

Career Development & Support Resources

Students who are Immigrants, are Undocumented, or have DACA

Getting Started with your Career Journey

- [The Office of Career and Professional Development](#) is available to assist you as you navigate the career development and job search process.
- **Schedule an appointment** with one of our career coaches through our online platform [ZagsIgnite](#) using your GU login information, or you can call our office at (509) 313-4234. We are available Monday through Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm (holidays excluded) through all twelve months of the year.
- Our career coaches can assist you with topics such as
 - Resume Writing
 - Interview Practice
 - Career & Academic Major Exploration
 - Networking Skills
 - Job Search Strategies (including non-citizenship challenges)
 - And other general career development topics

Informational Interviewing – Developing a Professional Network

- **What is it?**
 - Different from interviewing for an actual job, informational interviews involve the process of reaching out to personal or professional contacts with the goal of gathering information about their careers, work environments, and work experiences. People can be a tremendous source of information; and they often like to talk about their career journeys. You may learn valuable information that can help you overcome obstacles related to your situation.
- **Why do it?**
 - Opportunity to speak with a person who is already employed in a job, work environment, industry, or career that might interest you.
 - Learn about what it is like to do a particular type of work in a certain organization.
 - Opportunity to promote your skills and abilities in a less threatening environment.
- **Who or what can help?**
 - Ask friends, classmates, professors, family members, members religious groups (churches, synagogues, and mosques for example), community members, and past employers for ideas about who you might want to contact for an informational interview.
 - LinkedIn is also a great social media resource that can help you find potential contacts virtually.
- **Sample Questions for Informational Interviewing**
 - How did you get into this work?
 - How did you prepare yourself for this job and profession?

- Knowing what you know now, would you take this same job again? Why or why not?
- What is the most valuable thing you learned in high school or college?
- What do you do in a typical day in this position?
- What skills, attributes, and/or personal qualities are necessary in this career?
- How do you feel about your job? Are there high times, low times? Would you advise people to enter this career field? Why or why not?
- **How do you do it?**
 - Send an email or LinkedIn message to a professional contact that provides a brief introduction of you and indicates your interest in the job, industry, or career that person occupies.
 - Consider using one of the sample informational interviewing questions to begin the conversation; make the conversation about the other person initially.
 - Once the person sees your enthusiasm for learning about their career journey and experience, they may ask questions of you that may help you in the networking process.
 - If you are not sure about this process or you would like to practice an informational interviewing conversation either verbally or in writing, reach out to Career and Professional Development to speak with a career coach.

Employment Examples & Possibilities for Undocumented Graduates

- Community activist or community organizer
- Contract worker or independent contractor
- Entrepreneurship
 - Artist
 - Actor/Performer
 - Consumer needs (barber, hairdresser, food production, etc.)
 - Filmmaker
 - Manufacturing (clothing, jewelry, construction, home goods, restoration/repair, etc.)
 - Music producer
 - Photographer
 - Program coordinator
 - Sales/marketing
 - Web designer/ graphic designer
 - Writer
- Independent consultant
- Professional areas (Business, STEM, Law, Education, etc.)
 - DACA status, networking support, employer funding/partnership, etc. are all helpful for success in these areas.

*Sources – [Undocuprofessionals Stories](#) – undocuprofessionals.net
[“This is What Job Hunting While Undocumented Can Be Like”](#) - HuffPost

Job Interview Tips

- While the idea of sharing an undocumented status in a job interview may be terrifying, there may be ways to ask some intentional questions to get an idea of how supportive that employer or work environment is for the undocumented or the DACA community.

- Possible questions to ask at the end of the interview when the interviewer ask you “Do you have any questions for me?” without directly sharing your undocumented or DACA status:
 - What are you doing or what have you done as a company to support the undocumented community?
 - Is there any professional development that’s geared towards the undocumented or immigrant community?
 - What are some ways that you are creating an inclusive work environment for your employees?

*Source - [“This is What Job Hunting While Undocumented Can Be Like”](#) - HuffPost

Employment Resources

- [Undocumented Professionals](#) provides networking, community, mentoring, and educational empowerment resources for the undocumented community.
- The [Washington State Labor Council](#) provides resources related to workforce development that may benefit immigrant, undocumented, and DACA students.
- The [State Work Study Program](#) is designed to assist with general on-campus or off-campus employment and skill development opportunities for low and middle-income students who qualify.

Entrepreneurship Resources

- [Immigrants Rising](#) offers entrepreneurship resources for undocumented students without DACA and students without an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) to start their own business.

General Community Support Resources

Undocumented Student Support at Gonzaga

- The [Office of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion](#) has developed a website that provides resources related to community support, legal aid, and admissions information for undocumented students.

Financial Aid, Tuition, Legal & Other Support

- Check out the [Washington Student Achievement Council](#) website for more information about general areas of support.
- [The Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network \(WAISN\) is a community-driven and collaborative resource that state community organizations use to help immigrant and refugee siblings.](#)
- [OneAmerica provides additional resources for immigrants living in the state of Washington.](#)

Questions?

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