

Q&A: Enrolling in College Without DACA
Provided by Colorado Mountain College

Q: Are undocumented students allowed to enroll in CMC without DACA?

A. Yes. Colorado has no law requiring citizenship in order to enroll at a public college or university. Colorado laws govern tuition classification, i.e., the prices students are charged, but not enrolling in college. Additionally, “lawful presence” does not need to be determined for college instructional services per Senate Bill 13-033. Tuition classification notwithstanding, all who can benefit from a public college or university are allowed to enroll.

Q. Does the end of DACA change Colorado’s ASSET law?

A. No. Colorado’s ASSET law, which provides in-state tuition classification to undocumented students who graduated high school or completed a GED after attending a Colorado high school for three or more years, is unaffected by DACA. ASSET remains in effect and may apply to incoming students. ASSET’s qualifying criteria can be found here:http://coloradomtn.edu/admissions/tuition_costs/asset/

Q. Are ASSET students eligible for financial aid?

A. ASSET students are *not* eligible for state or federal financial aid (i.e., Pell Grants, student loans, work-study, etc.), but may receive institutional or foundation support. In other words, ASSET students are permitted to receive financial aid—usually scholarships—from Colorado Mountain College, the CMC Foundation, and any other private philanthropic foundation.

ASSET students who graduate from local high schools will likely be classified as “in-district” or “service area” students for tuition purposes. The 2017-18 tuition for a full-time, in-district student is approximately \$975 per semester (\$1,950 per year), the lowest in the entire state of Colorado. President Hauser remains committed to providing every high school graduate in the CMC service area a \$1,000 “President’s Scholarship.” These funds will cover more than half of the college’s tuition and can be combined with other foundation awards.

Importantly, if a student does not qualify for ASSET, he or she may be classified as a “non-resident” student for tuition purposes. Non-resident students pay a much higher tuition rate. These students may be able to qualify for certain scholarships, though their awards will be applied to higher non-resident rates.

For more information about ASSET or to discuss specific, exceptional situations, please contact **Dr. Katia Curbelo-Del Valle** at kcurbelo-delvalle@coloradomtn.edu

Q. Will the decision to eliminate DACA affect a student’s participation in Concurrent Enrollment programs at his or her school?

A. No. Concurrent enrollment is considered a K-12 program and protected by the Supreme Court’s decision in Plyler vs. Doe that undocumented children and young adults have the same right to attend public primary and secondary schools as do U.S. citizens and permanent residents. According to Colorado Law, all students who enroll in concurrent enrollment programs while in high school are automatically classified as “in-state” or “in-district” for tuition pricing purposes. Upon graduation from high school, different tuition classification laws apply to students.

Q. Will the decision to eliminate DACA affect “ASCENT” (fifth year or early college) eligibility?

A. No. ASCENT and other “fifth-year” programs are governed by the Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act (CEPA). This law applies to all students enrolled in a K-12 school district. As long as students remain lawfully registered with a school district, they will be covered by prevailing K-12 laws.

***Note: all of the foregoing answers assume current law. If the Colorado General Assembly (legislature) changes any laws related to tuition classification, ASSET, CEPA, or lawful presence during the upcoming session, interpretations may change prior to the beginning of the fall 2018 academic term (August 2018).

For more information on state laws concerning undocumented students, please review the Colorado Department of Higher Education’s “FAQ” on the topic here: http://highered.colorado.gov/Finance/Asset/ASSETFAQ_03262016.pdf