

Appendix I

Tips for College Counselors: How to talk to undocumented youth about college



What NOT to Say	What to Say
Going to college isn't really an option for you.	Going to college is going to be difficult for you, but it is possible. Thousands of other talented, hard-working undocumented students have already graduated from college.
You're not going to be able to get any money for college.	You are not eligible for most forms of government financial aid. However, you might be eligible for in-state tuition, and there are some private scholarships you can apply for.
Why don't you just legalize?	Have you talked to an immigration attorney to find out if you can legalize? There may be immigration remedies that you and your family don't know already.
Even if you get a college degree, you're never going to be able to use it.	Getting a college degree isn't going to change your immigration status, but it will open many opportunities for you once you are able to legalize. If you are eligible and approved for Deferred Action, which is a change to immigration policy, you might be able to get your work permit and use your degree. There is also the DREAM Act, a proposed legislation that if passed will give undocumented youth a path to citizenship, something that Deferred Action does not grant.
Why don't you go back home and get a degree?	If you have family and connections in another country outside the United States, it might make sense for you to consider pursuing educational opportunities elsewhere. Remember, however, that you would be separated from your family in the US, and you could be barred from returning for 10 years.
In order to apply for college, you are going to have to reveal everything.	In order to apply to college, you're going to have to be honest about your immigration status. At first this may seem scary to you and your family. Remember that federal law (specifically FERPA) will protect your privacy and prevent colleges from releasing your information unless under court order.
College tuition is beyond what you can afford	Paying for college might be a challenge since you are not eligible for state or federal aid. However, in New York we have in-state tuition that allows undocumented youth to pay the state resident tuition rate if you have graduated from a NY high school or have obtained your GED. There are also some scholarships and fellowships opened for undocumented youth that you may be eligible for.

Chart by Katherine Gin (2010). Undocumented Students- Special Issue, *Journal of College Admission*, (206), pg 12.