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**WORKING WITH
UNDOCUMENTED
STUDENTS**



LATINO RESOURCE CENTER
Faculty & Staff Resource Guide

Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment

WORKING WITH UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS







Northern Illinois
University



LATINO RESOURCE CENTER
Faculty & Staff Resource Guide

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INTRODUCTION

In collaboration with campus partners at Northern Illinois University, the Latino Resource Center created this manual to train and prepare faculty and staff members regarding options and opportunities currently available for undocumented students.

We recognize that the immigrant student population will continue to grow and to face a unique set of challenges. Sixty-five thousand undocumented students graduate from high schools across the country each year and it is critical that they receive the correct information to achieve academic success.

Our central effort in the development of this manual was to work collaboratively with units across campus to ensure that undocumented students are informed and provided with resources about successfully completing and pursuing their education at NIU.

As a part of the Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management, the LRC is deeply committed to the core values of student-centered services, partnerships focused on student learning, establishing an inclusive community, and actively building collaborative relationships. This manual and the subsequent trainings exemplify our efforts to uphold these beliefs.



Vanessa Segundo
Research & Project Specialist
Latino Resource Center



Angélica Mendoza
Assistant Director
Latino Resource Center



Emily Prieto, Ph.D.
Director
Latino Resource Center



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DEFINING THE UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT

"There is no secret door or back door to get into a recognized university; as undocumented students, we also have the privilege to walk through the front door celebrating the obstacles we have overcome."

Anonymous NIU Undergraduate Student

WHO IS AN UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT?

WHO IS AN UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT?

As defined by the National Immigration Law Center, an undocumented student is a foreign national who: (1) entered the United States without inspection or with fraudulent documents, or (2) entered legally as a nonimmigrant, but then violated the terms of his or her status and remained in the United States without authorization.

While the majority of undocumented students (56%) come from Mexico, it is important to note that these youth also represent countries in Latin America (22%), Asia (13%), Europe (6%), and Africa (3%) (Gildersleeve, Rumann, & Mondragón, 2010).

Most undocumented students:

- Were brought to the U.S. by their parents at a young age,

- Learned English and consider themselves as Americans,

- Attended elementary, middle, and high school in this country,

- And want to pursue a college education,

- But currently lack a way to become lawful permanent residents or U.S. citizens.

When referring to or speaking about undocumented individuals, using the word “illegal” is dehumanizing.

GENERATION 1.5

Rumbaut (2004) defines an undocumented student between the first and second generation of immigrants as “generation 1.5.” The undocumented student is not first generation because he/she did not choose to migrate and is not second generation because he/she was born and spent part of his/her childhood outside the United States.

CHALLENGES

Undocumented students have aspirations and needs similar to their U.S.-born peers, however, undocumented students face distinct disadvantages because they:

- Do not have a Social Security number,

- Cannot legally work or drive,

- Are ineligible to obtain federal and state financial aid, so they face barriers to financing higher education,

- Tend to be first-generation college students,

- Have difficulty navigating the college admission process,

- Have limited access to internships and other out-of-classroom opportunities,

- And live in fear of being “found out,” and removed/deported to a country they hardly know.

FINANCIAL OBSTACLES

The primary obstacle for a college-bound undocumented student is financial. Based on current government policies, undocumented students cannot qualify for federal or state-based financial aid, including grants, Work-Study jobs, or loan programs. Without financial aid, the costs of attending a college can often be prohibitive for undocumented students and their families.

IN-STATE TUITION FOR PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN ILLINOIS

Students who are not U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents, who do not possess legal documentation, can apply for admission to NIU and pay in-state tuition. Illinois House Bill 60 was signed into law in May 2003 as Public Act 093-07. It allows undocumented students to be classified as Illinois residents for tuition purposes if they meet all of the following conditions:

- 1 Student resided with her/his parent or guardian while attending a public or private Illinois high school,
- 2 Student graduated from an Illinois high school or received the equivalent of a GED high school diploma in Illinois,
- 3 Student attended an Illinois high school for at least three years as of the date of graduation from high school or received the equivalent of a GED high school diploma in Illinois,
- 4 Student provides the university with an affidavit stating her/his intent to file an application to become a permanent resident of the U.S. (varies among universities).

FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION AFFECTING UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

FEDERAL LAW

Plyler vs. Doe—In 1982, this Supreme Court ruling determined that a K-12 education is a fundamental and protected right and will be provided to all children in the United States, regardless of citizenship or residency status.

Family Educational and Privacy Act (FERPA)—This federal law protects the privacy of student records at educational institutions, including elementary and secondary schools, colleges, and universities.

DREAM ACT

The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors or DREAM Act has been proposed in federal and California state legislatures. While there have been several variations of the law, the goal of the DREAM Act has been to increase higher education opportunities for undocumented students. Versions of the law have proposed allowing a path to legal residency based on students' enrollment in college, the military, or community service work and making financial aid programs (such as grants, loans, and Work-Study) available to undocumented students who meet the following criteria:

Arrived in the U.S. before the age of 16,

Have lived in the U.S. for at least five consecutive years,

Graduated from a high school or obtained a GED,

And demonstrated good moral character.

STATE LAW: ILLINOIS DREAM ACT

Governor Pat Quinn (D) signed the Illinois DREAM Act into state law on August 1, 2011. This came after the state House and Senate passed the legislation through their respective chambers with overwhelming bipartisan support. This legislation makes Illinois the first state in the country to create a private scholarship fund for undocumented youth. It also eases the path to higher education for undocumented youth, 65% of whom come from households that earn 200% under the poverty line. The passage of the bill is an incredible victory that creates a precedent for other states to follow.

WHAT DOES THE ILLINOIS DREAM ACT DO?

1 It allows anyone with an individual taxpayer identification number, including undocumented students, to participate in the State Treasurer's College Savings Pool and the Illinois Prepaid Tuition Plan. These programs allow families of DREAM youths to plan ahead and invest and save for their children's college education.

2 High-school college counselors are required to be trained and prepared to know what college options are available for undocumented students and children of immigrants. This requirement will ensure that undocumented students will receive correct information about opportunities available to them after high school. Training will be incorporated into existing counselor trainings.

3 It requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to establish an Illinois DREAM Fund Commission administered by volunteers of the state, who are appointed by Governor Quinn. The Illinois DREAM Fund Commission will establish scholarships for qualified undocumented students. The scholarships will be funded entirely by private donations and contributions.

WHAT DOESN'T THE ILLINOIS DREAM ACT DO?

- 1** It does NOT offer legal permanent status.
- 2** It is NOT a path towards citizenship.
- 3** It does NOT allow students to legally work in their field upon graduation.

To review changes and get updates on the progress of the Illinois DREAM Act, check out the website, www.dreamactivist.org

WHO QUALIFIES?

In order to qualify for the benefits of the Illinois DREAM Act, students must:

- 1** Have resided with parents or guardians while attending high school in Illinois,
- 2** Have attended a high school in Illinois for at least 3 years up to the time of graduation or receiving the equivalent of a high school diploma (such as GED),
- 3** Have at least one parent who immigrated to the United States.

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND ACTION ITEMS:

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
www.icirr.org

Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education
www.ilache.com

World Relief-Aurora
www.worldrelief.org

Immigrant Youth Justice League
www.iyjl.org

ENLACE Chicago
www.enlacechicago.org

La Voz Latina
www.lavozlatina-rkfd.org

Educators for Fair Consideration
www.e4fc.org

National Immigration Law Center
www.nilc.org

Mexican American Legal Defense Education Fund
www.maldef.org

Pew Hispanic Center
www.pewhispanic.org

Urban Institute
www.urban.org





ATTENDING NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

"Your NIU education will prove transformational in your life. While at NIU, our students discover themselves and begin their lifelong journey to realize their dreams. The NIU campus provides a dynamic and energetic culture for learning and personal growth."

John G. Peters, President, NIU

PROFILE OF ADMITTED STUDENTS

HIGH SCHOOL GPA (MIDDLE 50%)	2.85 - 3.47 (BASED ON A 4.00 SCALE)
------------------------------	-------------------------------------

RANK IN CLASS (MIDDLE 50%)	RANK IN CLASS (MIDDLE 50-78%)
----------------------------	-------------------------------

ACT COMPOSITE SCORE (MIDDLE 50%)	ACT COMPOSITE SCORE (MIDDLE 20-25%)
----------------------------------	-------------------------------------

ENGLISH	4 YEARS
---------	---------

MATHEMATICS	3 YEARS (Algebra, geometry, algebra II, trigonometry or higher)
-------------	--

SCIENCE	3 YEARS (At least one year of lab science)
---------	---

SOCIAL STUDIES	3 YEARS (At least one must be US history or US government)
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FOREIGN LANGUAGE, ART, OR MUSIC	2 YEARS
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Up to one year of required coursework in Science, Social Studies, Foreign Language, Art, or Music can be distributed in any of the five subject areas listed above.

FRESHMAN ADMISSIONS FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

DEADLINES, CRITERIA, & INSTRUCTIONS

SEMESTER**

Spring
Summer
Fall*

DEADLINES**

Mid-January
Mid-May
Mid-August

*Current high school students typically apply to begin in the fall.

**Semester and deadline dates are subject to change. Contact the Admissions Office for the most current information.

Once students begin the online application, they will not be able to save and return later to complete the application. Inactivity for 20 minutes or more will require them to start over.

STUDENTS WILL NEED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Personal Information

High School Information

(School Name, Dates of Attendance, etc.)

College/University Information

(School Name, Dates of Attendance, etc.)

Payment Information

(Credit Card, other acceptable payment method, or fee waiver)

Please make sure students select on their application the semester they wish to begin classes. We are unable to switch the semester for applications and/or decisions. Students will need to submit a new application if their enrollment semester changes. (For example: To start in August, they would apply for fall.)

*When filling out the fee waiver, do not write anything in the Social Security section, but complete the rest of the form.

STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE THE STEPS LISTED BELOW IN ORDER TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO NIU AND PETITION FOR IN-STATE RESIDENCY:

Complete an NIU undergraduate admissions application online making sure to do the following:

Citizenship—Students must answer “NO” to the following questions:

Are you a U.S. citizen?

Are you a lawful U.S. permanent resident?

Do you currently hold a valid U.S. visa or another valid immigration status?

Are you seeking a visa to study in the U.S.?

