Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) FAQ

What is DACA?
The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy, which was announced by the Obama administration on June 15, 2012, provides administrative relief from deportation for qualified individuals who apply for and receive DACA status. It is not a law and does not grant legal status to undocumented students, nor does it offer a pathway to permanent residency or U.S. citizenship.

How does DACA affect Armstrong’s practices?
Students have never been required to demonstrate lawful presence in order to attend Armstrong. Students who lack documentation are eligible to attend Armstrong without regard to DACA status. Individuals with DACA status are eligible to seek on-campus employment, and a loss of that status could affect individuals’ ability to work on campus.

What is a “sanctuary campus”?
A “sanctuary campus” refers to a university that adopts a policy designed to offer limited protections to undocumented students. These protections are not legally binding or enforceable in practice.

Why isn’t Armstrong taking a public stand and becoming a Sanctuary Campus?
As a state-funded institution, Armstrong cannot intentionally violate state or federal law. Armstrong is part of the University System of Georgia (USG), which oversees 29 higher education institutions and is governed by a Board of Regents.

The USG issued an official statement on December 6, 2016, explaining:

“We respect the right of our students, faculty, and staff to express their views… However, calls for institutions to implement policies and procedures that may violate state and federal laws are unacceptable. The University System of Georgia and its institutions have always abided by the law and will continue to do so. We expect our institutions to follow the law and to cooperate with all federal and state agencies. As public employees we have a duty to uphold the law.”

What action did Armstrong’s Faculty Senate take?
On November 28, 2016, Armstrong’s Faculty Senate, which represents faculty on campus and furthers the mission of the university in issues of academic concern and academic leadership, met to discuss a possible Sanctuary Campus Resolution. After a period of discussion, the Faculty Senate decided to table the resolution.
How does Armstrong support undocumented students?
Armstrong supports students in a multitude of ways, including:

- Raising money for scholarships
- Awarding gap funding to help continuing students graduate
- Organizing programming and special events
- Implementing special initiatives to support student success
- Providing support for student organizations, including Hermano-a-Hermano and Hermana-a-Hermana
- Offering campus resources, including support from the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

What can I do to help?
There are many ways to make a positive difference. Options include:

- Share accurate information
- Engage in conversations about important issues
- Identify resources in the community to help students on campus
- Write to national Congressional representatives to share your perspective
- Talk to our students so they know that you care

Does Armstrong care about undocumented students?
Armstrong cares about every student on our campus. Our shared values include respect for diversity and stewardship of our community. We remain committed to all members of our campus community and we will continue to provide opportunities consistent with our policies and our values.

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [DACA Frequently Asked Questions](https://www.dhs.gov), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
- [Sanctuary Campus/Immigration Q&A](https://www.acenet.edu), American Council on Education
- “How Colleges Are Responding to Demands That They Become ‘Sanctuary Campuses,’” [Chronicle of Higher Education](https://chronicle.com)
- [Georgia University System: “Sanctuary” Campuses Unacceptable](https://www.atlantajournalconstituion.com), Atlanta Journal-Constitution