

Policy on DACA Medical Students

I. PURPOSE

In 2012, the Obama administration granted temporary relief from deportation for certain unauthorized immigrants who entered the United States as children, known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). To date, nearly 800,000 individuals have been awarded DACA status, which confers lawful U.S. presence, a social security number, and work authorization, allowing for participation in medical residency training. While most students with DACA are still in the undergraduate pipeline, the AAMC recorded steady increases in medical school applicants who identify a DACA status (from Association of American Medical Colleges 2018).

The University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine programs welcome applications from all qualified individuals, regardless of citizenship status for the MD degree. As a school with a strong emphasis on diversity of the student body and faculty, we believe that applicants with DACA status will contribute to the school through their prior experiences and cultural backgrounds. Therefore, it is an integral component of our mission to train outstanding physician leaders to serve our communities, drawing from a multitude of backgrounds.

II. SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- UPSOM Medical School Applicants
- UPSOM Medical School Students
- UPSOM Office of Admissions & Financial Aid Staff
- UPSOM Office of Student Affairs

III. POLICY

Those individuals who hold DACA status are welcome to apply to the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Applicants with DACA status must meet all of the same admissions requirements as all other MD degree applicants and any invitation to interview will be based on the same holistic review process.

Application: All individuals must start the application process by applying on-line through AMCAS at www.aamc.org. To complete an application for admission, the applicant must submit the secondary application and have a minimum of three letters of recommendation (maximum of five letters) or one committee letter with supporting recommendation letters.

Application Fee: All applicants are required to pay the secondary application fee to the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. This fee is non-refundable and must be paid to

complete the application for admissions. Applicants with DACA status are also eligible for the AAMC's Fee Assistance Program (FAP). Eligibility requirements and information can be found on the AAMC web site. All applicants who receive a fee waiver from AAMC will also receive a waiver for the UPSOM secondary application fee. Applications are not reviewed until the fee is paid or fee waiver is granted.

Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT): All applicants, regardless of status, to the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine are required to take the MCAT exam (unless specified within a special program affiliation). Although UPSOM does not set a minimum MCAT score, academic excellence is expected. Applicants must take the MCAT within three years of the date of application.

Interviews: Once the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine receives a completed application, it will be reviewed for consideration for an interview. No student is accepted to the School of Medicine without an interview. All applicants, regardless of status, will be reviewed by the same holistic review process.

Criminal Background Check: All accepted students undergo a criminal background check prior to matriculation.

Escrow Account: Students holding DACA status will not be required to deposit in escrow a sum equal to the total cost of education for their first two years of their medical education with documented support of the ability to pay their final two years.

Financial Aid and Scholarship: Accepted DACA students are eligible for need-based scholarships as well as the diversity scholarships. To apply for institutional need-based aid, DACA students must submit the CSS Profile along with student (and spouse if applicable) and parent tax documents. No additional application is necessary for the diversity scholarships, eligibility for which is not guaranteed and is determined by a committee outside of the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid. Please note, applicants with DACA status are not eligible for federal loans from the U.S. Department of Education. Private loans may be available with a creditworthy, U.S.-based co-signer.

Acceptance: Acceptance is determined by the UPSOM Admissions Committee using a holistic review process, considering all aspects of the application including the interviews.

IV. POLICY AUTHOR(S)

- Office of Admissions & Financial Aid

V. RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine International Medical Student Process

VI. REFERENCES

• LCME Standard 10.3: Policies Regarding Student Selection/Progress and Their Dissemination:
The faculty of a medical school establish criteria for student selection and develop and implement effective policies and procedures regarding, and make decisions about, medical student application, selection, admission, assessment, promotion, graduation, and any disciplinary action. The medical school makes available to all interested parties its criteria, standards, policies, and procedures regarding these matters.

VII. APPROVALS

Educational Policy Council, approved mm/dd/yyyy

Executive Committee, approved mm/dd/yyyy

Dean, School of Medicine, approved mm/dd/yyyy