

## **DACA Students**

The DACA, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, program provides a renewable two-year grant of deferred action for individuals who entered the United States before their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. For more information about obtaining DACA status, visit this link:

<http://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/consideration-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca>

## **PTC Admission process for DACA Students**

In addition to submitting a final high school transcript or GED score report, DACA Students need to submit their “Valid for Work Only” Social Security Card and their Employment Authorization Card to Admissions. Admissions personnel will verify the student’s identification and immigration status through a national data base. See <http://www.ptc.edu/admissions/new-applicants/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca>

## **The Cost of College**

DACA students are currently ineligible to receive federal or state financial aid in South Carolina, and must pay tuition at the out-of-state rate.

Always subject to change, out-of-state tuition is currently \$227.50 per college credit hour. Most classes, with the exception of lab science classes, count as three college credit hours. Therefore, one class will cost \$682.50 in tuition.

Two classes, typically six credit hours, will cost \$1365.00 in tuition, and four classes, typically twelve credit hours, will cost \$2730.00.

Using these calculations, a 30-hour diploma program will cost \$6,825, and a 60-hour Associates Degree program will cost \$13,650 in tuition.

In addition to tuition charges, other school fees, the costs of books, as well as living and traveling expenses will apply.

(These figures are for demonstration purposes only. Tuition rates are subject to change. Go to <http://www.ptc.edu/cost-financial-aid/tuition-fees> for up-to-date information on tuition and fees.)

The following options may help DACA students finance their college education:

- Private loans – Private loan providers may be willing to provide loans to noncitizen students. However, private loans may have higher and/or fluctuating interest rates, and are not covered by certain guarantees that protect borrowers who receive federal student loans. Shop carefully and fully understand all documents that you sign.

- Private scholarships – Students should read eligibility requirements carefully when seeking scholarships to ensure that not being a US citizen will not disqualify them from the scholarship. The following scholarship search engines may be helpful in locating scholarships:
  - [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
  - [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)
  - [www.edupass.org](http://www.edupass.org)
  - [www.finaid.org/otheraid/undocumented.phtml](http://www.finaid.org/otheraid/undocumented.phtml)
  - [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
  - [www.careerinfonet.org](http://www.careerinfonet.org)

## **CHOOSING A MAJOR**

DACA students need to choose their majors carefully, assuring that they will be able to complete their course work and be eligible for employment in their field even though they are not United States citizens.

Some majors may require hands-on, off-campus experience at clinical sites, and these employers may require background checks or other steps before they allow students into their facilities.

Based on current South Carolina law (June 2014), DACA students are unable to obtain certifications and state licenses that are required for some professions, such as teaching and nursing programs.

For these reasons, Piedmont Technical College is currently discouraging DACA students from entering any program in Health Science, Nursing, and Public Service.

## **FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**

The DACA program is new, and the way the state of South Carolina interprets this program is subject to change. Furthermore, immigration reform is constantly under discussion, so DACA students should stay up-to-date about their rights and obligations as this area of law continues to evolve.