Non-Citizen Status—Students must be able to answer “YES” to all of the following questions and complete a signed affidavit to be considered an Illinois Resident for tuition purposes.

Did you/Will you graduate from an Illinois high school or attain a GED in Illinois?

Will you have attended school in Illinois for at least three years as of the date of your high school graduation?

Did you/Will you live with your parents while you attended high school in Illinois?

Social Security Number: Students should follow the instructions indicated below depending the type of application they submit.

1 Online application: Students will not be asked for a Social Security number but instead will be prompted to the next section.

2 Paper application: Students must leave all sections asking for a Social Security number blank.

APPLICATION FEE AND FEE WAIVER

A \$40 non-refundable application fee payable to NIU will be required to process this application (Visa and MasterCard are accepted).

To be considered for an application fee waiver, students must be currently enrolled in high school and submit an NIU Application Fee Waiver Form available on the admissions website. Students may also have submitted a letter from their high school counselor or social worker submitted, which states that they meet the criteria listed on the NIU application fee waiver form.

NIU AFFIDAVIT

Students must file an NIU Affidavit* (oath made in writing) stating that they meet the above conditions and that they will apply for legal residency as soon as they are eligible to do so. This affidavit is kept confidential by NIU. A student who fails to file an NIU affidavit will be charged out-of-state tuition.

Contact NIU Records & Registration to request that an NIU Affidavit form be sent to you, or view and print the Affidavit at: <http://www.niu.edu/admissions/freshman/affidavit.pdf>

SUBMIT THE AFFIDAVIT AND THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions
Northern Illinois University
1425 West Lincoln Hwy.
DeKalb, IL 60115

Application fee or qualified application fee waiver form,

Official high school transcript,

Official ACT or SAT score report,

Official college transcript(s) (if applicable).

Contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to confirm receipt of the Affidavit and supporting documents.

*Please refer to the Appendix to obtain a copy of the actual form.

TRANSFER ADMISSIONS FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

DEADLINES, CRITERIA, AND INSTRUCTIONS

SEMESTER**

Spring
Summer
Fall*

DEADLINES**

Mid-January
Mid-May
Mid-August

*Current high school students typically apply to begin in the fall.

**Semester and deadline dates are subject to change. Contact the Admissions Office for the most current information.

Once students begin the online application, they will not be able to save and return later to complete the application. Inactivity for 20 minutes or more will require them to start over.

Please make sure students select on their application the semester they wish to begin classes. We are unable to switch the semester for applications and/or decisions. Students will need to submit a new application if their enrollment semester changes. (For example: To start in August, they would apply for fall.)

STUDENTS WILL NEED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Personal Information

High School Information

(School Name, Dates of Attendance, etc.)

College/University Information

(School Name, Dates of Attendance, etc.)

Payment Information

(Credit Card or other acceptable payment method)

STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE THE STEPS LISTED BELOW IN ORDER TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO NIU AND PETITION FOR IN-STATE RESIDENCY:

Complete an NIU undergraduate admissions application online, making sure to do the following:

Citizenship—Students must answer “NO” to the following questions:

Are you a U.S. citizen?

Are you a lawful U.S. permanent resident?

Do you currently hold a valid U.S. visa or another valid immigration status?

Are you seeking a visa to study in the U.S.?

Non-Citizen Status—Students must be able to answer “YES” to all of the following questions and complete a signed affidavit to be considered an Illinois Resident for tuition purposes.

Did you/Will you graduate from an Illinois high school or attain a GED in Illinois?

Will you have attended school in Illinois for at least three years as of the date of your high school graduation?

Did you/Will you live with your parents while you attended high school in Illinois?

Social Security Number: Students should follow the instructions indicated below depending the type of application they submit:

1 Online application: Students will not be asked for a Social Security number but instead will be prompted to the next section.

2 Paper application: Students must leave all sections asking for a Social Security number blank.

NIU AFFIDAVIT

Students must file an NIU Affidavit (oath made in writing) stating that they meet the above conditions and that they will apply for legal residency as soon as they are eligible to do so. This affidavit is kept confidential by NIU.

Contact NIU Records & Registration to request that an NIU Affidavit form be sent to you, or view and print the Affidavit at:

<http://www.niu.edu/admissions/freshman/affidavit.pdf>

SUBMIT THE AFFIDAVIT AND THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions
Northern Illinois University
1425 West Lincoln Hwy.
DeKalb, IL 60115

The application fee

*Official high school transcript

Official ACT or SAT score report

Official college transcript(s)

Contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to confirm receipt of the Affidavit and your supporting documents.

If desired, an optional Personal Statement with applicant identification as used on the student's application (full legal name, address, email address, phone number, date, NIU semester desired), may be submitted by mail or e-mail to become part of an application file.

Undocumented students who want to transfer to NIU must always provide their high school transcripts and ACT scores.

Students who wish to change their initial semester of application to another NIU semester within the same calendar year must submit a new application, but do not need to submit another application fee. If students wish to attend NIU for a semester in a new calendar year, then they will need to submit a new application and a new fee payment for that application.

Contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to confirm receipt of the Affidavit and supporting documents.

*Official high school transcripts are used as documentation and proof that an undocumented student fulfilled residency requirements under House Bill 60 (refer to page 13), to obtain in-state-tuition.

MCKINLEY “DEACON” DAVIS CHANCE PROGRAM FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

CHANCE (Counseling, Help, and Assistance Necessary for a College Education) and ACCESS (Access to Courses and Careers through Educational Support Services) provide a full array of supportive and enabling services: Personal, academic, career, and financial aid counseling; registration assistance; developmental academic courses; peer mentoring programs; and a high school-to-college transition course.

MISSION

The guiding mission of CHANCE is to identify, recruit, admit, and assist capable students whose pre-college education has not fully enabled them to take maximum advantage of their potential and the opportunities of higher education at NIU. Undocumented students are eligible to apply and be enrolled in the CHANCE Program.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

Students who demonstrate strong motivation and potential for success in college but who do not meet one or more of the traditional criteria for admission to NIU may be considered for alternative admission using the services of Educational Support Programs (ESP). Beyond the ACT and high school transcripts, CHANCE looks for characteristics such as special talents, significant activities and accomplishments, leadership potential, personal commitment, and goal orientation.

SERVICES PROVIDED

The ACCESS-PAL (Peer Assisted Learning) component offers tutoring by upper-division and graduate students. ACCESS also offers course support services through the Supplemental Instruction (SI) component.

CHANCE SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Individual and group academic, personal, and career counseling.

- Financial aid counseling and follow-up process.

- Academic monitoring and follow-up throughout the student’s undergraduate career.

- Tutorial assistance for courses.

- Academic skills-enhancement courses.

- Introductory university transition skills-building course taught by a counselor.

- Peer mentoring for freshman and transfer students.

- Exit counseling services for students withdrawing or transferring from NIU.

An admission file is complete and ready for review when the following items have been received:

1 A Northern Illinois University application for undergraduate admission and all required supporting documentation, including the Affidavit. Please refer to pages 19-24 for detailed instruction.

2 Personal Statement. The personal statement is your opportunity to tell the CHANCE staff about yourself. Beyond your high school transcript and ACT scores, please share information you think is important for our staff to know. Explain your goals, career interests, and what has influenced you to consider these goals and career interests. What successes have you accomplished? What are your academic strengths and weaknesses? If you have any low grades or attendance problems, please explain them. Why have you chosen NIU and the CHANCE Program? Personal statements may be mailed or faxed to 815-753-1929. Be sure to include your name and birth date.

PROCESSING YOUR APPLICATION

Review of completed applications begins in October. Students are selected and invited for an interview based on their application packet. Those applicants will be invited for an interview for further consideration. Parents are strongly urged to attend the interview. Interviews are held weekly on the NIU-DeKalb Campus.

Contact the CHANCE Office to confirm receipt of the Affidavit and supporting documents.

DOCUMENTATION OF DISABILITY

If you are a student currently receiving accommodations, submit documentation from a qualified professional verifying your diagnosed disability. For immediate review, please submit your Individual Education Plan (IEP) as partial documentation.

CHANCE ADMISSIONS FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

DEADLINES, CRITERIA, AND INSTRUCTIONS

SEMESTER

Fall

DEADLINES

March

*March 1st is the priority deadline for admission applications. However, Counseling, Help, and Assistance Necessary for a College Education Program (CHANCE) constantly reviews completed applications and most of their decisions are made before March 1. They receive approximately 3,700 applications annually, but only 500 students will be enrolled for each fall semester.

FRESHMAN ADMISSIONS

A freshman applicant is defined as one who, at the time of enrollment at NIU, will have graduated from a targeted high school or have attained a high school equivalency through the General Educational Development (GED) test and will have attempted or earned no more than 12 semester hours of college credit. Freshman admission to NIU through CHANCE is available only to Illinois residents in the fall semester who attend targeted high schools, or who participate in certain academic programs, or who are veterans of the U.S. armed services.

For a complete listing of schools and programs, please visit: www.chance.niu.edu

TRANSFER ADMISSIONS

Each year, CHANCE sets aside a limited number of admission slots for academically disadvantaged transfer students who have earned between 13 and 23 transferable college credits. The transfer applicant must have attained at least an overall college grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 (C) on a 4.00 scale, as computed by NIU standards. In addition, the applicant must have completed at least two of the four NIU core competency courses, preferably mathematics and English, and must have passed each core course with a grade of at least a C (2.00 on a 4.00 scale), as computed by NIU standards. Transfer admission to NIU through CHANCE is available only to Illinois residents in the fall and spring semesters who graduated from a targeted high school, or who participated in certain academic programs, or who are veterans of the U.S. armed services. For a complete listing of schools and programs, please visit our website at www.chance.niu.edu

FRESHMAN HOUSING REQUIREMENT

HOUSING & DINING

On-campus living provides unique opportunities for student academic and social involvement. The value on-campus living adds to a student's college experience is the basis for the Freshman Residency Requirement. First-year students are required to complete a Housing & Dining contract, submit a New Freshman Application to Commute, or file a Residence Hall Contract Release Request.

FRESHMAN RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

The freshman residency requirement stipulates that all single students classified as freshmen (under 30 hours of NIU accepted college credit) who have not reached their 21st birthday by September 1, and are not residing with their parents or legal guardians, must live in a Northern Illinois University residence hall for the full academic year (August – May).

