



## DACA Educational Requirements

Below are some Frequently Asked Questions about the educational requirements for **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)** eligibility. For more information and updates, go to [www.uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals](http://www.uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals) and <http://www.ilrc.org/info-on-immigration-law/deferred-action-for-childhood-arrivals>.

### **Q: Is there an education requirement to be eligible for Deferred Action?**

A: Yes, applicants must meet certain educational requirements to be eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, also known as DACA. There are four different ways someone can meet the educational requirements.

- 1) First, someone who has graduated from high school will meet that requirement. When applying for DACA, the applicant can submit their high school diploma, certificate of completion, or another similar award.
- 2) Second, someone can meet the educational requirement by passing the General Educational Development (GED) exam and submitting a copy of the GED certificate.
- 3) Third, someone can qualify for DACA if they are currently enrolled in and attending school or a qualifying educational program.
- 4) Fourth, it's rare, but someone who is an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States may also qualify even if they are not currently enrolled in school or a high school graduate.

### **Q: What if a potential applicant does not currently meet any of those educational requirements; can he or she still apply for DACA?**

A: Yes. If a person is not currently in school and does not have a high school diploma or a GED certificate, he or she can fulfill the requirement by enrolling in a qualifying educational program. The person will first have to find a school program and enroll in class. Once he or she obtains proof of enrollment, that person can apply for DACA.

### **Q: Will enrolling in any educational program work?**

A: No. Only certain educational programs will qualify for DACA. Individuals can enroll in a program that will help them obtain their high school diploma, GED certificate, or another type of similar certificate recognized under state law. Another option is to enroll in an ESL or vocational training course.

**Q: If a person wants to qualify by enrolling in a vocational training or ESL course, can he or she just attend any vocational or ESL class?**

A: No, not just any ESL or vocational training class will make someone eligible for DACA. The class has to be designed to lead to placement in postsecondary education, job training, or employment, and the person must be working toward such placement. It may be easier to enroll in programs that are funded by the state or federal government.

**Q: What if an individual doesn't enroll in a program that is funded by the state or federal government?**

A: If the ESL or vocational course is not funded by the state or federal government, the DACA applicant will need to get a letter or other evidence from the school that shows that the program is of "demonstrated effectiveness." Basically, the DACA applicant will need to show that educational program is effective and successful. This can be demonstrated with a letter or brochure from the school showing how long the program has existed and how successful the program has been in placing students in postsecondary education, job training courses, or employment.

**Q: In addition to evidence showing either that the educational program was funded by the state or federal government, or that the program is of demonstrated effectiveness, is there anything else a DACA applicant needs to submit?**

A: Yes, DACA applicants will need to submit documents to show that they are also currently enrolled in that educational program. For example, an applicant can submit with the DACA application evidence such as: acceptance letters, school registration cards, letters from the school or program, transcripts, report cards, or progress reports. The documents they choose to submit should have the name of the school or program, date of enrollment, and current educational or grade level (if relevant).

In summary, if a DACA applicant is enrolled or will be enrolled in an ESL or vocational training program, he or she will need to prove that he or she is currently enrolled and that the program is designed to lead to placement in postsecondary education, job training, or employment and that he or she is working toward such placement. The DACA applicant will also need to submit evidence that proves the program is either funded by federal or state grants, or is of demonstrated effectiveness.

**Q: What happens after the person receives DACA? Does that person still need to stay in school?**

A: If a person is granted DACA based on the fact that he or she is currently enrolled in school, that person will need to stay in school or graduate and complete the program in order to be able to renew DACA in two years. For example, in two years, the DACA recipient will need to show that he or she has obtained a high school diploma or GED certificate if that was the goal of the program. Or if the DACA recipient enrolled in a literacy or career training program, he or she will have to show in two years that he or she is enrolled in postsecondary education, has obtained the employment as part of the training, or has made substantial, measurable progress toward completing the program.