In-state Tuition for MSU DACA & Undocumented Students

Understanding and getting in-state tuition can be pretty confusing – for help, please reach out to:

**Office of Admissions, Jordan Student Success Building, 1st floor**

[**www.msudenver.edu/admissions/residency/thedetails/**](http://www.msudenver.edu/admissions/residency/thedetails/)**, 303-556-3058**

or

**Immigrant Services Program, Jordan Student Success Building, room 238**

[**https://www.msudenver.edu/immigrant-services/**](https://www.msudenver.edu/immigrant-services/)**, 303-605-5390**

**What is in-state tuition?**

**“In-state tuition” is a lower tuition rate** for being a resident of Colorado. “Non-Resident” is a higher rate of tuition that students pay when coming from outside of the state, including international students. After being admitted to MSU, you will receive an email that states whether you will be charged “in-state” or “out-of-state” tuition. (See below for “Eligibility for in-state tuition”). Residency is determined based on domicile, which consist of both continuous physical presence as well a multiple intent or legal ties to the state.

**Can DACA/undocumented students receive in-state tuition in Colorado?**

**Yes!** In-state tuition and state financial aid (such as the Colorado College Responsibility Grant) are available to DACA/undocumented students.

**Students with DACA** status are eligible for in-state tuition after establishing domicile in Colorado for 12 months or more prior to the start of classes, but are not eligible for state financial aid unless they also meet the ASSET criteria (see below). DACA-status students who meet ASSET criteria are eligible for both in-state tuition and state financial aid.

**Undocumented students without DACA** need to fully meet the ASSET criteria (see below) to receive in-state tuition and to be eligible for state financial aid, and cannot use the “12 months in Colorado” rule to be eligible for in-state tuition.

**Eligibility for in-state tuition via ASSET**

In Colorado, to be eligible for in-state tuition under the **ASSET state law**, you must meet the following criteria:

* Have attended a public or private high school in Colorado for at least **one year** immediately before graduation or GED completion, AND
* Show presence in Colorado at least 12 months before starting classes at a college/university
* Successfully apply for the College Opportunity Fund, or COF (<https://cof.college-assist.org/Apply>) as well as the Affidavit (only needed for DACA/undocumented students) – more info below

To qualify for in-state tuition via the “12 months of domicile in Colorado” rule, students must be able to show 12 months of both presence as well as multiple legal ties to the state before classes start, and that they received DACA at least 12 months prior to the start of classes.

For students under the age of 23, their parents must show 12 months of domicile in Colorado prior to the start of classes.

For more information or to get help, please talk to the Office of Admissions or the Immigrant Services Program. (See above for contact info.)

**I am DACA/undocumented and was classified as non-resident, but I am eligible for in-state tuition. What should I do?**

This sometimes happens, and can be fixed if you are eligible for in-state tuition. To request & receive in-state tuition, you need to:

* Provide your **most recent high school transcript** to the Office of Admission
* You may need to show a **copy of your Employment Authorization Document** to the Admission front desk or email to residency@msudenver.edu.
* Complete the (attached) **In-state Correction Form** (for items 1. through 9. on the bottom of the form, use your parents’ information if you are under 23; Include as much information as you can – some items, like “registered to vote”, will not apply to you or your parents)
* Complete the **College Opportunity Fund application online** (<https://cof.college-assist.org/Apply>; more info on this stipend below); for help with the application, please contact the Office of Admission, Jourdan Student Success Building 1st floor, or Immigrant Services Program, Jourdan Student Success Building rm. 238, 303-605-5390
* Complete the **Affidavit** that is part of the COF application – you can do this **online** (<https://cof.college-assist.org/Apply>) or **on paper** (attached)
* **If you are DACA/undocumented** and are completing the COF application online, check the option “I do not have or wish to provide my SSN” – this will automatically bring up the COF Affidavit; you can also get a paper COF Application & Affidavit from the Office of Admissions or the Immigrant Services Program (303-605-5390)
* To complete the COF Affidavit, it is recommended that you know your 10-digit SASID (often but not always, the same as your high school ID number) which you might be able find on your high school transcript. If not, please ask your high school counselor, secretary, or records office.

**A note on Adjustment Applicants**

Individuals who are in the process of applying for Permanent Residency are classified with the university as Adjustment Applicants. Eligibility for in-state tuition for them depends on when they applied for adjustment. The student will need to have applied for adjustment at least a year prior to the first day of classes to be eligible. Once the tuition classification officer (at the Office of Admissions) reviews USCIS documentation on where the individual is at in regards to their status adjustment, they will be able to provide a better estimate on whether they qualify for in-state tuition for the semester that they would like to begin studying at MSU Denver.

**A note on non-immigrant students**

For F-1, F-2, H-3, H-4 (if the visa holder is the spouse or child of an H-3), J-1 and J-2 (if the J-1 visa holder is a student or trainee), M-1, and M-2, domicile cannot be established at any point in the U.S. while on these statuses.

**What is the College Opportunity Fund (COF), and are DACA/undocumented students eligible for it?**

Besides in-state tuition, **DACA and undocumented students are also eligible for the College Opportunity Fund** (which you can apply for here: <https://cof.college-assist.org/>). This is an automatic payment ($40/credit hour, so $120 towards a 3-credit class at MSU Denver) that is applied to your tuition account once you are approved. This amount is not considered financial aid, and is not required to be paid back.

**How can I get my high school transcripts to MSU?**

Your high school should mail sealed transcripts directly to MSU (Office of Admissions, Campus Box 16, PO Box 173362, Denver CO 80217-3362). College transcripts must be sent directly from the issuing institution to transcripteval@msudenver.edu. More information can be found on [www.msudenver.edu/admissions/sendit](http://www.msudenver.edu/admissions/sendit).