

**Student #4: Yesica**

*(Image source: Getty Images)*

Yesica is an undocumented student who had a 2.5 GPA in high school. A Puente counselor gave a presentation at her high school, and two of her friends (who are both citizens) decided to join the program, so she was inspired to join as well. However she had some doubts about her ability to pay for college, so she waited too long to apply and was not able to get in to Puente.

Yesica is an AB540 student but does not qualify for DACA. She was able to get a BOG fee waiver but is not eligible for FAFSA and is unclear about which scholarships she would be eligible for. Yesica is interested in the Dental Hygiene program, but not sure she will be able to study, get licensed, or work. She met with a counselor who was nice and supportive but encouraged her to apply for services she does not qualify for as an undocumented student. Yesica did not feel comfortable disclosing her status to the counselor. She left wondering if college is a realistic option for her.

She enrolled in full-time classes, but had to miss multiple sessions due to having to work. She was afraid to talk to her instructor and failed them all due to absences. Her friends are receiving financial aid and thriving in Puente, and she feels left out.

Her family is supportive but preoccupied with with the daily stresses of work, housing, and the current political climate. They are concerned with Yesica sharing information about her status in paperwork at Cabrillo, and unsure if her studies will lead to good job. A relative owns a restaurant and has offered her full-time work under the table. Yesica decides to work full-time for now and return to school after she’s saved some money.

What could Yesica have done earlier in her Cabrillo career to be more successful in her first semester? What services​ and/or ​interventions could have helped her? How could she have connected to these services?