

Title/Subject: **ADMISSIONS, TUITION AND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NON-CITIZEN, LONG-TERM U.S. RESIDENTS/UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS**

Applies to: faculty staff students student employees visitors contractors

Effective Date of This Revision: December 18, 2019

Contact for More Information: Office of Undergraduate Admissions/Enrollment Student Services

Board Policy Administrative Policy Procedure Guideline

BACKGROUND:

Federal and state law does not prohibit the admission of an undocumented student, nor does it require a prospective student to prove citizenship to receive admission to colleges and universities. Prior to 2015, Central Michigan University did not outline its policies and procedures regarding offering college admissions and merit scholarships to undocumented and “DACA-mented” students. The former policy, approved on July 1, 2015, was crafted as a means of remaining inclusive and supportive of all students. However, it did not provide clear guidance for undocumented students without a DACA status.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this revision is to improve the current policy in place for undocumented students drafted by Undergraduate Admissions and approved by former CMU President, Dr. George Ross in 2015. The current policy has inconsistencies and areas no longer relevant based on university and political changes. Additionally, the policy doesn’t address our graduate, global and online platforms, and their updated tuition structures and scholarships.

DEFINITIONS:

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) – DACA is a program, announced on June 12, 2012 by former U.S. President Barack Obama, that protects eligible applicants from deportation and provides work authorization for a renewal period of 2 years. This status’ future is unknown and in limbo with the current administration.

DACA-mented – This term is used by undocumented individuals who have been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or once had DACA status. The term “DACA-mented” is sometimes used to navigate away from the negative connotations given to terms such as undocumented immigrant, foreign alien, non-U.S. citizen and so forth.

Undocumented student – A student who: (1) entered the United States without inspection or without proper documentation; or (2) entered legally as a non-immigrant but then violated the terms of their status and remained in the United States without authorization (as defined by the National Immigration Law Center). Many undocumented students would qualify for a DACA status, however, due to time, financial burden and the political climate, it is increasingly harder for eligible students to obtain this status. An undocumented student is a non-citizen, long-term U.S. resident just like those with DACA status, or those who formerly received DACA status.

Authority: President Robert O. Davies

History: 2015-07-01

Indexed as: Admissions; undocumented students; DACA; long-term U.S. resident; scholarships

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According to the Migration Policy Institute, approximately 100,000 undocumented students graduate from a United States High School every year. Central Michigan University remains committed to supporting students from all backgrounds and this includes undocumented students around the country.

Many college-bound undocumented students, or non-citizen, long-term U.S. residents:

- Lived in the United States most of their lives
- May or may not have DACA status
- Entered the United States at a young age by way of their parent(s)
- Learned English
- Attended elementary, middle and high school in the United States
- May have come to the United States on a visa that has since expired
- Excelled academically and simply want to attend college
- Are exempt from using Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) funds
- Could receive institutional scholarships

POLICY:

An undocumented, and/or DACA-mented student, as a non-citizen, long-term U.S. resident, can be admitted to Central Michigan University following the institution's standard admissions policies and procedures for domestic undergraduate and graduate students.

In 2018, Central Michigan University's Board of Trustees approved in-state tuition to all U.S. citizens and developed the "One Tuition" that replaced the 2.75 minimum grade point average requirement for an out-of-state student to receive in-state tuition. <https://www.cmich.edu/featured/Pages/tuition-and-fees.aspx>

Therefore, any admitted undergraduate or graduate non-citizen, long-term U.S. resident will follow the domestic student tuition structure and cost for any U.S. resident if they have met all the following criteria:

- Currently resides in the United States
- If a student is an incoming freshman, they must prove attendance of a high school in the United States for at least 3 years as seen on the provided official high-school transcripts and on track to graduate/ or graduated from a United States high school (upon completion of high school, a completed, official transcript must be provided)
- If a student is an incoming transfer student, they must prove attendance from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning (after graduating from a high school in the United States and providing a completed, official transcripts)
- Willing to provide any current or past DACA paperwork, if possible

Merit and Institutional Scholarships Policy:

An undocumented and/or DACA-mented student, as a non-citizen, long-term U.S. resident, admitted to CMU is eligible for institutional merit-based and special talent scholarships like any other domestic student. All the following criteria must be met:

- If a student is an incoming freshman, they must meet the merit scholarship's established criteria
- If a student is an incoming transfer student, they must prove attendance from a regionally accredited institute of higher learning (after graduating from a high school in the United States) and meet the transfer scholarship criteria
- If a student is an incoming graduate student, they must meet the established criteria for any awards
- Student must be degree-seeking and enroll at CMU full-time

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PROCEDURE:

Undocumented and/or DACA-mented students, as non-citizen, long-term U.S. residents, will submit their application for admission to Central Michigan University's appropriate admissions office.

Central Michigan University reserves the right to make exceptions to, modify or eliminate this policy and or its content. This document supersedes all previous policies, procedures or guidelines relative to this subject.