SIMPLY STATED, YOU MUST EITHER:

- 1** Complete a Housing & Dining contract,
- 2** Submit a New Freshman Application to Commute,
- 3** File a Residence Hall Contract Release Request,

Students who have not done one of these three things will automatically have a Housing & Dining standard double room billing for a full semester's room rate sent to their NIU Bursar's account for each semester of the academic year (August – May). Students who do not complete one of the required options by the end of the first week of classes during their first semester (or within 30 days of a late admission date) will be billed a \$100 contract service charge. Students who do not complete one of these things and who have been billed through the Freshman Residency Requirement will only be considered for a refund if they submit the New Freshman Application to Commute or Residence Hall Contract Release Request within the first semester they are enrolled. Requests for contract billing changes submitted after the last class day of the first semester enrolled will not be considered for a refund. The University does not waive finance or late fee charges for students who have not submitted their exemption requests before classes begin for their first semester enrolled.

RESIDENCE HALL CONTRACT RELEASE REQUEST

To request release from the freshman residency requirement, a married student may submit a Residence Hall Contract Release Request, accompanied by a copy of the marriage certificate

To care for a child, a student who is the parent/guardian of a dependent child may request to be released from the freshman residency requirement. A copy of the birth certificate or court documentation of guardianship must accompany the release request.

While there are other categories for contract release requests by continuing students, it is rare for a first-year student to be released from the freshman residency requirement for any reason other than commuting from the permanent home of the parent/guardian, personal marriage, or being the primary care giver (parent or legal guardian) of a dependent child.

NEW FRESHMAN APPLICATION TO COMMUTE

HOUSING & DINING, NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

The freshman residency requirement stipulates that all single students classified as freshmen (under 30 hours of NIU accepted college credit) who will not have reached their 21st birthday by September 1, and are not residing with their parents or legal guardians, must live in a Northern Illinois University residence hall for the full academic year. Students who have not completed a Housing & Dining application or been granted a waiver through their Application to Commute* by the first week of classes during the semester they are first registered as a student at NIU, will automatically have a Housing & Dining basic billing for a full year's room rate sent to their NIU Bursar's account.

Authorized commuting distance is defined as no farther than 65 miles from the NIU DeKalb campus.

Living with siblings, friends, or in family-owned subsidiary housing in which the parent/guardian does not permanently reside does not meet the standards for a freshman residency waiver.

Students completing 30 or more hours at another institution prior to the beginning of their first semester at NIU may support their waiver application by supplying an institutional copy of those transcripts.

Students who are seeking to waive the Freshman Residency Requirement for reasons other than commuting from the permanent home of their parent/guardian, may complete a Residence Hall Contract Release Request form that provides an opportunity for the student to introduce other factors for consideration.

Authorization to commute has not been granted until this request has been processed and a letter granting approval has been returned to the requesting student.

Students who do not submit an exemption request by the end of the first week of classes during their first semester (or within 30 days of a late admission date) will be billed a \$100 contract service charge if their exemption is granted. Students who do not submit an exemption request and have been billed through the Freshman Residency Requirement will only be considered for a refund if they submit the Freshman Residency Requirement Exemption Request and all required documentation within the first semester they are enrolled. Requests for contract billing changes submitted after the last class day of the first semester enrolled will not be considered for a refund.

* Please refer to the Appendix for a copy of this form.

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FINANCIAL AID

"My secret to becoming a successful undocumented student is late nights of studying, never giving up while knocking on closed doors, and, most importantly, my determination to climb the ladder of success so that one day I can give back to all the people who helped me reach the American Dream."

Anonymous NIU Undergraduate Student

FINANCIAL AID

EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS OF UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

Bill HB 60 (as of May 30, 2003) enables undocumented students to receive in-state tuition at state colleges and universities in Illinois

REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY FOR HB 60:

Student has resided in Illinois with his/her parent or guardian while attending public or private high school,

Student has graduated from an Illinois public or private high school or received a GED from Illinois,

Student has attended an Illinois high school for at least three (3) years,

Student has registered to enter the University no earlier than the fall 2003 semester,

Student provides the University with an affidavit stating he/she will file an application to become a permanent resident of the U.S. once he/she becomes eligible to do so.

THE ILLINOIS DREAM ACT (SB 2185)

The Illinois DREAM Act creates a DREAM COMMISSION to raise private, charitable funds for scholarships for youth brought here by their parents without legal status, and who are ineligible for taxpayer-funded aid.

Allows immigrant students and their families to participate in ILLINOIS COLLEGE SAVINGS PLANS with their own money.

Provides training for high school counselors on higher education options for DREAM students to be incorporated in existing trainings.

The Illinois DREAM Act costs nothing to Illinois' taxpayers!

FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

Undocumented students are not eligible to apply for or receive federal financial aid. In no circumstance should an undocumented student submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Undocumented students should also never use their Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) in place of a Social Security number as the ITIN is solely used for tax filing purposes.

Undocumented students are not eligible to receive: state or federal grants, federal Work Study, or Stafford loans.

ARE UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE PRIVATE AND INSTITUTIONAL AID?

Undocumented students are eligible to apply for private scholarships from their communities and national organizations. Private scholarships for undocumented students are highly competitive and limited. Please encourage your students to apply early and apply often. We also encourage you to contact individual scholarship committees/organizations to ask if they would be willing to accept an undocumented student's application if they meet all other requirements. The key is advocacy. NIU also offers institutional aid for which undocumented students can apply.

Please review the search engines made available on the NIU Scholarship Office's website (<http://www.scholarships.niu.edu/ScholarshipFinder/>). We invite the NIU community to contact the Scholarship Office at anytime with any scholarship questions, concerns, or needs.

At this time, undocumented students are not eligible to enroll in the Huskie Advantage Program.

NIU STUDENT FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

Attending college is a great investment in a student's future. Many families need assistance to help offset the educational expenses. The NIU Student Financial Aid Office (SFAO) is pleased to assist students and their families in securing the resources needed to fund educational expenses. We are available through campus visits, phone, and e-mail communications to support you in the pursuit of your academic goals at NIU.

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

Financial Aid is available at NIU from federal, state, University, and private resources. Many students receive and use aid from all sources to pay for tuition and fees. There are four primary types of financial aid:

Grants: Gift aid that is awarded based on demonstrated financial need. Grants do not have to be repaid.

Scholarships/Waivers: Gift aid that is awarded based on a variety of factors, such as academic achievement, talent, athletic ability, leadership, geographical location, field of study, and/or financial need. Scholarships do not have to be repaid.

Loans: Funds that are borrowed to help pay for educational expenses. Loans must be repaid, usually with interest.

Federal Work-Study: Funds that can be earned by working in exchange for wages. Employment earnings do not have to be repaid.

PAYMENT PLANS

It is the policy of Northern Illinois University to open an account for each of its students for the purpose of charging tuition and fees, room and board, textbooks and school supplies (purchased through plans limited to financial aid recipients), and residence hall long-distance telephone calls. Other charges incurred by a student, such as parking fines, child care fees, and pharmacy charges, may be added to the student's account. These charges, payments, other debits, and credits for financial aid, will appear on the monthly statement of account. Students are responsible for payment-in-full of their student account at NIU, plus any additional costs that may be incurred by the University in collection of their debt to NIU.

Students should contact the Bursar's Office, Northern Illinois University, regarding any changes to the plan.

REEVALUATION OF FINANCIAL AID NEED

Generally, financial aid eligibility is based on the previous year's income information. Student whose financial situation has changed substantially during the year or before the academic year starts can contact the SFAO to request a reevaluation of their financial aid need. Circumstances that can be considered include the following:

Loss of income (wages or benefits) because of unemployment (job loss or employment change) change in health, or change in the student's or parents' marital status.

High unreimbursed medical and/or dental expenses.

Higher cost of attendance due to specific circumstances, such as higher-than-usual book and supply expenses, commuting costs, or child care costs. (Please note that these circumstances only increase potential loan eligibility.)

TUITION AND FEES

The Student Financial Aid Office establishes an estimated or “standard” student budget each year that takes into consideration tuition and fees, living expenses, books and supplies, as well as travel and personal expenses. An individual student’s actual expenses may vary from the estimated budget depending on enrollment, housing, and lifestyle choices. The estimated costs for the 2011-2012 academic year (fall and spring semesters) are listed below. This estimated budget should assist in planning a budget for the upcoming academic year.

Because the State of Illinois budget is not yet finalized, the Student Financial Aid Office is unable to provide the actual cost of tuition and fees for students new to NIU for 2011–2012. The tuition and fees budget component on this chart is based on 16 credit hours per semester with Student Medical Insurance. Student Medical Insurance may be waived by the NIU Student Health Insurance Office during a limited period at the start of each semester by the NIU Student Health Insurance Office. To review eligibility for waiving this fee and the online waiver process, visit www.niu.edu/shi/

	TUITION & FEES	ROOM & BOARD	BOOKS & SUPPLIES	TRAVEL EXPENSES	PERSONAL EXPENSES	TOTAL BUDGET
ILLINOIS RESIDENTS (IN-STATE)	\$12,558	\$9,346	\$1,400	\$700	\$2,396	\$26,400

A student and their family may choose to not take out loans to cover all expenses in the standard budget.

Student Medical Insurance fee of \$830 has been included but may be waived (niu.edu/shi/). Undocumented students are eligible to purchase student medical insurance.

At the time of printing, tuition and fees and room and board are still estimates.

ROOM AND BOARD

Housing costs can vary significantly based on the living arrangements selected. The NIU residence halls offer a variety of room types and meal plans. The standard student budget uses the rate for a double occupancy room in Grant Towers residence hall with the Gold meal plan. Room and Board charges for a single room, suite, Northern View Community apartment, and/or a different meal plan (<http://housing.niu.edu/dining/mealplans/index.shtml>) will be higher than the estimated amount in the chart and in the Cost of Attendance figure on award notification. When calculating an individual budget, be sure to factor in housing choices.

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

If off-campus housing is chosen, the room and board amount of the standard student budget will remain the same as specified above. (If students choose to live off-campus, they may save money by having roommates.)

