas 12 months or more. • If you are labeled an international student, you have done something wrong! Go back and check your answers!
Sept/Oct of Senior Year <input type="checkbox"/>	Obtain an Affidavit of Intent, sometimes referred to as the Residency Affidavit	When filling out the Apply Texas application, make sure to print a copy of the affidavit. You will need one for each institution you are applying to. If you are applying to a private university, either ask your High School Counselor for it, or call the admissions office, and explain that you are an SB1528 student and will need an Affidavit of Intent. Note that some institutions will prefer that you use an Affidavit of Intent that they will provide to you on their institution letterhead.
Sept/Oct of Senior Year <input type="checkbox"/>	Fill out the SB1528 Affidavit of Intent (Residency Affidavit) and have it notarized.	The Notary Public will need to see a photo ID, like your school ID. DO NOT sign the form until you are with the Notary. You will need one original notarized form for each college you are applying to. This form will make you eligible to pay in-state tuition and receive state financial aid.
Sept/Oct of Senior Year <input type="checkbox"/>	Submit your application to each university before the deadline	Mail or upload the following supporting documents to the admissions office of each institution: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Official sealed high school transcript or electronic transcript/TREX Application fee (or fee waiver) Notarized Affidavit of Intent. Essays, Resume, and Letters of Recommendation. Ensure that your SAT, ACT, and/or TSI scores have been received.
Nov of Senior Year <input type="checkbox"/>	Follow up with the universities to make sure all of your application materials were received and pending items were completed.	Even if you or your counselor mail items to the universities you are applying to, they are not guaranteed to be received. It is YOUR responsibility to make sure everything they need is in their office by the specified deadlines. This includes housing applications, registration for orientation, among other things. Check the online portal; call or email the college admissions officers.

SAMPLE APPLY TEXAS APPLICATION WITH ANNOTATIONS



My Account - My Profile

My Profile | My Applications | My Essays | My Transcripts

Enter information below to establish or maintain your free myApplyTexas profile. Additional information is required for some applications.

If you are creating an account, your Username will be assigned and presented to you.

Full legal name - REQUIRED
 Enter your full legal last, first, and middle name. Please do not include diacritical marks such as accents (') or tildes (~) because this information will be used for your official record if you enroll. Use your full legal name on all documents, including your passport, enter your name as it appears on your passport (without diacritical marks).

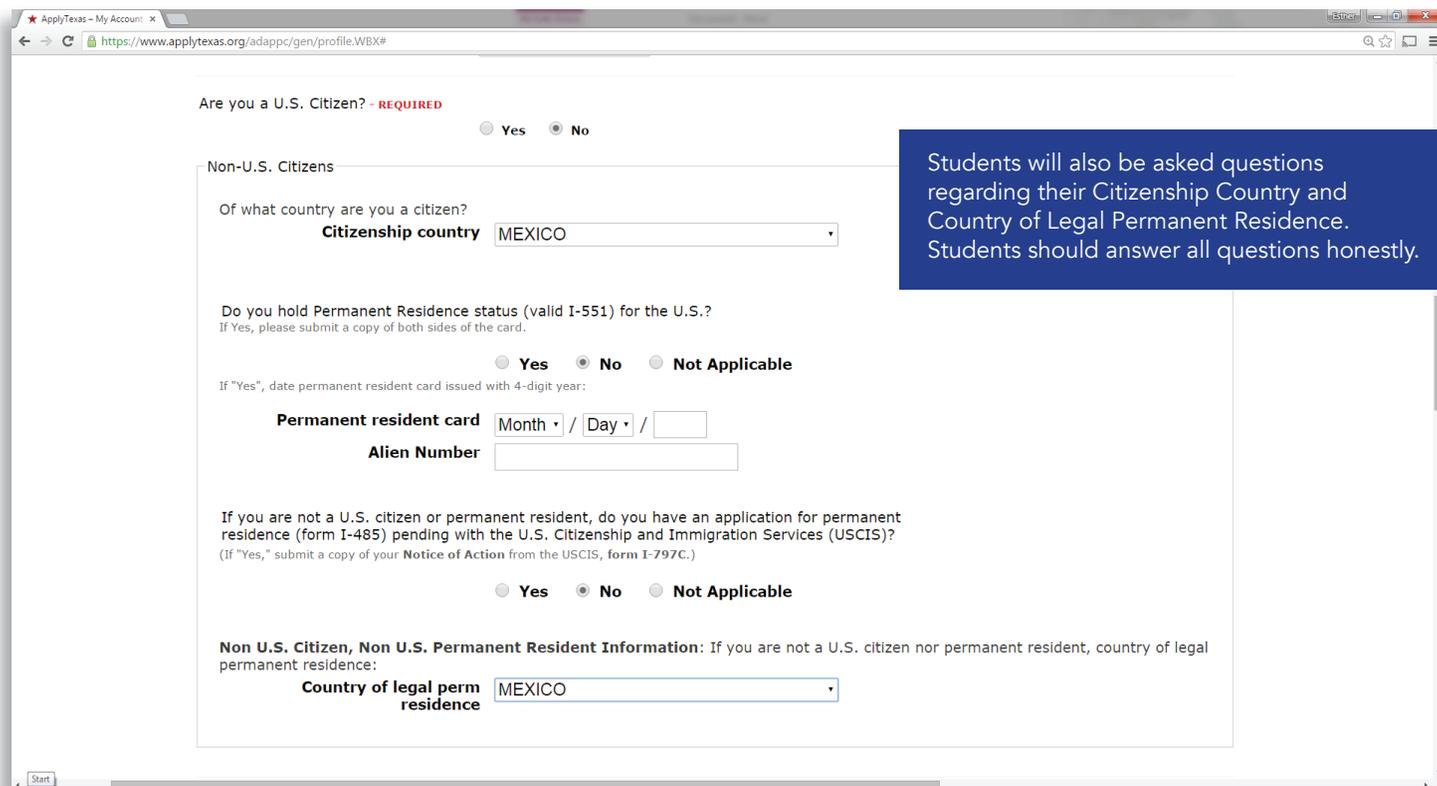
Last Name or Family Name or Surname:
 First Name or Given Name:
 Middle Name:
 Suffix: « e.g. Jr., III, etc. but do NOT enter Mr., Mrs., Ms., etc.

