



Career Advice for Students who are Undocumented

For students with DACA:

If you have DACA, you can be hired by employers as long as your DACA is current and the employer does not require U.S citizenship or Permanent Residency.

See this link for employment information regarding DACA:

<https://www.thedream.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/TheDream.US-Employment-Guide-for-DREAMers.pdf>

For students without DACA:

1) If you do not have DACA, or your DACA will expire and you are not able to renew, you are NOT eligible to be legally hired by employers.

2) Your career options could include:

a. Starting a business to serve the public directly or to contract your work to a company

- [Student Legal Services](#) at CSU can advise on how to start a Limited Liability Company (LLC) for the purpose of starting a business

b. Joining a Worker Co-op; This is a business comprised of members who are both workers and owners of the business. Members can control the structure and practices of the work environment.

For more information on these options, see <https://immigrantsrising.org>

3) For students with and without DACA, these are ideas for preparing for your career while you are at CSU:

- [Ontiveros Inclusive Fellowship](#)
Professional development fellowship open to students regardless of citizenship – opportunity for students to receive financial distribution for career learning – could help with students who must complete internships to graduate
- [Schedule an appointment](#) with a Career Educator
- See Career Center resources specifically selected for students who are undocumented by going to <https://career.colostate.edu/> and typing DACA or Undocumented in the search bar
- [CSU's Institute for Entrepreneurship](#) – programs designed for developing businesses – open to all majors.
- Consider pursuing an [Entrepreneurship Minor](#)
- Consider the [Entrepreneurship Certificate](#) - open to all students
- The [Business Minor](#) is very heavily entrepreneurship focused
- Consider taking other courses with an entrepreneurship focus that are not restricted by majors or minors. Examples include: ECON 202, BUS 220, ECON 204, MGT 305, AREC 224
- Professional Licenses: A bill was passed in Colorado in 2021 to allow people who are undocumented to obtain professional licenses if they meet all other criteria: <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb21-077>

4) University-wide support for Students who are Undocumented:

- For resources, campus advocates, legal updates, and more: <https://undocumented.colostate.edu/>

5) Additional Community Support:

- [Larimer Small Business Development Center](#) – Entrepreneurship classes open to undocumented without DACA; one-on-one advising open to those with DACA.
- [ISSAC of Northern Colorado](#) is an interfaith coalition with a focus on helping all community members, including immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers to feel safe and supported toward reaching their highest potential.
- [Arboretum Coffee](#) is a business that aims to care for people from different countries, cultivating individual and community flourishing:

6) Networking ideas to build your business:

- For networking in areas of interest: https://www.meetup.com/cities/us/co/fort_collins/

- [Innosphere](#) – Fort Collins based organization focused on STEM/Tech start-ups
- [Founded in FoCo](#) is a yearly event for incubating new ideas, learning from peers, and building relationships

7) Graduate School Advice and Advice for Undergrads who are Undocumented:
<https://mydocumentedlife.org>

8) Alumni who are undocumented share their stories / They invite students to contact them for mentorship and support:

Please contact amy.cailene@colostate.edu if you would like to connect with one of these mentors.

Advice from Alumnus A:

Resiliency and support are the words I think of when I think about my success post-graduation. Throughout all of undergrad, I went through various challenges. For example, being a first generation undocumented student in a predominantly white institution. This was by far the greatest challenge I encountered during my times at CSU. I would not have been able to cross that stage if it wasn't for the resiliency that I have. No matter how hard situations get, I always know that I am going to get through them because I am confident in my resiliency and strength. The other biggest thing I had throughout these times that helped me through these challenges were the supports that I gained throughout undergrad. Aside from my wonderful family and friends, I sought out other supports that were closer to me and part of the CSU community. Some of those supporters were the Dreamers United group members, my sorority sisters, my classmates, and the wonderful people that work at the Career Center. All the support that I gained helped me tremendously throughout my undergrad and I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for them.

Advice from Alumnus B:

I don't have DACA and by not putting more obstacles on myself and by having the determination to not go work at previous jobs I had (after I had worked so hard for 4 years to start my career) is what led to my success after graduation. However, I was not able to do this alone. I received a lot of assistance from faculty mentors and individuals who cared about my success after college. Not having DACA is

hard and still is, but thanks to the help received by mentors, I was able to open up an LLC to start working as a contractor. Shortly after graduation, I interviewed for jobs and got hired onto my first choice. My advice to you is DO NOT hesitate to ask for help. Let your faculty and mentors know where you stand. They will do everything they can to assist in your college success. You need to speak up for yourself because they won't know how or where to help if you don't tell them. Last advice is do not put more barriers on yourself. Negative self-talk is diminishing, and it stops you from reaching your biggest potential. Know you are capable and know you CAN do this, don't give up because there is always a way.

Advice from Alumnus C:

My success post grad came from the curiosity and drive to find out more about the field that I was passionate about. No matter what field you go into every position is going to be different. Starting my senior year of high school I began to ask questions to career counselors “how do I know what I'm signing up for?” They all said informational interviews. Reach out to people on LinkedIn and ask can I have 15 minutes of your time? Ask questions about the company, the field, the jobs, why they love it and especially why they hate it! 99% of the time people will say yes! It's the initiative and drive to know more that will lead to you finding a solid place to be and you never know some of them may have positions! The other driving success is reoccurring mentorship! Find someone you trust, who you can check in with every week about resume, next steps professionalism and any questions you may have. It's important to spend a little time every week really honing in on what YOU want, not the job, not the position but what life you want to live and how you are going to achieve that! Even being undocumented we can live great and happy lives it just takes some hard work to get there and we know that well!