COMMUTING STUDENTS

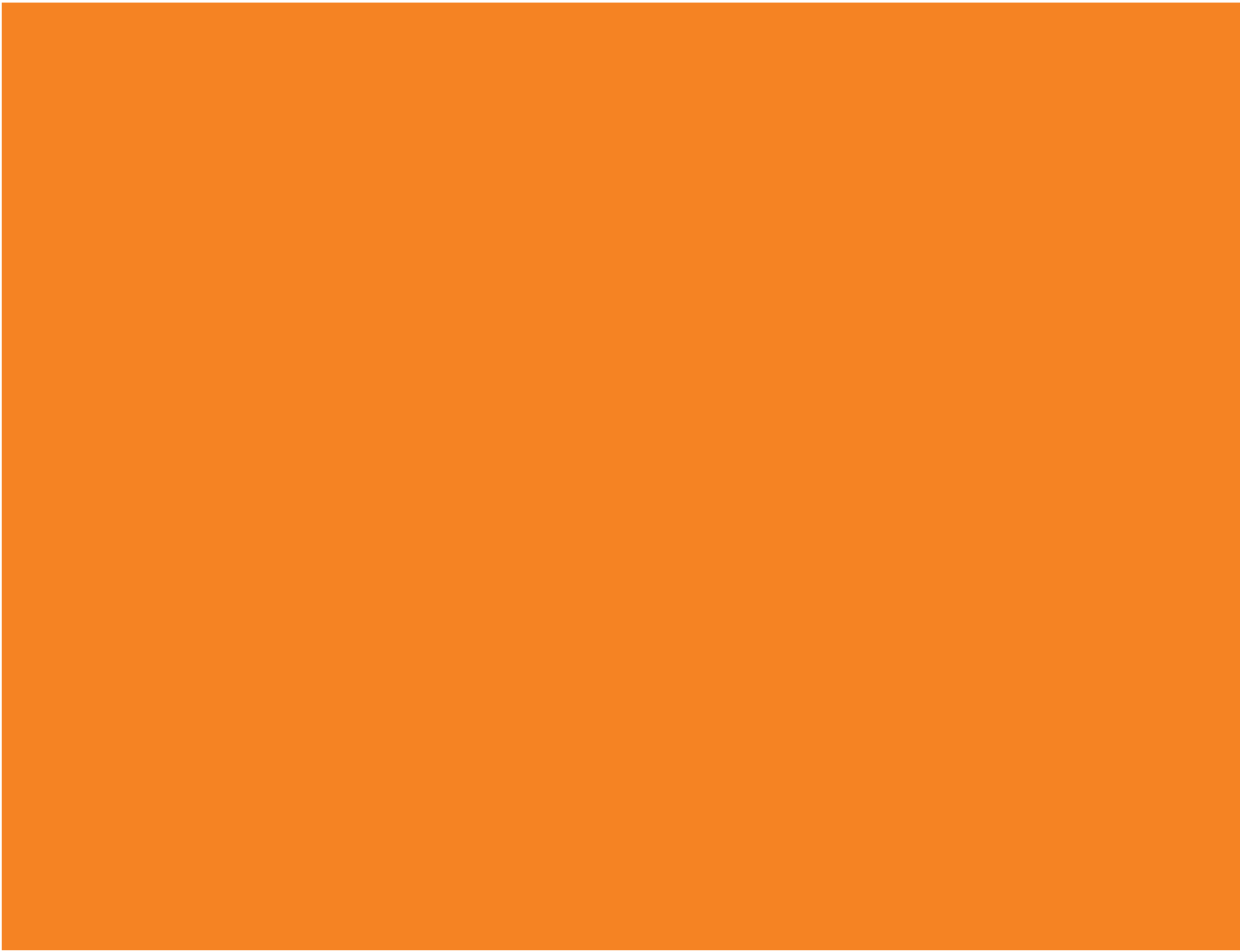
Commuting students who live at home will have a lower room and board component in their estimated budget. Their estimated cost of attendance would be \$25,400.

BOOKS AND SUPPLIES

Costs for books and supplies can vary widely by program, the number of classes in which students are enrolled, the classes they select, and textbooks required for classes. Costs may be significantly reduced by purchasing used textbooks whenever possible.

TRAVEL AND PERSONAL EXPENSES

This represents miscellaneous student expenses such as car/transportation expenses, meals not covered by the residence hall meal plan, clothing and personal items, long distance phone calls made from residence hall phones, and entertainment expenses.





LEGAL SERVICES

STUDENTS' LEGAL ASSISTANCE

AN OFFICE FOR ALL STUDENTS

Students' Legal Assistance (SLA) was established in 1972 as a result of the leadership of the Student Association and progressive support of the NIU Administration. Our program was born of the idea that it is vitally important to make available legal information and advice to the thousands of NIU students who, because of economic incapacity, would otherwise be unable to participate in the due process system.

It is very important for undocumented NIU students to know that free confidential counseling and representation is available with Students' Legal Assistance. The United States Constitution applies to noncitizens as well as to citizens. Students' Legal has a series of Know Your Rights pamphlets. It is also important that a student disclose noncitizen status to their SLA attorney so the attorney can advise them of any ramifications to their right to remain in the United States. Immigration laws are complicated and are constantly being reinterpreted. Although current staff of Students' Legal does not practice in immigration law, they can, however, recommend attorneys who practice in different specialties of immigration law such as removal and criminal defense. Remember that time is of the essence when a student has been detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or arrested.

TIPS FOR UNDOCUMENTED NON-CITIZEN STUDENTS:

If you are stopped by the Police:

Think carefully about your words, movement, body language, and emotions.

Do not argue with the officer.

Do not run. Do not touch the officer.

Do not resist even if you believe that you are wrongfully stopped.

Do not sign anything giving up your rights.

Do not falsely claim U.S. citizenship.

Do not carry false documents.

Do not sign any documents without first speaking with a lawyer.

Remember that once a conversation with a police officer is terminated, the officer must either arrest you or let you go.

Ask for a lawyer immediately after you are arrested.

Undocumented persons should remain silent or tell the ICE agent that they want to remain silent.

IN YOUR HOME

If the police knock and ask to enter your home, you do not have to admit them unless they have a warrant signed by a judge. You have the right to examine the warrant first before you admit them.

Officers rarely ask, “May I enter your room to look for evidence in plain view?” or “May I perform a full search of your person?” You must be aware of what is going on, and you must say whether or not you give consent. Be firm, clear, and polite.

WHAT IF AN AGENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) CONTACTS YOU?

Assert your rights. If you do not demand your rights or if you sign papers waiving your rights, the DHS may deport you before you see a lawyer or an immigration judge.

Never sign anything without reading it, understanding it, and knowing the consequences of signing it. It is in your best interest to consult with an attorney before you answer any questions. You have the same rights as United States citizens under the Fifth Amendment right to remain silent. Nevertheless, different kinds of law enforcement officials might try to question you or ask you to agree to an interview where they will ask questions about your background, immigration status, relatives, colleagues, and other topics.

There is an exception for individuals on student visas. Immigration officials can require you to provide information relating to your immigration status.

You have the right to have a lawyer of your choice present before you answer any questions. You have the right to stay silent if your answer to a question could be used against you in a criminal case.

Talk to a lawyer. If possible, carry with you the name and telephone number of an immigration attorney who will take your calls.

The immigration laws are complicated and are constantly being reinterpreted. As soon as you are contacted by DHS, call an immigration lawyer. There may be options for you that immigration officers will not explain to you. You do not have a right to a governmental appointed lawyer for an immigration proceeding, but if you have been arrested, immigration officials must show you a list of free or low-cost legal service providers.

Staff and faculty members can refer students or call Students’ Legal Assistance directly concerning Northern Illinois students needing legal assistance. Call 753-1701.

Please see the Appendix for a list of additional resources.





STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

"The personal connection a student makes with someone at the university campus is as integral a part of the college experience as academic rigor and intellectual growth."

John G. Peters, President, NIU

COUNSELING & STUDENT DEVELOPMENT CENTER

ABOUT US

We value an atmosphere that is welcoming for all individuals. We embrace all diversity including age, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity/ expression, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, citizenship, and ability. We strive to foster and promote awareness, empathy, and cultural competence within a multicultural environment.

MISSION

The mission of the Counseling & Student Development Center is to support the academic, emotional, social, and cultural development of students. Our student-centered programs include counseling, assessment, psychiatric treatment, crisis response, outreach, consultation, training, and educational services. We help students address personal challenges and develop the skills, abilities, and knowledge to empower them to take full advantage of their college experience.

SERVICES

NIU students can come to our office during walk-in hours to complete paperwork and meet with a counselor. During this initial appointment, the student and the counselor will identify areas of personal growth and counseling options to help the student reach his/her goals. This appointment takes approximately 45 minutes.

The Counseling & Student Development Center offers free individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, educational programming, consultation, and referrals to campus and community resources. Students can also use our resources room to gather more information or enjoy a refreshing chair massage.

HEALING WITH THE HUSKIES: A SPECIAL NOTE

Since the campus tragedy of 2.14.08, students have sought support through counseling to process their personal thoughts and feelings. As a new or returning student, you may find yourself impacted by this tragedy in ways you didn't anticipate.

The Counseling & Student Development Center is committed to strengthening the Huskie spirit by supporting individual and community healing.

THE LATINO RESOURCE CENTER

ABOUT US

The Latino Resource Center (LRC) is a unit of the Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management at Northern Illinois University. Better known as the “LRC” by students and staff, the Center focuses on student-centered service by developing partnerships focused on student learning while establishing an inclusive community that builds collaborative relationships across campus and the surrounding community.

MISSION

The Center’s mission is to recruit Latina/o students to NIU, increase the retention rate of Latino/a students, and provide cultural, social, and academic programs that enhance the quality of Latino/a student life.

SERVICES:

Mentoring for Academic Success (M.A.S.)

A mentoring peer support, and leadership program designed for incoming students. Students who register for this program will be introduced to a successful Latino junior or senior at NIU who will be available to work with the incoming student in social and academic areas. All incoming students are welcome to participate.

De Mujer a Mujer: Latina Assistance Program

(L.A.P.)

A peer support and leadership program designed for Latina women. This program strives to provide a safe space for Latina students to actively engage and discuss various topics about student and academic life.

Supporting Opportunities for Latinos (S.ó.L.)

A student organization that emerged to meet the needs of Latino males. The Latino Resource Center works closely with S.ó.L to provide academic, social, and leadership opportunities that enhance students’ retention and graduation rates.

Freshmen Receiving Experience and Study Habits (F.R.E.S.H.)

A free tutoring program designed to provide freshmen with the academic skills to perform at a high level in the classroom environment through one-on-one tutoring and multiple workshops.