Date of Birth - REQUIRED
 Enter your date of birth (month, day, 4-digit year). Do not leave blank; this information is required.

Date of Birth: / / « 4 digit year

Place of Birth - REQUIRED
 Enter the city, state, and country where you were born.

City:
 State/Possession/Province:
 Country:



Are you a U.S. Citizen? - REQUIRED

Yes No

Non-U.S. Citizens

Of what country are you a citizen?
 Citizenship country:

Do you hold Permanent Residence status (valid I-551) for the U.S.?
 If Yes, please submit a copy of both sides of the card.

Yes No Not Applicable

If "Yes", date permanent resident card issued with 4-digit year:

Permanent resident card: / /
 Alien Number:

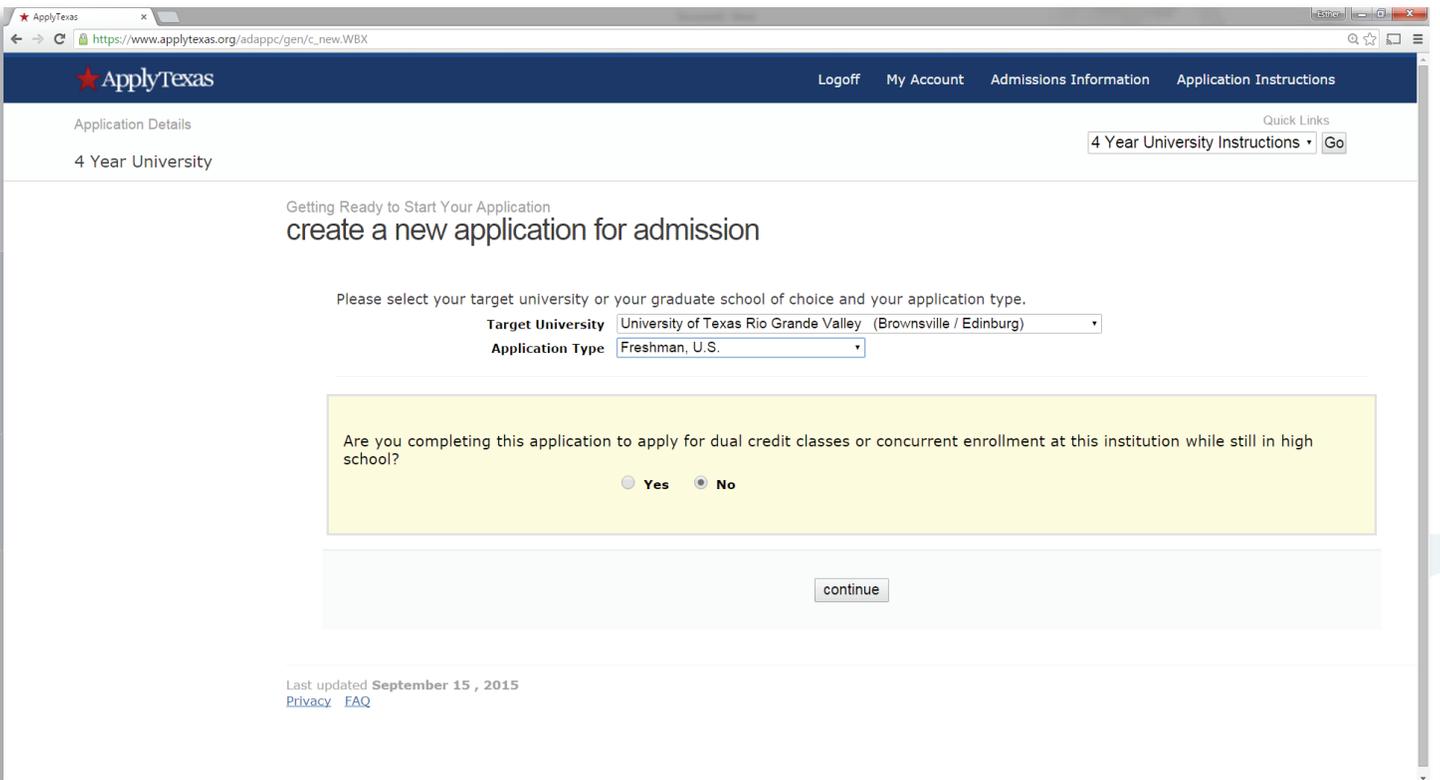
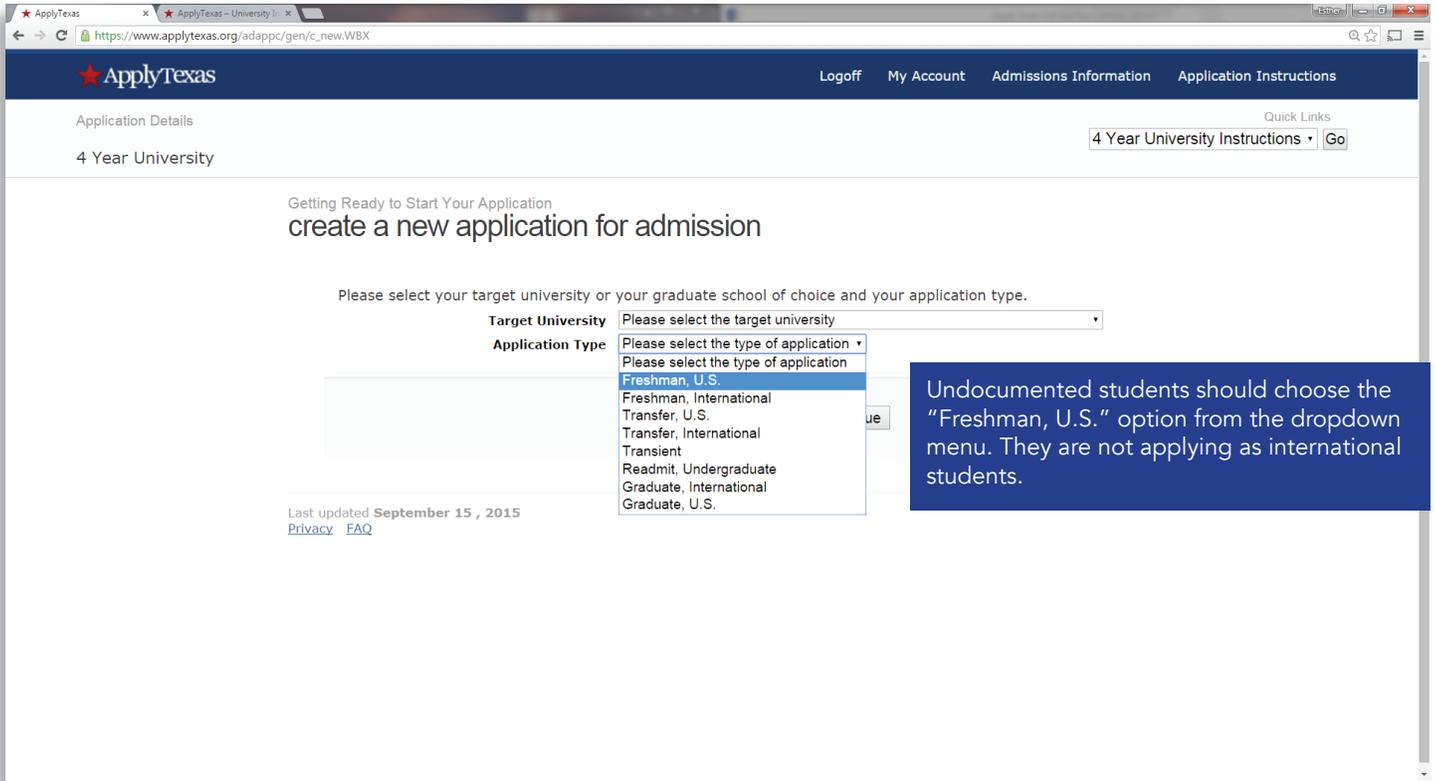
If you are not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, do you have an application for permanent residence (form I-485) pending with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)?
 (If "Yes," submit a copy of your Notice of Action from the USCIS, form I-797C.)

Yes No Not Applicable

Non U.S. Citizen, Non U.S. Permanent Resident Information: If you are not a U.S. citizen nor permanent resident, country of legal permanent residence:

Country of legal perm residence:

When students complete the "My Account-My Profile" section, they are ready to move on to the "My Applications" portion. Have the student select "Start a New Blank Application".



Social Security Number and Place of Birth

ApplyTexas - page 1 bio: X
 https://www.applytexas.org/adappc/Y2016/ugrad/c_u_bio.WBX
 The regular deadline for U.S. Freshman applications (02/04/2016)

- Enter your U.S. Social Security Number ☆ (See [note](#) below)

Social Security Number (SSN)

Confirm SSN
- When were you born? - **REQUIRED**
 Enter your date of birth (month, day, year). Do not leave blank; this information is required.

