



# Immigration Reform in the United States

## What's wrong with the immigration system?

The current immigration system is **difficult to navigate** and suffers from **long backlogs**, even for those who have the necessary family or work connections to obtain citizenship. For the vast majority of undocumented people, there is **no pathway to citizenship** under existing laws.

## How many people are affected?

According to Educators for Fair Consideration, an estimated **11.1 million people** are currently in the U.S. without legal documentation. Of these, there are about **2.1 million students** who could be eligible for the DREAM Act, and **1.9 million young people** who may be eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA. Over **65,000** undocumented students graduate from high school each year.

## What are the practical implications?

Undocumented college students are **not eligible for federal or most state-based financial aid programs**, including grants, loans, and work-study. Draconian enforcement practices can discourage undocumented workers from reporting **unfair or unsafe labor practices**. Reforming our immigration system would help **strengthen communities and stimulate the economy** at local, state, and national levels.

*“We oppose public policies that separate human families living peaceably in our midst, especially those involving students and/or minors, and urge all citizens to recognize and support those inhabitants of our nation who seek to contribute more fully to civic life and the common good through education and personal development.”*  
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities  
Presidents’ Statement, January 2013

## Is there anything I can do?

- **Learn** – Take a class. Attend a guest lecture or a DREAMer Ally training. Talk with a professor. Read. Research.
- **Act** – Get involved with extracurricular organizations. Form a discussion group. Talk to your elected representatives. Serve in the community.
- **Reflect** – No matter your faith background and identity, put your intentions for the world, its people, and its resources in your prayer and reflections.

## THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF IMMIGRATION REFORM

*The comprehensive immigration reform bill passed by the Senate in June 2013 (S. 744) would shrink the deficit, grow the economy, and bolster productivity, investment, and employment. That’s the verdict of the independent, non-partisan Congressional Budget Office. Here are some details of their estimates:*



<sup>1</sup> The Congressional Budget Office estimates that while overall employment increases, the unemployment rate would temporarily increase by 0.1 percentage points as the economy adjusts, with the increase tapering off after 2020.

SOURCE: CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE



## Resources

**LUC Undocumented Student Resources**  
[luc.edu/diversity/resources/undocumentedstudentresources/](http://luc.edu/diversity/resources/undocumentedstudentresources/)

**United We Dream**  
[unitedwedream.org](http://unitedwedream.org)

**Immigration Policy Center**  
[immigrationpolicy.org](http://immigrationpolicy.org)

**Immigration Equality**  
[immigrationequality.org](http://immigrationequality.org)

**Educators for Fair Consideration**  
[e4fc.org](http://e4fc.org)

*For more on social justice and what you can do, visit Loyola’s Social Justice Web Portal at [luc.edu/socialjustice](http://luc.edu/socialjustice)*

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