RESOURCES

The Center offers a computer lab, study/library area, student lounge, and wireless Internet connection. Here various students involved with different organizations hold meetings or visiting daily. We are located at 515 Garden Road, across the street from Anderson Hall.

ASIAN AMERICAN CENTER

ABOUT US

Northern Illinois University holds the distinction of having the first stand-alone Asian American Center within the northern Illinois region. The Center opened its doors on September 9, 2004. The center's purpose is to enhance the quality of college life for Asian American students as they reach their academic goals.

MISSION STATEMENT

In support of the academic mission of Northern Illinois University and the Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management, the Asian American Center creates an inclusive environment where Asian American students cultivate a strong sense of community at NIU, and where campus and community partners collaborate to raise awareness about the rich cultural heritage of Asian Americans. The Asian American Center provides:

- Student-centered services
- Student-learning opportunities
- Leadership development
- Student organizational advisement
- Educational/cultural programs.

By providing student-centered services, student learning opportunities, leadership development, student organizational advisement, and educational/cultural programs, the Asian American Center strives to enhance the quality of college life for Asian American students as they reach their academic goals. In short, the Asian American Center provides a welcoming environment and a "home away from home" atmosphere for the Asian American student population.

PEER MENTOR PROGRAM

The purpose of this program is to assist the University in maintaining a consistent Asian American enrollment that focuses on retention and graduation by providing students with a support system that is based on a one-on-one interactive relationship of upper-division Asian American students and Asian American freshman and transfer students. The Ohana Peer Program will help those students to adjust to college life and help them succeed.

CENTER FOR BLACK STUDIES

ABOUT US

The Center for Black Studies is an interdisciplinary academic program that offers undergraduate courses relating to African and African-American life and history. The Center also researches, collects, and analyzes data on all aspects of the African experience on the Continent and in the Diaspora.

The Center for Black Studies is also a place where students can go to for advisement, information about academic and professional resources, and networking. Dubbed the “home away from home” for African American students, the Center is also a place where students go to hang out and socialize with other students in a warm and welcoming environment.

The Center for Black Studies is housed in a nine-room facility, built in 1993, which houses the offices of its professional staff, some organizations, and the conference/class room.

The Center seeks to stimulate students’ professional, cultural, and social interests by providing programs, events, and support to facilitate their needs. A number of professional and student organizations are sponsored through the Center.

EVENTS

Throughout the year, as well as during Black Heritage Month, the Center sponsors events and programs that address a diverse array of disciplines ranging from history, literature, art, political science, dance, theater, and music.

In recognition of students matriculating from the University, the Center sponsors its annual Black Studies Recognition Ceremony.

Other events that are celebrated include Black to School Tour, A.I.D.S. Walkathon, Family Day Informational (CHILLFEST), Days of Enlightenment, Night of Elegance, Kuumba Festival, CBS Lecture Series, Black Issues Forum, Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration, African-American Leadership Conference, and Black Arts Festival.

The Success and Succeed Program (S-Plan) pairs upper-division African-American students with younger students in the same majors.

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER RESOURCE CENTER

ABOUT US

As a member of the Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals, NIU is in an elite class: We are one of about 125 colleges and universities internationally whose services include a professionally-staffed campus resource center addressing needs related to sexual orientation and gender identity.

Our commitment to creating an inclusive community was recognized nationally in 2006 when NIU was named one of the 100 best campuses for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) students in the nation by the *Advocate College Guide* for LGBT Students.

MISSION

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Center serves as a vital link where LGBTQ individuals can find a sense of community and everyone can learn about LGBTQ identity and culture. We strive to create an inclusive campus community by providing support services, educational programs, advocacy, and opportunities for leadership development.

ALLY PROGRAM

The Ally Program is a campus-wide program designed to foster a welcoming and supportive campus environment for LGBTQ individuals by creating a visible network of allies.

The program supports the Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management core value of establishing an inclusive community. The Ally Program creates opportunities for non-LGBTQ people to learn about LGBTQ identity and builds connections between the broader campus community and LGBTQ individuals.

Ally Program volunteers display the “NIU Ally” symbol on door signs, buttons, and magnets to visibly identify themselves as supporters of the LGBTQ population who understand some of the issues facing people who are LGBTQ and who are aware of LGBT resources.

Q-CONNECT PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Regarding questions and concerns about sexuality and gender, go to www.niu.edu/lgbt/resourcecenter and click “Q-Connect”.

You must be an NIU student to login. Then a Peer Mentor will greet you and engage in conversation. Q-Connect only offers 1-on-1 chats between students and mentors rather than a group chat.

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

ABOUT US

We are located in the big red house at the corner of Lincoln Highway and Normal Road, across the street from the Psychology and Computer Building, and right next to the Center for Black Studies. Even though we love our cool digs, we're so much more than just our building!

MISSION

Through advocacy, personal development, and social justice programming, the Women's Resource Center staff is dedicated to gender equity and enhancement of the campus climate for women. We provide a central space on campus where faculty, staff, students, and community can come together around issues of inclusiveness and activism.

WE'VE GOT GREAT PEOPLE.

If you haven't met our friendly, amazing, talented, and smart staff, stop in. Our staff alone is worth the visit. We can help you find what you need—whether it's on campus or a community resource. We also have some great books in our resource library. Stop in and browse, or use the computers in the library to finish up that paper you've been putting off. Or just stop in to say "Hi," and take a load off between classes; you can enjoy some satellite TV on our big screen. Stop in for any reason—we love groupies!

SERVICES

We do important work for women on campus—making the campus community safer for women, serving as advocates for women with concerns on campus, raising awareness of how gender affects everyone's lives, and getting women the resources they need to be successful.

Here you can register to vote, store your lunch in our fridge, grab a cup of coffee in our kitchen, watch for the bus from our front entryway, make friends, hold a study group or student group meeting, use one of our spaces for a lactation area, or come to meet new people and share common interests.

Looking to be more than a Center groupie? We have lots of ways you can get involved, including volunteer positions, credit and non-credit internship opportunities, helping us create cutting-edge programs and events for students, bringing in nationally known guest speakers, and working to make the campus climate better for women—whatever that means for you.

DREAM ACTION NIU

MISSION

DREAM Action NIU is a student-led organization working in collaboration with the Latino Resource Center. Our organization aims to increase awareness about the situations undocumented students face in the U.S. and particularly on our campus. Our members share the belief that higher education is a fundamental human right for all, regardless of citizenship status.

As an organization, we understand the multiple obstacles undocumented students face, and therefore we strive to develop strategies to ensure that these students are able to attain higher levels of education and academic success. We also aim to provide accurate information to the institution so that it is better equipped to serve this population.

OUR MAIN OBJECTIVES INCLUDE

Supporting legislation that gives undocumented individuals access to post-secondary options,

Increasing awareness of the situations faced by undocumented students on campus, with a focus given to NIU staff, administration, and faculty members, along with and those serving in roles that provide support services and resources to students,

Raising scholarship funds for undocumented students pursuing higher education at NIU,

Building collaborative relationships with academic units and departments across campus to ensure that the NIU campus is a safe and inclusive environment for undocumented students.

PAST EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Our first group meeting was held on November 4, 2009, and since then we have accomplished a number of goals. To date we have distributed \$5,000 in scholarship funds to support undocumented students and allies in their attainment of higher education at NIU. We have hosted campus rallies to raise awareness about the DREAM Act including a march from the residence halls to the east lagoon, a candlelight vigil, and action in commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. and his famous, "I Have a Dream" speech. We actively participated in a lobbying for the Illinois DREAM Act in Springfield and carried out a voter registration campaign. We have hosted screenings of documentaries such as "Papers: The Movie," "The Other Side of Immigration," and "Which Way Home," as means to further educate members on our campus about the complex immigration system and its effects on individuals and families. We have also carried out various fundraising projects that included food sales, T-shirt sales, solicitation of private donations, and annual scholarship benefits as means to raise scholarship funds. We were awarded the 2010 Diversity and Equity Award for our contributions to the campus community.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Latino Resource Center website :
<http://www.niu.edu/lrc/dreamactionatniu.shtml>

Facebook: DREAM Action NIU

e-mail: dreamactionniu@gmail.com





STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

"For me, being an undocumented student was feeling the desire to triumph and keep walking forward with minimal help yet having my hands and feet tied down and mouth taped with minimal help until one day I decided to push as hard as I could to keep walking forward with my head held high and letting my voice be heard ."

Anonymous NIU Undergraduate Student

WELLNESS CONCERNS OF UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

As we work with undocumented students in higher education, we need to look beyond “student development theory” and focus on the reality of their individual situation based on their immigration status. Perez et al. (2006) point out that leaving relatives and friends behind when moving, feeling pressure to speak only Spanish at home, living in a home with many people, and feeling that others make fun of the way they speak English are potentially stressful events that immigrant youth experience. In a more recent study, Contreras (2009) discussed the following as emergent themes of the unique experiences undocumented students face in higher education: “(1) presence of fear in regard to themselves and their families, especially the possibility of separation; (2) financial difficulty in paying for college; (3) campus experiences that were often discriminatory, as well as exposure to resources and supportive individuals whom the students could trust to help them navigate college; (4) the will to persist, as seen in the determination to overcome challenges in their personal and academic lives as well as to give back to their communities; and (5) concerns about the future”. (p. 618).

All of these stressors can cause students to develop depression, apathy, frustration, and sometimes even anger towards themselves, their parents, and a broken educational system. It is common to hear undocumented students express feelings of loneliness, helplessness, and/or powerlessness that are tied into their immigration status (Dozier, 1993).

Perhaps the most critical factors are, concerns about the future because their status keeps them from incorporating legally, if not socially, into the institutions of this country (Abrego, 2006). Students are faced with the reality of having a college education degree, but no real possibilities to exercise their profession in a country they claim as their own. Second, the development of a sense of belonging is closely related to identity development and the level of acculturation or assimilation into the host country, are for the most part to the age students were brought initially to this country. Rumbaut (2004) gives a clear identity to these new groups of students referred to as “Generation 1.5,” but in terms of identity development, Torres (2003) presents a Bicultural Orientation Model (BOM) that can assist us in understanding the acculturation continuum that undocumented students may experience. She proposes four cultural orientations:

- 1 Bicultural: a comfort level with both cultures,
- 2 Latino/Hispanic: greater comfort with the culture of origin,
- 3 Anglo: greater comfort with the majority culture,
- 4 Marginal: discomfort with both cultures- indicating conflict within the individual.