Date of Birth
- Full legal name: - **REQUIRED**
 Enter your full legal last, first, and middle name. Do not use nicknames or abbreviations because this information will be used for your official record if you enroll. Use your full legal name on all documents sent to the institution to which you are applying. Please do not include diacritical marks such as accents (') or tildes (~).

Last/Family Name

First Name

Middle Name

Suffix

« e.g. Jr., III, etc. but do NOT enter Mr., Mrs., Ms., etc.
- Other names or aliases:
 If you attended school using a different name or took a standardized college entrance exam (for example, SAT, GRE, TOEFL) using a different name, please list name(s):

Last/Family	First	Middle	Suffix (Jr., etc)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Undocumented students should leave the Social Security Number box blank. They should not enter a list of zeros, Xs, or enter their Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Social Security Number, unless the college/university has specifically requested they do so.

ApplyTexas - page 1 bio: X
 https://www.applytexas.org/adappc/Y2016/ugrad/c_u_bio.WBX

- Place of Birth: - **REQUIRED**
 Enter the city, state, and country where you were born.

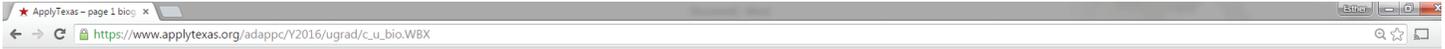
City

State/Possession/Province

Country

Students should answer truthfully about their place of birth.

Questions about Citizenship and Visa Status



8. Are you a U.S. Citizen? - **REQUIRED**

Yes No

Non-U.S. Citizens complete the following

a. If no, of what country are you a citizen?

Citizenship country

b. Do you hold Permanent Residence status (valid I-551) for the U.S.?
If Yes, please submit a copy of both sides of the card.

Yes No Not Applicable - Reset Answer

c. If you are not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, do you have an application for permanent residence (form I-485) pending with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)?
(If "Yes," submit a copy of your Notice of Action from the USCIS, form I-797C.)

Yes No Not Applicable

d. If you have an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) and do NOT have a Social Security Number filled in above, please enter it below. Otherwise, please leave blank.
No spaces, dashes or letters.

ITIN:
Confirm ITIN:

e. If you are not a citizen or permanent resident or have no application pending with the USCIS, you live or will you have lived in Texas for 36 consecutive months leading up to high school graduation or completion of the GED?

If "Yes," please submit a completed Affidavit of Intent to Become a Permanent Resident.

(This PDF document requires Adobe Acrobat Reader to access it: [Download Adobe Acrobat Reader now.](#))

Yes No Not Applicable

f. If you are not a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident, are you a foreign national here with a visa for Texas residency purposes (see list of eligible visas) or are you a Refugee, Asylee, Parolee or Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holder?
(If you select an option below, please submit a copy of your Notice of Action from the USCIS, form I-797C, or a copy of your visa.)

If so, indicate which

Students should answer all questions about citizenship and visa status honestly. Assure students that this information stays with the college admissions office and that it is NOT shared with U.S. immigration offices.

Question 8e is important. An undocumented student can establish Texas residency, and thereby qualify for in-state tuition and Texas grant funds, if he or she lived in Texas in the 36 months leading up to high school graduation. If a student meets this criteria, he or she should select "Yes" and submit a notarized Affidavit of Intent to Become a Permanent Resident, linked in question 8e. The Affidavit of Intent is discussed in further detail in the next section (pages 14-18).

