

WHAT IS THE SELECTIVE SERVICE AND DO I NEED TO REGISTER?

The Selective Service System allows the federal government to have a list of all young men who would be available to serve as soldiers in the U.S. Armed Forces if a mandatory draft was necessary. According to federal law, all men between the ages of 18 and 25 (documented and undocumented) must register for the Selective Service and should register within 30 days of their 18th birthday. A Social Security number is not required to register. Furthermore, in order to be eligible for state financial aid through the CA Dream Act, men must provide proof of Selective Service registration to the college or university they plan to attend.

ARE THERE ANY RISKS IN REGISTERING FOR THE SELECTIVE SERVICE?

Registering for the Selective Service does provide the federal government with your name and address, so the government can contact you in the event of a mandatory draft. However, there has not been any type of mandatory draft since the 1970s. This means that the Selective Service System has never used those names to force people to fight with the U.S. Armed Forces. Nevertheless, all men within that age range are still required to register.

In regards to sharing someone's immigration status, the Selective Service System states:

"They have not now, nor in the past collected or shared any information which would indicate a man's immigration status, either documented or undocumented. The selective service system has no authority to collect such information, has no use for it, and it is irrelevant to the registration requirement. Consequently, there is no immigration data to share with anyone."

HOW DO I REGISTER?

As an undocumented individual, you must register for the Selective Service by mail. You should not try to register online at the www.sss.gov website. Follow these steps instead:

Fill out a postcard and mail it to the Selective Service System. This postcard is available at U.S. Post Offices, online at www.caldreamact.org under "Resources" or on the Selective Service website www.sss.gov under "Immigrants." If you mail the postcard, we suggest you get a "proof of mailing" from the Post Office. This will serve as proof that you sent in your selective service registration.

Immigrants Rising helps you make decisions based on your potential, not your perceived limits. Visit our website so you can see what's possible: www.immigrantsrising.org

For inquiries regarding this resource, please contact Nancy Jodaitis, Director of Higher Education, at nancy@immigrantsrising.org.

HOW LONG DOES THE PROCESS TAKE?

The processing of your selective service registration takes 1-2 months, so it's important to begin the process as soon as possible. Once you have been successfully registered, the government will mail you a Selective Service Registration Card. If you do not receive a card within that timeframe, contact the Selective Service System. Be sure to keep a copy of this card because you might be required to show it to your college or university.

HOW DO I PROVIDE PROOF TO MY COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY?

Undocumented males who registered for the selective service can verify they registered for the Selective Service in the following ways:

1. A copy of your Selective Service Registration Card: Bring a copy of your selective service registration card to your college or university's Financial Aid Office. Be sure to write your student ID on the copy.
2. Some colleges or universities allow undocumented individuals to get the selective service hold listed by showing their "proof of mailing" for the first semester. Once the card has been received, the student is required to bring a copy of the card to the Financial Aid Office in order to waive the hold permanently.

MEN 26 AND OLDER

The Selective Service System cannot accept a registration from anyone who has already reached their 26th birthday. Therefore, if you are a male who is 26 or older but did not register for the Selective Service, you are considered a "non-registrant." To be considered for state financial aid, you must provide an explanation of why you did not register and demonstrate that your failure was not "knowing or willful." The school may require you to get a "Status Information Letter" from the Selective Service System. For more information, go to www.sss.gov, select "Registration", then select "Men 26 and Older."

MEN 18 AND UNDER

The Selective Service System cannot accept a registration from anyone who is under 18 years old. Therefore, students can either wait until 30 days before their 18th birthday and mail in the Selective Service Registration Card.