It is important to note that regardless of all the obstacles they face, undocumented students are determined, hardworking, engaged, and very optimistic young people despite the add-on stressors of fear and anxiety that come with their immigration status. The following are steps professionals can take to facilitate the development of trust and sense of belonging at NIU:

Outreach to students and ask if they need help in dealing with their mixed feelings.

Be genuine and assure them that they can trust you without being “found out”.

If possible group counseling / support group can be a better approach.

If counselors have basic knowledge of immigration policies that affect undocumented students, they will be credible and earn students’ trust.

Allow students to experience relief by talking about their experiences and difficulties.

Share campus resources.

Establish a welcoming environment for all students.

Develop meaningful connections with students to gain their trust.

Validate their love of this country: They grew up “American.”

Be informed and stay informed on state and federal legislation affecting undocumented students.

Written by Susana Das Neves, Academic Advisor, NIU

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Rumbaut, R. (2004). Ages, life, and generational cohorts: Decomposing the immigrant first and second generations in the United States. The International Migration Review Center.

Torres, V. (2003). Influences on ethnic identity development of Latino college students in the first two years of college. *Journal of College student Development*, 44 (4), 532-547.

INVOLVEMENT & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

NIU provides a wide variety of involvement and leadership development opportunities for every student.

BENEFITS

According to Perez, Espinoza, Ramos, Coronado, and Cortes (2010), some benefits of involvement for students include good class attendance and higher grade point average (GPA), higher self-esteem, higher academic self-efficacy and motivation to learn, and the power to influence career aspirations and further political involvement.

“Higher student involvement is considered an environmental protective factor for undocumented students because it allows opportunities for developing relationships with other peers who are academically engaged, faculty, and staff.”

OBSTACLES

Undocumented students face obstacles when trying to become involved on campus. Two of the main obstacles are:

Economic pressures—In Illinois, undocumented students pay in-state tuition, which is not the case in other states. We also know that these students cannot apply for federal aid, and the amount of available scholarships and funding for these students is very limited. Therefore,

in a majority of cases, undocumented students need to work to pay for college. Many of them rely on jobs such as babysitting and eldercare to generate income. Some students are also expected to generate income for their families (Zariani, 2008).

Family responsibilities—Some undocumented students are asked to care for younger siblings when their parents are working. They may also have to help with a family business. All of these affect their prospects for involvement (Zariani, 2008).

Deportation—Undocumented students live in constant worry that they may be “found out” and their legal status exposed. Traditional activities such as driving and obtaining a student ID carry numerous risks and dangers.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

It is important to be aware of issues surrounding undocumented students. As higher education professionals, we are able to create systems of support and advocacy that include undocumented students. We can empower students to become active participants of democracy (Gildersleeve & Ranero, 2010). We also can become social justice advocates, understand the issues facing people who are in this country undocumented, and become aware of resources available to them.

We should consider what will be required from undocumented students as they become more involved in their education. For example, a student reported that when applying to become a tutor in a third-grade classroom, he was asked to provide his Social Security number and undergo a background check. Being direct about what documents are needed to participate in an activity is important. For example:

The Executive Board positions within the Campus Activities Board (CAB) and Student Association (SA) are paid positions that require students to fill out a W-9 form that asks for a Social Security number.

There are, however, positions in CAB as an AVP or committee member and in SA as a Senator that are volunteer and provide valuable experience.

Greek organizations have different membership requirements. The Greek adviser in Student Involvement & Leadership Development can help students answer any questions.

Some of the Volunteerism opportunities require background checks, but many do not. The Assistant Director for volunteerism can help students identify the requirements for specific service projects.

There are over 300 student organizations at NIU. Some are religious, cultural, academic, professional, political, or social justice-oriented. The Assistant Director for Student Organizational Services can help to answer any questions students may have. A list of organizations can be found at the Student Association website (<http://www.niu.edu/sa/organizations/index.shtml>).

The Leadership Academy is a three-tier program that helps students further develop their leadership skills by engaging them in workshops, roundtable discussions, and other activities. Students can advance through the academy at their own pace, which makes it an ideal setting for a student who has outside responsibilities.

Created by Karla Neal, Student Success Specialist, College of Visual and Performing Arts, NIU.

Review the academic advising sheet for more information about how undocumented students can obtain background checks at NIU.

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Zariani, H. (2008). Barriers to civic engagement for undocumented students. *Diversity & Democracy*, 11(2), 14.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

When working with undocumented students, it is crucial to identify the program requirements of the major they are interested in pursuing. The majority of NIU's majors require students to participate in clinicals, practicums, internships, or student teaching, yet, many undocumented students do not have the paperwork to complete these essential components towards their degree.

The following table is an overview of requirements for clinicals, practicums, internships, or student teaching by various colleges at NIU, and methods to successfully approach the background check* and provide opportunities so that undocumented students can partake in each respective experience.

*NIU's Criminal Background Fingerprinting offers the opportunity for undocumented students to undergo a background check without the need of a Social Security number. Most employers honor NIU's background check.

COLLEGE	CLINICALS/PRACTICUMS/ INTERNSHIPS/STUDENT TEACHING	BACKGROUND CHECK
BUSINESS	Not required, but highly recommended. Some unpaid internships, but students will need to inquire of individual departments. A great opportunity for all majors is the Experiential Learning Center where students (junior standing) work on real company business problems.	Depends on the company
EDUCATION	Required for Elementary Ed., Special Ed, Physical Ed, Early Childhood Studies. Observations, clinicals, and student teaching	Most school districts where students are placed honor NIU's background check that can be done through NIU's Police Dept. using fingerprints and not SSN.

COLLEGE	CLINICALS/PRACTICUMS/ INTERNSHIPS/STUDENT TEACHING	BACKGROUND CHECK
EDUCATION	Athletic Training & Kinesiology: Observation hours required. Some can be done with trainers at NIU in the Recreation Center. Student is responsible to find the site	For observation hours not likely, but depends on site policies.
ENGINEERING & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY	Required for Elementary Ed., Special Ed. Physical Ed. Early Childhood Studies, Observations, clinicals, and student teaching	Depends on the company
HEALTH & HUMAN SCIENCES	<p>Textile Apparel & Merchandising: Internship Nutrition & Dietetics: Food service work hours Hospitality Administration: Food service work hours Early Childhood Studies: Clinicals/Student teaching Child Development: Practicum & volunteer hours Family Social Services: Practicum & Internship Family Individual Development: Practicum & Internship Communicative Disorders: Highly recommended Clinical Lab Sciences: Practicum I & II Public Health: Pre-Practicum & Practicum Health Education: Student teaching Nursing: Clinicals</p> <p>It is recommended that the student talk with an adviser on the specific major to better address the background-check protocol and site placement requirements.</p>	Depends on the company

COLLEGE	CLINICALS/PRACTICUMS/ INTERNSHIPS/STUDENT TEACHING	BACKGROUND CHECK
LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES	Required for teacher certification programs, clinicals, and student teaching.	Most school districts where students are placed honor NIU's background check that can be done through NIU's Police Dept. using fingerprints and not Social Security number.
LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES	Not required, but highly recommended for non-teacher certification programs.	Depends on the major and internship site.
VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS	Required for teaching certification programs (Art & Music Education).	Most school districts where students are placed honor NIU's background check that can be done through NIU's Police Dept. using fingerprints and not Social Security number.
VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS	Not required, but highly recommended for non-teaching programs.	Depends on site
ROTC	Only US citizens because, upon graduation, they will be Lt. officers. However, a student can enlist at a military recruiting office.	N/A

Created by Susana Das Neves, Academic Advising, NIU

INTERNSHIP AND COOPERATIVE EDUCATION EXPERIENCES

NOTE: Undocumented students at NIU are eligible to participate in several internships and cooperative education experiences. Also available are alternative options that provide equivalent opportunities for skill development, professional growth, and networking also available. Please make the effort to become informed with what you can do, and reach out to other departments about what they can assist with to help an undocumented student.

Undocumented students should never use/provide a false Social Security number.

WHAT IS AN INTERNSHIP?

An internship is a one-semester work experience or project that may be repeated.

Must be major- and/or career-related with intentional learning goals.

Minimum of 120 hours per semester (full or part-time).

May, or may not, be for academic credit.

Opportunities may be paid or unpaid.

WHAT IS COOPERATIVE EDUCATION (CO-OP)?

A co-op is a work experience with the same employer for at least two semesters.

Must be career- and/or major-related with intentional learning goals.

Minimum of 120 hours per semester (full- or part-time).

May, or may not, be for academic credit.

Compensation may vary

HOW DOES AN INTERNSHIP OR CO-OP EXPERIENCE BENEFIT STUDENTS?

Gain professional experience before graduation.

See classroom concepts and theories applied in real work situations.

Network with professionals in the field.

Develop and affirm your goals.

Build résumés with career-related experience.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE WORKPLACE

Strive for a high level of personal and professional growth,

Demonstrate professionalism at all times, and follow policies and expectations of the organization,

Complete work assignments within the designated time requirements,

Resolve workplace concerns through the proper channels and notify Career Services immediately (or academic advisor if earning academic credit) if a situation warrants special attention.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Be an enrolled NIU student,

Have completed 30+ hours of college coursework, and

Have a minimum 2.0/4.0 GPA.

NOTE: Employers or academic departments may have additional requirements. PLEASE REVIEW THE CHART, WHICH OUTLINES IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS.

HOW-TO FIND YOUR INTERNSHIP OR CO-OP EXPERIENCE:

Receive career counseling, résumé assistance, and job search assistance through the Career Services office, Career Resource Center, and the Career Services website,

Use the NIUVictor eRecruiting account, <http://niu.experience.com/er/security/login.jsp> to search and apply for hundreds of posted positions, and

Attend the Internship and Job Fairs and other campus recruiting events.

For additional resources, visit Major WebLinks <http://www.niu.edu/careerservices/weblinks/index.shtml>

Refer to individual academic programs/colleges who have information about upcoming internships.

Also, speak to an academic advisor and faculty, and network with students, friends, and family.

REPORT INTERNSHIPS at <http://www.niu.edu/careerservices/reporting/index.shtml> to be eligible for “Student of the Month” and “Student of the Year” cash scholarships.

Career Services is happy to assist you in searching for an internship or co-op. We are located in Campus Life Building 220, at www.niu.edu/careerservices, via e-mail careerservices@niu.edu, or 815-753-1641.