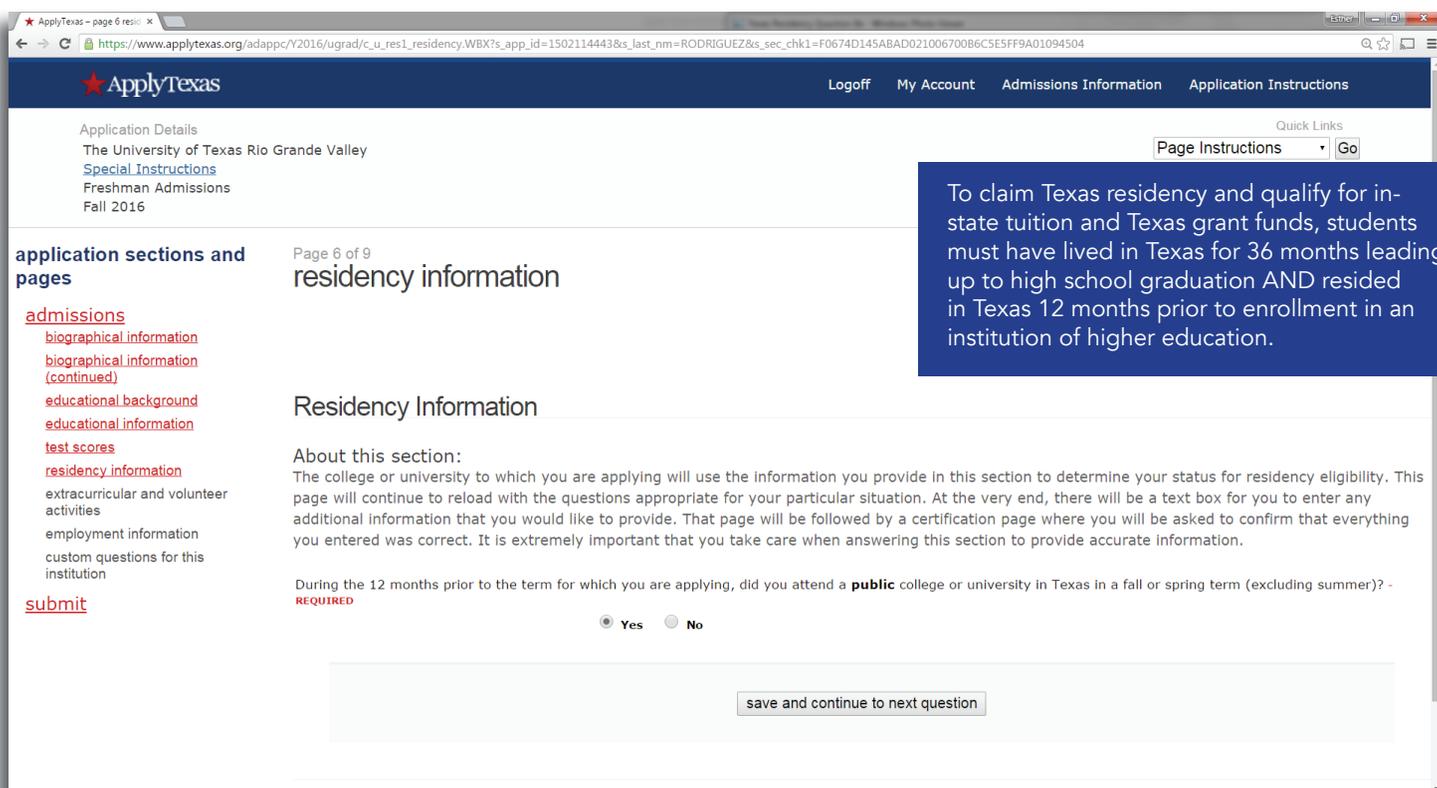
9. Status as a current U.S. military servicemember, veteran, or dependent:

A U.S. military servicemember is a person who is serving in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, including the National Guard or Reserves. Please select any of the following that apply to you. I am a:

- veteran (former U.S. military servicemember)
- current U.S. military servicemember
- spouse or dependent of a veteran or a current U.S. military servicemember
- spouse or dependent of, or a veteran or current U.S. military servicemember with an injury or illness resulting from military service (service-connected injury/illness)
- spouse or dependent of a deceased U.S. servicemember

10. Apply Texas standardizes permanent and physical addresses for U. S. addresses. [What is address standardization?](#) (opens in new window)

Residency Information



Application Details
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
[Special Instructions](#)
Freshman Admissions
Fall 2016

