



CAREER RESOURCES FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

• ***DePaul University is committed to supporting student success, regardless of immigration status.***

Career Center staff are here to offer guidance and support as you navigate the career planning process.

While it may seem like you're limited in options to gain work experience because of your status, there are more ways to move ahead in your career journey outside of typical jobs or internships.

Whether it is a paid or unpaid position, it is important to choose experiences that help you explore your interests and fit with your career goals.

Here are some ideas for gaining experience that fit your interests:

- ➔ Explore research and fellowship opportunities.
- ➔ Engage in academic projects that can be added to your resume.
- ➔ Participate in student organizations.
- ➔ Volunteer in your community.
- ➔ Participate in a job shadow.
- ➔ Make connections with alumni through the ASK Network.

Considering an unpaid role?

If you are considering an unpaid role, review DePaul's Scholarship Connect, depaul.academicworks.com, for potential funding sources and scholarships.

Jobs & Internships

Most job applications will ask, “Are you legally authorized to work in the United States?”

If you have DACA, you are able to answer “yes” and continue through the hiring process without disclosing additional information about your background. Once hired, employers should not ask you about how you received your work permit. For more information about this process, visit the National Immigration Law Center’s website.

If there is an employer interested in hiring you for a job or paid internship, discuss with them the possibility of being hired as an independent contractor. As an independent contractor, you can use an Independent Taxpayer Identification Number rather than a Social Security Number, which can be obtained regardless of immigration status.

Disclosing Your Status

While there are times it can be beneficial to disclose your immigration status to an employer, and it can feel like you’re being dishonest if you don’t, **it is ultimately your choice to disclose your status or not**, and when.

It may be beneficial to disclose your status to an employer during the interview and hiring process – or even a recruiter during the application stage – so you can work together on discussing next steps in your employment and future.

If you are unsure on how or when to disclose your status, come speak with a Career Advisor and we can help you through this process.

Additional Resources

Immigrants Rising: This organization offers financial assistance, educational support, and career help for undocumented students. They created a Life After College guide to support undocumented students in their post-collegiate transition.

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights: Whether you’re in need of financial assistance, access to health services, or have legal questions – ICIRR has wraparound supports for all immigrants and refugees in Illinois.

Hana Center: Based in Chicago, the Hana Center provides legal assistance specifically to undocumented immigrant communities. The Hana Center also provides workforce development and housing support.

For DACA Recipients:

As we’ve witnessed in the past, because of your status as a DREAMER, your future can be uncertain depending on the political climate. While DACA is in effect, your ability to go to school and work in the US is safe, but it is important to keep updated on any changes that may come and how that might affect your future.

Resurrection Project: This organization offers information on affordable housing, tools on leadership and civic engagement, and also general information into the legal rights of immigrants.

Aliento: Aliento serves DACA, undocumented, and mixed immigrant status families. They provide updates regarding legal changes that impact DACA status. They also offer scholarships for funding support and access to mental health resources.