When working with Career Service Counselors, be honest about a student’s status so that they can better help find opportunities to enhance students’ academic experience. Make sure you obtain permission from your student(s) to disclose their legal status.

.....





CASE STUDIES

“Being an undocumented student is not accepting a classification or stereotype, but acting as a person with dreams like any other students.”

Anonymous NIU Undergraduate Student

PLANNING AFTER GRADUATION: WHAT NOW?

SCENARIO

A student approaches his mentor, who is aware of the student's status in the United States, to ask for advice in regard to going back to Mexico as a possible route to continue his studies in the United States.

DIALOGUE

Student: "I am thinking of a possible opportunity to solve my status situation, at least temporarily, but it is highly risky. The problem is HOW LONG is it going to take and IF it's going to happen? If I take the risk and it doesn't go as I hope it will go, then all my future plans will be worthless, and I would have to start all over again...."

Mentor: "Well, what is it that you're thinking, and is it worth the risk? What would happen in the worst case scenario?"

Student: "The risk is to say goodbye to the plans that I have for getting my master's degree here at NIU as soon as I graduate and go back to México. I would then apply for a student visa, knowing and having proof of my acceptance to the master's program. Then they would give me an internship here at NIU and, if everything goes well, I'll be able to come back with a student visa and change my situation. If not, then I'd have to stay and perhaps never come back here...at least not for a long time."

Mentor: "This is something to think about: If you go back and they don't give you the visa, will you be able to get a master's in Mexico? Have you had any advice from a lawyer? Because you have to remember that, by having your B.A. from here, you're proving you've been here unauthorized...they might want to penalize you for that. I'm pretty sure you know, but just to make sure, I'd suggest you talk to an immigration attorney."

DISCUSSION

Although the knowledge we might have about immigration law is very limited, administrators, faculty, and staff members should be able to know where to steer the students to guide them to the right resource. In this case, consider this:

From academic to immigration status, what is the student's current situation?

Who would be the appropriate person to give advice in this case? And, do we have that individual's contact info? Is there someone currently working with undocumented NIU students?

What are NIU's policies in regard to students planning to enroll in a graduate program who are in this situation? (If the student does decide to go back and is fortunate enough to get a student visa, upon his/her arrival at NIU, would he/she be considered an international student and charged accordingly?)

STUDENTS INTERESTED IN GRADUATE SCHOOL

SCENARIO

This is a conversation between a professor and her student who is asking for information about the Master's program in Public Administration at NIU. The MPA program offers students the opportunity to complete their master's degree while they also experience the public administration field through a paid internship for the program's two-year duration. Also, tuition is waived, which makes this program highly competitive.

DIALOGUE

Student: "I am interested in the MPA program, but I am undocumented. Can I get into the program? My concern is in regard to the internship."

Professor: "Unfortunately, that is not possible. The program is designed to include the paid internship. Since you are not allowed to work here legally, you would not be able to be placed for a job, thus not receiving the experience and exploring the field of public administration."

Student: "What about an unpaid internship? I would be willing to take on an unpaid internship to participate in the program."

Professor: "All of our internships are paid. That is the way the program is designed. Have you considered any other career options?"

Student: "Well, I had thought about going back to Mexico, but my family is here and that makes it really hard. I wouldn't want to leave without them. I know that I could probably find a job over there, especially because I am bilingual and have an American degree, but I think I would feel guilty about leaving my family here in pursuit of my professional goals. I don't know how long it would be before I could see them again."

Professor: "Family is important, but have you considered that there might be many other options for you? How about working in an embassy? It wouldn't necessarily have to be in Mexico; you could travel around the world."

DISCUSSION

After this conversation, the student felt disheartened and disappointed, but at the same time felt that there are many other options available. She went on to talk to her mother about possibly moving to Mexico and continuing her education there. In that case, consider this:

What are the chances that the student will be able to continue her studies in her country of origin?

What if the student's status were to change (i.e., student marries a citizen or some kind of reform is passed)? The student now has missed the chance to get into the program of her choice.

Now, would the student really be able to work in an embassy, considering that she resided illegally in the United States?

THE NURSING PROGRAM

SCENARIO

A student approaches the Chair of the School of Nursing to inquire about admissions into the program. After learning that the student is undocumented, the administrator notifies the student that he/she will not be able to take the state licensure exam.

DIALOGUE

Student: "I'm very interested in applying for the Nursing program. I meet all the qualifications for admissions, but as I am undocumented, my concern is my ability to take the state license exam towards the end of the program."

Nursing Chair: "You cannot be admitted because you need a Social Security number to perform a background check and sit for the state licensure exam."

Student: "I've contacted the state licensing agency, and they notified me that I can sit and take the state exam as they are able to assign me an ID, which will act in place of a Social Security number."

Nursing Chair: "What is the point anyway? Even if you got the nursing degree and got your license, you could not legally work. The nursing program has many students waiting to get into the program, and I cannot waste a spot on someone who cannot work in the field."

DISCUSSION

After speaking with the Nursing Chair, the student felt concerned and confused about his/her degree choice.

Although the student had always excelled in math and sciences and had dreamed of becoming a nurse, he/she is now thinking about changing the degree program. In this case consider:

Can/should admission into a degree program be based on the ability of a student to work in the field for which the degree prepares them?

Whose responsibility is it to decide what degree program undocumented students may pursue?

What can faculty members, administrators, or mentors, do to ensure that they are informing undocumented students of the benefits, risks, and long-term documentation/processes necessary to execute a degree?

How can faculty members, administrators, mentors, become more informed about alternatives to taking required state exams, obtaining certification, or practicums, or the like?

FINANCIAL AID REGULATIONS

SCENARIO

Financial aid for any student is one of the biggest obstacles and processes they experience while attending college. Remembering that undocumented students are NOT eligible to either receive federal nor state (in Illinois) financial aid, let's learn about how good intentions can become a big nightmare if attention to detail is overlooked.

DIALOGUE

Student: "Hello, I was told by a friend that the Financial Aid Office was awarded a federal grant to cover the tuition cost for certain health care programs for low-income students. I read over the student requirements and I meet all of them except one."

Grant Administrator: "Thanks for stopping by! I would love to see if you're eligible for this new program. What is the one requirement you do not meet?"

Student: "Um, I don't have a Social Security number. I am undocumented."

Grant Administrator: "Oh. Let me contact the grant funding agency to inquire if we can use the grant funds to pay for the tuition of students without a Social Security number. Good news! The funding agency notified me that it is fine to use the money as long as we can track your educational outcomes without a Social Security. We can work on providing you an alternate number and make this possible!"

About a year passes from this initial interaction. The student was already awarded thousands of dollars through the federal grant program. Suddenly, the grant funding agency contacts the grant administrator who finds himself in a terrible predicament.

Grant Administrator: "Hi, student. I was contacted by the grant funding agency that has sent me very specific information stating that by no means can grant money be used for undocumented students. We must now return the money you were awarded to the grant funding agency. We need you to pay back all the money you were awarded through this grant. You will be getting a bill in the mail with the total amount."

DISCUSSION

After the phone call, the student is faced with the situation of paying back thousands of dollars. The student has no savings, does not work, and can't depend on any financial assistance from his family. The student is now thinking about dropping out of college, but has no way of paying back the money being charged. In this case consider:

What should the grant administrator have done before awarding the federal grant money to this student?

Whom can the student contact for legal advice?

Describe some ways in which this situation could have been prevented?

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

SCENARIO

A student was just accepted into a university during the senior year of high school. The student is very excited, has been awarded various scholarships, and with the help of family has worked out a way to pay for tuition. Yet, the student receives information from the university that there are certain requirements that must be met, which starts to add up to a tremendous amount of money.

DIALOGUE

Student: "Mom! I just received some mail from the university. It's from Housing & Dining and states that as a first-year student, I am required to live on campus in the dorms!"

Mom: "Have you seen the prices?! That is too expensive. We will not be able to afford to pay for that amount."

Student: "Let me call the Housing & Dining Offices and see what they can advise me what I should."

Student: "Hi, I just received some information telling me that I am required to live on campus since I'll be a first-year student. My family and I can't afford to pay that amount. Are there any other options?"

Housing & Dining: "There are no other alternatives. As a first year student you are REQUIRED to live on campus."

Mom: "Why don't you call another campus resource and see what they tell you?"

Latino Resource Center: "Thank you for giving us a call! Yes, there is a request to commute form you can complete if you meet all of the requirements. That way you can live at home and still attend the university."

DISCUSSION

The student felt relieved that there was an alternative to being required to live on campus, yet felt discouraged about not being able to obtain a clear answer from the primary resource. The student began to worry about other paperwork he received from the university that had similar stipulations or required verification that he was unable to provide. In this case consider:

What can be done to ensure that students are provided with the most up-to-date and accurate information during their first-year experience?

How can you be an active participant in ensuring that students are made aware of a variety of options and alternatives throughout their college experience?





APPENDIX



Northern Illinois University

APPLICATION FEE WAIVER REQUEST

To qualify for a waiver of the undergraduate admission application fee, students must show extreme economic hardship by meeting one or more of the following categories. Please check the categories that apply*:

- Applicant's family receives public assistance
- Applicant's total family income is at or below the maximum amounts set by the Bureau of Labor Statistics Low Standard Budget
- Applicant resides in a foster home
- Applicant participates in the free or reduced lunch program at the high school
- Applicant is a ward of the state
- Applicant qualifies for an ACT/SAT fee waiver

CERTIFICATION:

Student's Name (please print clearly)*: _____

Student's Social Security number: _____ - _____ - _____

I certify that one or more requirements have been met:

School/Agency Official Name (please print clearly)*: _____

Name of School/Agency*: _____

Signature of School/Agency Official and Date*: _____

* Required



New Freshman Application to Commute

Freshman Residency Requirement

The freshman residency requirement stipulates that all single students classified as freshmen (under 30 hours of NIU accepted college credit) who will have not reached their 21st birthday by September 1, and are not residing with their parents or legal guardians, must live in a Northern Illinois University residence hall for the full academic year. Students who have not completed a Housing & Dining application or been granted a waiver through their Application to Commute by the first week of classes the semester they are first registered as a student at NIU, will automatically have a Housing & Dining basic billing for a full year's room rate sent to their NIU Bursar's account.