Logoff My Account Admissions Information Application Instructions

Quick Links
Page Instructions Go

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residency information

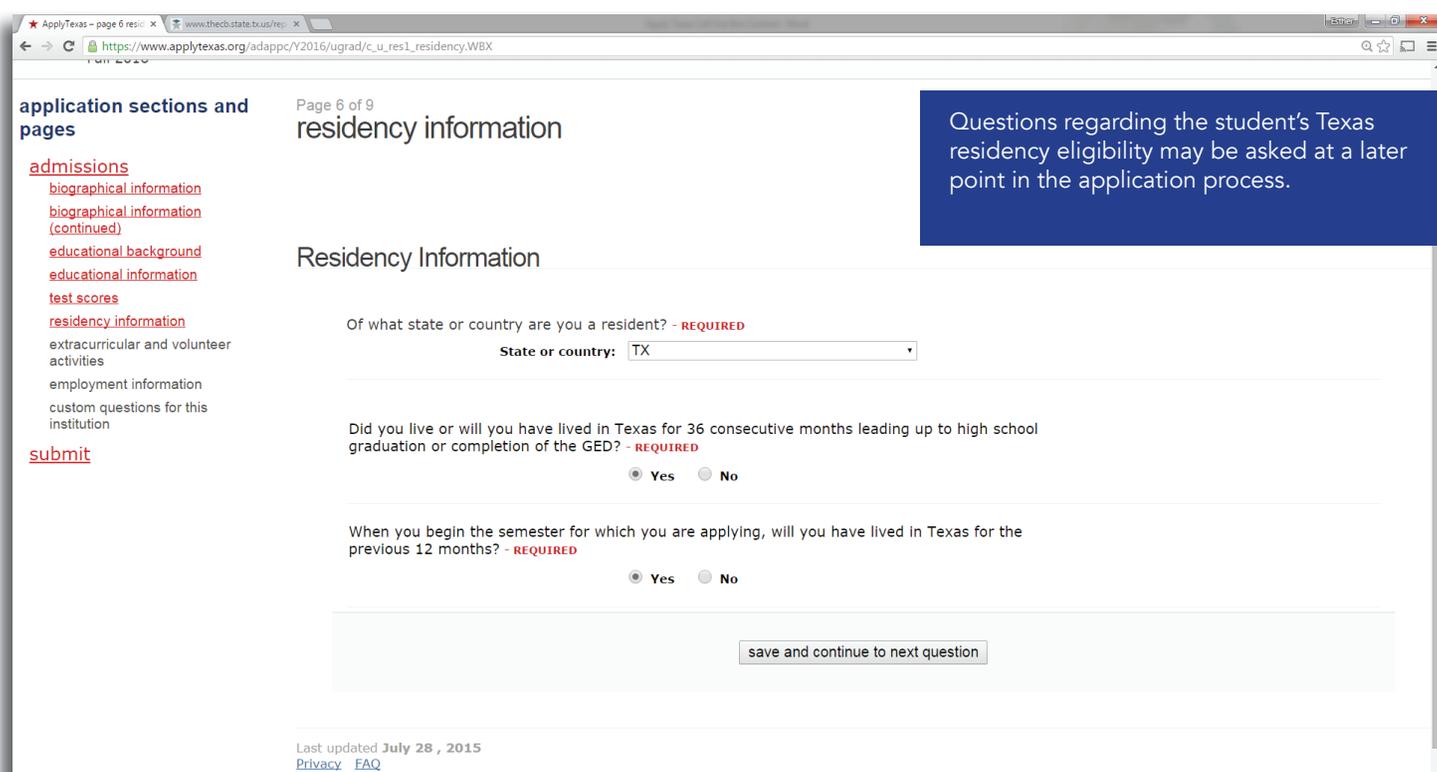
Residency Information

About this section:
The college or university to which you are applying will use the information you provide in this section to determine your status for residency eligibility. This page will continue to reload with the questions appropriate for your particular situation. At the very end, there will be a text box for you to enter any additional information that you would like to provide. That page will be followed by a certification page where you will be asked to confirm that everything you entered was correct. It is extremely important that you take care when answering this section to provide accurate information.

During the 12 months prior to the term for which you are applying, did you attend a **public** college or university in Texas in a fall or spring term (excluding summer)? - **REQUIRED**

Yes No

save and continue to next question



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residency information

Residency Information

Of what state or country are you a resident? - **REQUIRED**

State or country: TX

Did you live or will you have lived in Texas for 36 consecutive months leading up to high school graduation or completion of the GED? - **REQUIRED**

Yes No

When you begin the semester for which you are applying, will you have lived in Texas for the previous 12 months? - **REQUIRED**

Yes No

save and continue to next question

Last updated July 28, 2015
[Privacy](#) [FAQ](#)

Immigration Status and Employment Information

16. VISA Type - optional

If you are a non U.S. citizen and do not currently hold a permanent resident card, what is your current immigration status (VISA Type) of I-94?

17. Undocumented Status - optional

Do you have an undocumented status?
PLEASE NOTE: A MAXIMUM OF 15 LINES WILL BE SENT.

18. Undocumented In-State Tuition - optional

If you expect to qualify for in-state tuition based on the HB-1403/SB-1528, your official high school transcript is required before a determination can be made.

☆ Please enter your Social Security Number if you have one as it is important for purposes of the identity of your application, grade transcript, test scores, and financial aid.

An application that is saved but not submitted is subject to deletion after ninety days.

Some institutions may include optional questions regarding the student's immigration status. These questions are optional and therefore the student should not feel obligated to respond.

application sections and pages

- [admissions](#)
- [biographical information](#)
- [biographical information \(continued\)](#)
- [educational background](#)
- [educational information](#)
- [test scores](#)
- [residency information](#)
- [extracurricular and volunteer activities](#)
- [employment information](#)
- custom questions for this institution

