

DACA and Immigration FAQ

1. What is the university's position on President Trump's executive order barring immigrants and nonimmigrant visitors from seven Muslim-majority countries?

President Michael Roth immediately issued a [statement](#) reaffirming Wesleyan's commitment to its students, faculty and staff regardless of their country of origin or their religious beliefs. We will continue to welcome students to apply for admission and, if accepted, to enroll regardless of their immigration status. President Roth wrote, in part, "The idea of a religious test for immigrants from some parts of the world is reprehensible, and we believe it to be unconstitutional. These are matters that will be resolved in the courts. Meanwhile, Wesleyan University will remain steadfast in our commitment to treat immigrants and refugees with the dignity and respect they deserve. This is what we mean when we say we are a Sanctuary Campus."

2. Have any current Wesleyan students been barred from entering the country due to the executive order?

Not to our knowledge. There are a handful of current undergraduate and graduate students from the affected countries, but all were on campus at the time the president signed the order. The order may impact their ability to re-enter the U.S. if they leave the country for any reason. We are sensitive to the fact that some students may have green cards or be impacted by the executive order in other ways. For any and all affected students, faculty and staff, we are here to support them.

3. What is Wesleyan doing to support students who may be affected by the order?

Student Affairs is working to organize an information session for interested students to meet with an immigration lawyer. A standing immigration committee comprised of key offices, faculty with subject matter expertise, and student activist has been formed in order address support services in comprehensive manner and to stay ahead of rapidly shifting immigration landscape. Ongoing professional development for staff as well as legal clinics and individual legal counseling sessions have already been planned and will be continued as needed.

4. Do Public Safety officers inquire about immigration status?

No, and they will not do so in the future. Except when we are required to do so by law, we intend to protect our ability to refuse to partner with ICE or law enforcement on questions concerning purely immigration status matters.

5. What does the new order mean for DACA students at Wesleyan?

The administration has not made a clear policy decision with regards to DACA. Both the Speaker of the House and the President have verbally indicated they are sensitive to current DACA student situations. A bipartisan congressional group is advocating for a pathway to provisional protected legal presence through the Bridge Act (*Bar Removal of*

Individuals Who Dream of Growing Our Economy). If the Bridge Act passes, it would not, in its current version, provide a path to citizenship.

6. Will the University provide immigration counseling as a resource?

Yes, Wesleyan has provided several on-campus consultation sessions that were heavily attended by students and some staff members. It is our intent to continue to provide timely consultation services as needed.

7. Will impacted students have priority access to summer housing with financial assistance if needed?

Yes, we already provide over break and summer housing options for students whose home life situation does not make for a safe environment. Air conditioned housing stock is limited and so it will be on first come, first serve basis. There is no charge for break sessions and summer charge is \$30/day, with a discount to \$15/day for those that qualify for financial aid.

8. Has there been outreach to alumni network calling for alums to dedicate resources to supporting DACA students?

Yes, conversations are ongoing with WesLawyers and other key alums on how to best create a web of support for students.

9. Has the university taken into account difficulties in the transfer of funds from countries assigned to the ban list?

Yes, we already do this with countries such as Turkey, Iran, and Nigeria. Any student affected by this should see Karen Hook to map out a plan for payment during the affected academic year.

10. It seems specific religious groups are being targeted by recent government statements. Can the university stop collecting religious background information via the admissions application?

The religion question is on the Common Application and is optional. Any response does not appear in our review process. We often learn about a student's religious background from their activities as students often write about their experiences in the essays and sometimes the recommenders will mention religious affiliation, typically in the context of bringing difference experiences and diversity to the discussion or the community.

Rights of Immigrants (*Courtesy of Connecticut Legal Services, Inc. January 2017 Ctlawhelp.org*)

What can I do if police or immigration stops me on the street?

- If they ask for your name, you must tell them. You don't have to answer other questions.

- You can ask if you are free to go. If the answer is yes, you may walk away calmly.
- It is best not to lie, carry false documents, or carry documents from another country with you.

What are my rights if I am arrested?

- If they ask for your name, you must tell them. You don't have to answer other questions.
- You can ask to make a phone call and speak with your lawyer. Memorize the phone number of your lawyer or a family member who is in the United States legally.
- You do not have to give information about your immigration status.
- You do not have to sign any documents. *REMEMBER: It is best not to lie, carry false documents, or carry documents from another country with you.*

What can I do if immigration comes to my home?

- You have the right to ask if they have a warrant signed by a judge or a magistrate to enter your home. You don't have to open the door unless they have a warrant. You have the right to ask to see the warrant before you let them into your home.
- Sometimes a search warrant will only allow them to search specific areas of your home.
- An arrest warrant will name the person they are looking for. If they only have an arrest warrant, you do not have to agree to let them to search your home.
- If they enter your home anyway, you have the right to ask for the names and badge numbers of the officers and say you did not agree to the search. *NOTE: If the police take items from your home, keep a record of what they took and ask for a receipt for the items.*

What can I do if immigration comes to my workplace?

- Do not run. If they are not looking for you, running will make you a target.
- You must tell them if they ask for your name, but you don't have to answer other questions.
- You can ask if you are free to go. If the answer is yes, you may walk away calmly. *NOTE: Immigration does not need a warrant or permission to enter the public spaces of a business, such as the dining room in a restaurant. They do need a warrant or permission to enter areas that are not open to the public, such as the kitchen in a restaurant.*

To learn more about your rights, visit www.immi.org

These programs offer free or inexpensive legal services for people with low income:

- Greater Hartford Legal Aid: 860-541-5000
- Connecticut Legal Services: 860-225-8678
- New Haven Legal Assistance: 203-946-4811

- **International Institute: Bridgeport: 203-336-0414; Stamford: 203-965-7190; Hartford: 860-692-3085; Derby: 203-751-8696**
- **The Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization of Yale Law School: 203-432-4800**
- **University of Connecticut School of Law, Asylum and Human Rights Clinic: 860-570-5165**
- **Immigration Advocates Network,
www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory**
- **For referral to an attorney in private practice contact the American Immigration Lawyers Association: 800-954-0254 or www.AILA.org**