- Authorized commuting distance is defined as no further than 65 miles from the NIU DeKalb campus.
- Living with siblings, friends, or in family owned subsidiary housing in which the parent/guardian does not permanently reside does not meet the standards for a freshmen residency waiver.
- A student completing 30 or more hours at another institution prior to the beginning of their first semester at NIU may support their waiver application by supplying an institutional copy of those transcripts.
- Students who are seeking to waive the Freshmen Residency Requirement for reasons other than commuting from the permanent home of their parent/guardian, may complete a Residence Hall Contract Release Request form that provides an opportunity for the student to introduce other factors for consideration.
- Authorization to commute has not been granted until this request has been processed and a letter granting approval has been returned to the requesting student.
- Students who do not submit an exemption request by the end of the first week of classes their first semester (or within 30 days of a late admission date) will be billed a \$100 contract service charge if their exemption is granted. Students who do not submit an exemption request and have been billed through the Freshmen Residency Requirement will only be considered for a refund if they submit the Freshmen Residency Requirement Exemption Request and all required documentation within the first semester they are enrolled. Requests for contract billing changes submitted after the last class day of the first semester enrolled will not be considered for a refund.

Student First Name _____ Middle Initial _____ Last Name _____ NIU Z ID # _____

Student signature _____ Date _____

Commuting Residence Clarification

Parent or *Guardian _____
 First Name _____ Middle Initial _____ Last Name _____

Relationship to the student _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Approximate distance from DeKalb _____ Approximate travel time each way _____

Primary Contact Phone # _____ Alternate Contact Phone # _____

*** Court documentation clarifying legal guardianship must be provided.**

Housing & Dining Freshman Residency Requirement Exemption Request



Northern Illinois
University

Personal Contact Information:

Name: _____ NIU Z ID #: _____
 First Initial Last

Current Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Country: USA Other _____ Zip: _____

Primary Phone # _____ Alternate Phone # _____

Primary email: All official university business must be sent through your NIU Z ID email account.

Freshman Residency Requirement

The freshman residency requirement stipulates that all single students classified as freshmen (under 30 hours of NIU accepted college credit) who have not reached their 21st birthday by September 1, and are not residing with their parents or legal guardians, must live in a Northern Illinois University residence hall for the full academic year (August – May). A request for an exemption must be submitted before a Housing & Dining agreement has been signed. If a Housing & Dining agreement has already been submitted, the student will need to use the general Contract Release Request process, as the exemption option is no longer available. Students who do not submit an exemption request by the end of the first week of classes their first semester (or within 30 days of a late admission date) will be billed a \$100 contract service charge if their exemption is granted. Students who do not submit an exemption request and have been charged through the Freshman Residency Requirement will only be considered for a credit if they submit the Freshman Residency Requirement Exemption Request and all required documentation within the first semester they are enrolled. Requests for contract billing changes submitted after the last class day of the first semester enrolled will not be considered for a credit. The University does not waive finance or late fee charges for students who have not submitted their exemption requests before classes begin during their first semester enrolled.

1. Requesting a Freshman Residency Requirement for (check all that apply):

- Fall and Spring Semester 20____(year) Fall Semester Only 20____(year)
 Spring Semester Only 20____(year)

2. Reason for Freshman Residency Requirement Exemption Request (Select appropriate area):

- Married
Required documentation: copy of marriage license/certificate
- Custodial parent of a dependent child
Required documentation: copy of birth certificate/guardianship papers
- Commute from permanent home address
Required documentation: completed and notarized New Freshman Application to Commute form
- Over 21 years of age by September 1
 NIU records will verify birth date. No additional documentation required.
- 30 hours or more of NIU accepted college credit
 Exemption will be applied after accepted credit hours are confirmed by NIU Registration and Records. No additional documentation required.
- Other Exceptional circumstances _____
 If you believe you have a unique situation that would qualify you for an exemption from the Freshman Residency Requirement you may submit a personal narrative describing the situation and any documentation you have available to support your case. Other exemptions are very rare and are not typically granted to allow students to live in other off-campus housing with friends or other family members. The only general off-campus housing exemption is to commute from the student’s permanent home address (within 65 miles of the DeKalb campus) where the student resides with a parent or guardian.

 Student Signature

 Today’s Date

 Signature of parent/guardian for students **under 18** years of age

 Today’s date

Revised 11/10/2009





COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The following information lists several organizations in the state of Illinois that offer support, guidance, and services for undocumented students and families. Please contact each individual organization to inquire about specific questions.

The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
www.icirr.org
55 E. Jackson Boulevard, Suite 2075
Chicago, Illinois
Contact: Stephen Smith at SSmith@icirr.org

Immigrant Youth Justice League
www.iyjl.org
Chicago, Illinois

Albany Park Neighborhood Council
www.apncorganizing.org
3334 W. Lawrence Avenue, 3rd Floor
Chicago, Illinois
Contact: Pati Islas at 773-583-1387

Brighton Park Neighborhood Council (BPNC)
4477 S. Archer Avenue
Chicago, Illinois
Contact: Idalia Flores at 773-523-7110

La Colectiva at University of Illinois
uicolectiva.wordpress.com
www.facebook.com/colectiva
Champaign-Urbana, Illinois
Contact: lacolectivarso@gmail.com

Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago
www.ciogc.org
231 S. State Street, Suite 300
Chicago, Illinois
Contact: Ahlam Jbara at ajbara@ciogc.org

Enlace Chicago
www.enlacechicago.org/index.php
2756 S. Harding Avenue
Chicago, Illinois
Contact: Alheli Herrera, NCP organizer, at 773-542-9233, ext. 21 AHerrera@EnlaceChicago.org

Illinois People's Action (IPA)
illinoispeoplesaction.org
510 E. Washington Street, Suite 309
Bloomington, Illinois
Contact: Sonny Garcia at 309-827-9627

Latin@Youth Action League (L@YAL)
DuPage County
Contact: Fanny Martinez at 630-632-2189, martinez.fanny89@gmail.com, and Cynthia Brito at 630-808-5835, cbrito13@gmail.com

Korean American Resource and Cultural Center
www.chicagokrcc.org
6146 N. Lincoln Avenue
Chicago, Illinois
Contact: Carla Navoa, Youth Organizer at 773-588-9158, carla@chicagokrcc.org

The Latino Organization of the Southwest
www.losillinois.org
6507 S. Kedzie Avenue
Chicago, Illinois
Contact: Rosa Carrasco at 773-925-0397

Nuestra Voz and PASO
Melrose Park and West Suburbs, Illinois
Contact: Rogelio Diaz at rogelio.paso@gmail.com,
Arianna Salgado at ariannabsalgado@gmail.com, or
nuestra.voz.1@gmail.com

Southwest Organizing Project
www.swopchicago.org
2609 W. 63rd Street, 2nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois
Contact: Sarah Mesick at 773-471-8208
sarah.swop@sbcglobal.net

Southwest Suburban Immigrant Project
Bolingbrook and Southwest suburbs
Contact: Jose Vera at 630-863-9130
jose-e-vera@hotmail.com

United African Organization (UAO)
uniteafricans.org
3424 S. State Street, Suite 3C8-2,
Chicago, Illinois

University of Chicago Coalition for Immigrant Rights
(UCCIR)
Chicago, Illinois (Hyde Park)
Contact: info.uccir@gmail.com

La Voz Latina
www.lavozlatina-rkfd.org
412 Market Street,
Rockford, Illinois
Contact: Kristina Reuber, Youth Programs Coordinator, at
815-965-5784

Family Focus, Inc. (8 locations)
<http://www.family-focus.org/>

Aurora
550 Second Street
Aurora, IL 60505
Phone: 630-844-2550
aurora@family-focus.org

DuPage - Bensenville
331 S. York Road
Bensenville, IL 60106
Phone: 630-521-8808
rosaura.realegeno@family-focus.org

Cicero - Nuestra Familia
St. Francis of Rome Church
1428 S. 59th Court
Cicero, IL 60804
Phone: 708-652-0900
nuestra.familia@family-focus.org

Englewood
St. Bernard Hospital
326 W. 64th Street, Suite 305
Chicago, IL;
Phone: 773-962-0366
englewood@family-focus.org

Evanston - Our Place
2010 Dewey Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201
Phone: 847-475-7570
evanston@family-focus.org

Hermosa - Nuestra Familia
4145 W. Armitage
Chicago, IL 60639
Phone: 773-276-0940
nuestra.familia@family-focus.org

Highland Park - Family Network
330 Laurel Avenue
Highland Park, IL 60035
Phone: 847-433-0377
familynetwork@family-focus.org

Lawndale
3517 W. Arthington Street
Chicago, IL 60624
Phone: 773-722-5057
lawndale@family-focus.org

Ben Gordon Center
<http://www.bengordoncenter.org/>
12 Health Services Drive
DeKalb, IL 60115
(815) 756-4875

Conexion Comunidad
[http://www.dekalbcountynonprofits.org/detail.
asp?xfer=364422766](http://www.dekalbcountynonprofits.org/detail.asp?xfer=364422766)
637 North 11th Street
DeKalb, IL 60115-3509
815-754-0980

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many thanks to the contributors to this document: Maria Torres, Yasmeeen Villaseñor, Hugo Jacobo, Karla Neal, Deyci Ramirez, Lynn Richards, Susana Das Neves, Sandy Lopez, Cindy Henderson, Admissions Office, Student Financial Aid, University Legal Services, Student Involvement & Leadership Development, Housing & Dining, Career Services, and Academic Affairs.

Special thanks to Karla Neal and Susan Das Neves for their contribution of original work to this manual. Your insight and dedication is greatly appreciated.

Portions of this manual were adapted from the following sources:

- Northern Illinois University
- Admissions Office
- Student Financial Aid
- University Legal Services
- Student Involvement & Leadership Development
- Housing & Dining
- Career Services
- Academic Affairs
- Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)

Editors:

Emily Prieto, Ph.D., Director, of Latino Resource Center, Northern Illinois University

Angélica Mendoza, Assistant Director, Latino Resource Center, Northern Illinois University

Vanessa Segundo, Research and Project Specialist, Latino Resource Center, Northern Illinois University

Design:

Brian Rau, Visual Communications, Class of 2012



Northern Illinois University

Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management



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Inquiries concerning application of Title IX, Section 504, and other statutes and regulations may be referred to the Affirmative Action and Diversity Resources Center, 1515 W. Lincoln Highway, DeKalb, IL 60115, telephone 815-753-1118.