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employment information

Employment, Internships, Summer Activities

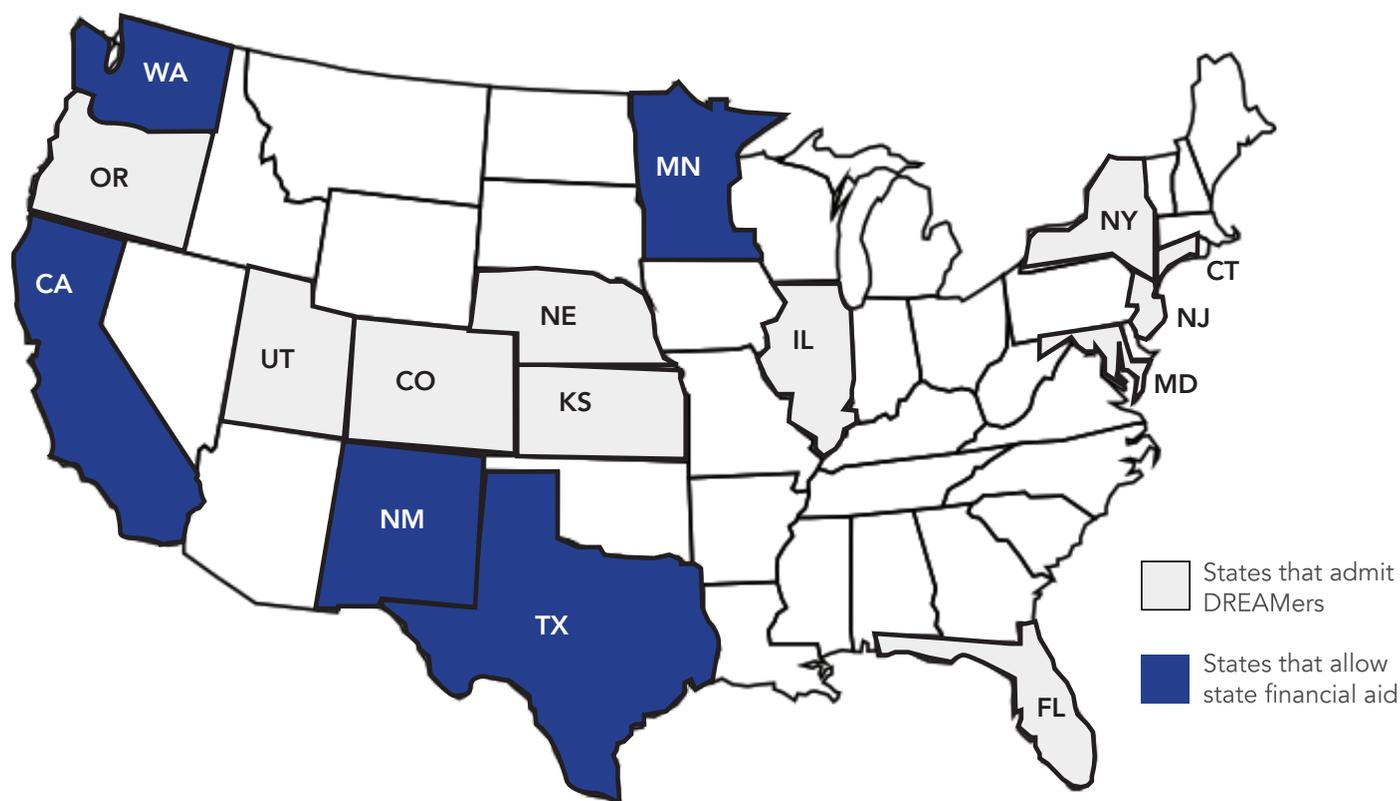
Your Specific Role/Job Title	Employer										
Example 1: Sacked groceries	Example 2: Grocery Store					Month	/		Month	/	
Example 2: Summer Intern	Example 2: Accounting Firm					Month	/		Month	/	
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Last updated June 19, 2015
Privacy | FAQ

Many undocumented students are hesitant to list their employment. While it is ultimately the student's choice of what to put down here, we have heard from many college admissions officers that it is in the student's best interest to list their jobs. Again, it is good to remind students that the admissions office WILL NOT share this information with the U.S. government.

CHECKLIST FOR APPLYING FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID

TARGET COMPLETION DATE	OBJECTIVE	DESCRIPTION
Sept of Senior Year <input type="checkbox"/>	Apply for Scholarships.	There are many scholarships available for undocumented students. Check with your counselor or High School Go Center for a listing.
Nov of Senior Year <input type="checkbox"/>	Make sure your parents apply for an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) so they are prepared to file their taxes.	An ITIN is different from a social security number and allows your parents/guardians to file their taxes each year. You will use these numbers when you apply for the TASFA. You may obtain an ITIN number through your nearest Social Security Administration Office (Form W7) or a tax preparation agency.
Sept-Nov of Senior Year <input type="checkbox"/>	Register for selective service if you are a male over age 18.	All men living in the United States who are between the ages of 17 years and 3 months and 25 must be registered with the Selective Service, even if they don't have a social security number. Most universities and colleges will not finalize financial aid without proof of registration. Those without a social security number need to use a paper form. These are available at the post office. You will need to fill out the card, sign it, stamp, and mail. A registration acknowledgment card will arrive in the mail about 30 to 90 days after a man sends in his registration card. Keep this document in a safe place as proof of registration. Most financial aid offices will request a copy of your registration card. If you do not receive a card, or if you require a replacement acknowledgment card, please call Selective Service at 1-847-688-6888.
Jan of Senior Year <input type="checkbox"/>	Apply for financial aid using TASFA forms as early as possible after Jan 1. Some institutions outside of the Rio Grande Valley may require you to submit a FAFSA.	You will only be eligible for State financial aid. Without a SSN you cannot complete the online FAFSA application. Find out from the list on the last pages of the TASFA application or the respective college or university's financial aid office which application they prefer. You can obtain a paper TASFA through your high school counseling office or online as a PDF document. Applications have to be printed out and completed on paper and turned in, in person, or via mail to the financial aid office of the institution. DO NOT MAIL to the FEDERAL GOVERNMENT!
By end of Feb of Senior Year <input type="checkbox"/>	Turn in additional financial aid documents .	Each school has different financial aid requirements. Be sure you visit each school's website and make sure you turn in all required documents.
By end of Feb of Senior Year <input type="checkbox"/>	Follow up with the universities to make sure all of your application materials were received and pending items completed.	It is YOUR responsibility to call the financial aid office and ensure they have all of the required documents.
March of Senior Year <input type="checkbox"/>	Request a Tax Transcript	Go to the IRS website to request this online. If it is not ready yet, continue checking each week, until it is available. http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Order-a-Transcript or go by the local IRS Office: 1810 Hale Ave., Harlingen, TX 78550, (956)-365-5185.
March of Senior Year <input type="checkbox"/>	Submit copies of Tax Transcripts to each college you apply to.	Submit a copy to every college financial aid office to complete your financial aid application.



