



UNDOCUMENTED & IMMIGRANT STUDENT SERVICES

About the Dreamers Program

The Dreamers Support Services Office provides programs and services to help empower undocumented and immigrant students to achieve their academic and personal pursuits and become active members of our community.

We serve as a resource for students, staff, and community members on topics like access to higher education, advocacy and educational materials, campus-based and community services, relevant current events, engagement activities, legal aid referrals, legislative updates, and more!

Our Students, Their Status

Immigration is complex, and it's not always clear who is included when referring to Dreamers. The following list of immigration experiences are some of the statuses referred to as Dreamers.

- Undocumented** e.g., out-of-status, with pending status, or having never had any lawful immigration status
- Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR)**; Green Card holder
- Granted **Refugee** or **Asylee** status
- Have **Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ)** classification
- Have **DACA, TPS, or VAWA** protection
- Hold a **T Visa, U Visa, or any other expired visa**
- Bi-national resident** (regularly moves between the U.S. and Mexico for school, work, or to care for a family member)
- AB 540 Students:** non-CA resident students (U.S. citizens & non-citizens)
- Any of the above applies, including being a U.S. citizen, and one or more person in the immediate family or household has a different immigration status (**mixed-status**)



Dreamers Support Office Contact Information

- Phone:** 619-388-7970
- Email:** miradreamers@sdccd.edu
- Online:** sdmiramar.edu/services/dreamers
- Location:** Student Services Building, third floor, K-304
- Hours:** Mon – Thurs, 10 am – 2 pm
- Appointments:** bit.ly/dreamerappt
- Instagram:** [@sdmiramardreamers](https://www.instagram.com/sdmiramardreamers)

Dreamers Support Program Services



1-on-1 Support: Individualized support sessions for students, college employees, and community members. Appointments are available in-person, virtually, or over the phone.



AB-540 & Tuition Exemptions: Assembly Bill 540 is a state law that grants in-state tuition to some students who are not classified as CA residents based on certain eligibility requirements.



CA Dream Act (Financial Aid): Discover which financial aid resources are available based on one's immigration status and learn about programs like the Dreamers Service Incentive Grant.



Career & Entrepreneurship: Explore employment resources and income generating opportunities available to the undocumented and immigrant communities like getting your Undocu-Hustle on as an entrepreneur—no work authorization required!



Events & Workshops: Student engagement activities that are open to all students and program workshops that are tailored to undocumented and immigrant students like Dream Act 101, Undocu-Hustle, Know Your Rights, and more.



FREE Legal Aid & DACA Renewal Assistance: Learn more about legal services provided by our partners at the Higher Education Legal Services (*some filing fees covered!*), relevant immigration-related legislation including the current status of DACA, and other immigration relief and aid.



Health & Wellness: Undocumented and immigrant students face unique wellness pressures. Our staff is here to create an affirming space for immigrant communities and refer individuals to appropriate services when needed.



Scholarships: Learn about grant and scholarship opportunities available to students regardless of their immigration status and find creative ways to help pay for college.



Undocu-Transfer: For students on a transfer pathway, we have developed a list of Undocu-Friendly Universities, which have robust undocumented and immigrant student resources to ensure your success post-transfer.



Undocu-Ally Training: Professional development opportunities for employees and resources to help educators become strong allies to undocumented and immigrant communities.

One-on-One Support

The Dreamers support staff, the **Dream Team**, offers individualized support sessions to current and future undocumented and immigrant students, college employees, and community members.

To schedule an appointment, scan the QR code on the right or visit our support page:

sdmiramar.edu/services/dreamers/support



Scholarships for Undocu-Students

You can find money to help pay for college even as an undocumented student ... *if you know where to look!*

The Miramar Dreamers Support Office and our partners have compiled many resources and information about scholarship opportunities for students regardless of their immigration status. This workbook will help you identify those opportunities and help you organize your scholarship search and application essays.

Miramar College Scholarship Office

sdmiramar.edu/services/scholarship-office

Miramar Dreamers Undocu-Scholarships

sdmiramar.edu/services/dreamers/scholarships

Money for College

Scholarships and fellowships are a great way to pay for college tuition and other expenses. You might wonder, what is the difference between scholarships and fellowships?

Scholarships are generally funds for students attending educational institutions for the purpose of study at the undergraduate or graduate level. They can be awarded based on merit, financial need, grades, community service, major, class level, city, or county of residence, and more.

Fellowships are generally funds for students or non-students for the purpose of professional or career development. They can support a variety of pursuits, including study in a specific field, research to advance work on a particular issue, development of a new community-based organization or initiative, training to support a fellow's growth, and much more!



San Diego Miramar College Scholarships

Through the generosity of the Miramar Foundation, faculty, staff, departments, campus organizations, and private citizens, the Financial Aid & Scholarship Office is pleased to offer a variety of scholarship opportunities. All students are encouraged to apply!

Scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis using criteria set by sponsors and donors. Scholarships are available to qualified students based on need, merit, major, and/or educational goals. An announcement of recipients will be made once students are selected and notified, typically by the end of March. The Miramar Scholarship Award Ceremony takes place every year in April.

To apply for internal scholarships, you will need to create your online profile using the San Diego Miramar College Scholarship Opportunities web portal at sdmiramar.academicworks.com.

Find a step-by-step guide to creating an account online at:
bit.ly/miramar-scholarship-account-help.

The screenshot shows the 'Opportunities' web portal. At the top, there are two tabs: 'Applicants and Administrators' (selected) and 'References and Reviewers'. Below the tabs is a 'Welcome!' message with instructions to sign in using an email address and password. There are two input fields: 'Email Address' (with a placeholder 'Applicant / Administrator Email Address') and 'Password'. At the bottom right is a 'Sign In' button. A link for 'Trouble signing in? Sign Up' is located at the bottom left of the form area.

Immigrants Rising Search Tool

There are many scholarships and fellowships that do not require proof of citizenship. Immigrants Rising's database of scholarships and fellowships can help you tailor your search to find the opportunities that you are eligible to apply for. Immigrants Rising regularly updates their list of about 500 scholarships and 100 fellowships.

Search for scholarships and fellowships curated by Immigrants Rising at:
immigrantsrising.org/resource/list-of-scholarships-and-fellowships

**IMMIGRANTS
RISING**
TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION

Scholarship Essay Tips

Filling out an application is only one part of the process. Many scholarship opportunities will require you to answer a prompt with an essay, typically ranging from 250–1,000 words in length.

In this section, you will find six tips for writing an outstanding scholarship application essay. For more help with your essays, we encourage you to contact the Miramar Academic Success Center.

1. Make a Plan

Take some time to decide which scholarships you want to apply to and use the space in the next section to keep track of requirements and deadlines for each opportunity.

Set reminders and allow yourself enough time to review and edit your essays and remember to submit your application essays on time!

2. Solicit Letters of Recommendation

Many scholarships, although not all, require one or two letters of recommendation. Be sure to ask your professors, advisors, and other individuals who can speak to your merits 4–6 weeks in advance to ensure enough time for your recommender to thoughtfully write your letter and to deliver it on time. Occasionally, you may be asked to have your recommender send the letter directly to the selection committee. Check where to submit your letters!

Remind your recommender of your accomplishments; ask them what information they need from you to write a glowing recommendation. Don't forget to send a thank you letter, too!

3. Follow Instructions

This one might seem obvious, but it's easy to accidentally forget to answer a question or miss a step. Ensure to include all required information, like your name and address, and list any other educational or financial information you are being asked to provide on your application.

Be sure to answer all parts of the essay being asked in your application essay and be mindful of word count limits. Be thorough but do not exceed stated limits.

4. Choose a Topic

Apply for as many scholarships as you can but start working on the ones with topics that you are genuinely interested in or feel strongly about; your passion will naturally shine through. This will help your essay stand out against the rest!

5. Show Emotion and Be Authentic

Showing emotion allows the selection committee to connect with your essay, so be sure not to skip out on this part. We've all overcome adversities, obstacles, and vulnerabilities; sharing these triumphs can make your story more powerful! *However*, be sure to keep the overall tone inspirational and positive. If you are writing about difficult or sad life events, end with a positive takeaway. Talk about how you overcame or grew from the experience. Let the authentic you shine through your essay!

6. Proofread, Proofread, PROOFREAD!

Have someone you trust review your scholarship essay for clarity as well as grammar and spelling or visit the Academic Success Center. The tutors in the ASC can help you!





Academic Success Center Contact Information

 **Phone:** 619-388-7852

 **Email:** dtran@sdccd.edu

 **Online:** sdmiramar.edu/services/asc

 **Location:** LLRC (Library) Building, L-101

 **Hours:** Mon – Thurs, 9 am – 6 pm

 **Instagram:** [@MiramarASC](https://www.instagram.com/MiramarASC)

Use this space to write down questions you want to ask an ASC tutor

Creating your scholarship plan is easy!

You can use this section of the workbook to create your scholarship plan and organize your search. Use the chart in part one to keep a record of the scholarships and fellowships you want to apply. Then, get ready to brainstorm your scholarship essay in part two.

Part 1. Scholarship and Fellowship Search Chart

Use this section to organize your search.

Scholarship Name	Deadline	Award Amount	Requirements & Other Reminders

Part 2. Building Your Scholarship Essay

Use this section to brainstorm essay ideas. Remember to answer the prompt but do so using your experiences.

Educational & Career Goals	Academic Achievements
Obstacles You Have Overcome	Unmet Financial Needs
Your Immigrant Story: Write about your past, your future, how you have contributed to the world, anything that makes you stand out!	

This portion of the workbook was adapted from materials provided by our partners at Immigrants Rising.