STATES WITH TUITION EQUITY BILLS³

Sixteen (16) states currently have laws permitting certain undocumented students who have attended and graduated from their primary and secondary schools to pay the same tuition as their classmates at public institutions of higher education. Those states are California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Washington. Two additional states, Oklahoma and Rhode Island, allow in-state tuition rates to undocumented students through a Board of Regents decision. Five of these states allow state financial aid—California, Minnesota, New Mexico, Texas and Washington.

A majority of America's undocumented immigrants live in these states, and several other states are considering a similar change. In many of the states that have already done so, support has been strongly bipartisan and the vote lopsided in favor of the bill.

³The information in this section is from the National Immigration Law Center [<https://www.nilc.org/statebillsedu.html>]

Requirements of These Laws

To qualify, the states that have such laws generally require the students to have:

1. attended a school in that state for a certain number of years;
2. graduated from high school in that state; and
3. signed an affidavit stating that they have either applied to legalize their status or will do so as soon as eligible.

Intent and Impact of These Laws

These bills are primarily intended to help children of immigrants who were brought to the U.S. by their parents and work hard in school with the hope of going to college. Currently, public colleges and universities are inconsistent in their treatment of such students. A few schools deny them admission. If they are admitted, students in most states are charged out-of-state tuition, which is several times higher than the in-state tuition rate. They are not eligible for federal financial aid, and the average income of parents of such students is low. Even those who are eligible for in-state tuition almost always have to work full-time jobs throughout their college careers.

In the current context, very few of these students attend college. Experience in the states that have passed in-state tuition bills suggests that such legislation does not deprive the states of the revenue from large numbers of students who would otherwise pay out-of-state tuition. Rather, it raises the percentage of high school graduates who pursue a college degree.

Benefits to the State

According to experts in the states that have already passed this legislation, the cost of implementation has been negligible. In-state tuition is not the same as free tuition. It is a discount, but in fact the money paid by these students actually tends to increase school revenues because it represents income that would not otherwise be there.

The bottom line is that our economic future depends on educating these young people. We must raise the caliber of our workforce through higher education to have a chance to maintain a strong economy. Currently, only about 5 to 10 percent of undocumented young people who graduate from high school go on to college, compared with about 75 percent of their classmates.



Fully Complies with Federal Law

Contrary to the claims of immigration restrictionists, federal law does not prohibit states from providing in-state tuition to undocumented immigrants. Such a prohibition would have been simple to write, but Congress declined to do so. Rather, section 505 of the Illegal Immigrant Reform and Immigrant Reconciliation Act of 1996 (IIRIRA) prohibits states from providing any higher education benefit based on residence to undocumented immigrants unless they provide the same benefit to U.S. citizens in the same circumstances, regardless of their residence.

As discussed above, the states that provide in-state tuition to students regardless of status have fully complied with this provision.

SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

Because many scholarships require students have a social security number, it can be difficult for undocumented students to find scholarships for which they are eligible. This scholarship list aims to help undocumented students find the resources available to them by identifying scholarships that do not list citizenship/immigration status or a social security number as a requirement. Because scholarship details may have changed since information was last researched, please verify deadlines and requirements.

Websites with up-to-date lists of scholarships for undocumented students:

- College Greenlight: <http://www.collegegreenlight.com/blog/undocumented-student-scholarships-any-field-of-study/>
- MALDEF: <http://www.maldef.org/leadership/scholarships/>
- Get Ready for College: <http://www.getreadyforcollege.org/pdfGR/ScholarshipsUndocumented.pdf>
- 10,000 Degrees: <http://www.10000degrees.org/students/scholarships/undocumented-students/>
- Choose Your Future: <http://www.chooseyourfuture.org/college/undocumented-students#scholarship>

Scholarship opportunities for students with DACA:

- TheDream.US: <http://www.thedream.us/>
Student must enroll in a partner college. In the Rio Grande Valley, South Texas College and The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley participate.
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund: <https://hsf.net/en/scholarships/programs/>
- Golden Door Scholars: <http://www.goldendoorscholars.org/>

Hints for Applying to Scholarships

Institutional Scholarships: Students should apply to institutional scholarships because the majority of the merit scholarships at public universities are open to all students. Thus, institutional scholarships are not listed in this section.

Local, State, and National Scholarships: Usually, a student is most likely to receive a local scholarship because there are fewer students competing for the same award.

NOTE: Some scholarship application processes may require undocumented students to submit a Student Aid Report (SAR), available only through the FAFSA. Undocumented students should contact their institutional Financial Aid office for guidance on obtaining a SAR.