Military options for Undocumented Options

**Proposed Immigration Legislation Related to Undocumented Immigrants in the Military** <https://citizenpath.com/military-enlistment-immigrants/> The Dream Act is a proposed bill that would allow young undocumented immigrants who entered the United States as children to become citizens if they meet certain criteria. A provision includes military service as a way to satisfy the criteria. However, the Dream Act has only collected dust and never materialized into law. But Dreamers and some legislators continue to push for change. Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO) sponsored the Military Enlistment Opportunity Act of 2013 ([H.R. 435](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-113hr435ih/pdf/BILLS-113hr435ih.pdf)), a stand-alone bill, which would legally permit undocumented immigrants to serve. At a press conference with DREAMers, Coffman said, “If somebody is willing to lay their life down for their country, I think they deserve citizenship.” (Consider: <https://citizenpath.com/selective-service-immigrants/>)

Found this interesting web it looks like a Facebook is created by Community- <https://www.adreamact.com/>

##### **Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI)** MAVNI is a small and very exclusive program that benefits immigrants and the U.S. military. It is a special recruiting program that may be available to some immigrants interested in joining the U.S. military. Generally, immigrants must be permanent residents to join the military (see [Military Enlistment Requirements](https://citizenpath.com/military-enlistment-immigrants/)); once enlisted these green card soldiers can take advantage of [expedited citizenship](https://citizenpath.com/expedited-citizenship-military-personnel/). However, MAVNI allows certain non-citizens in the United States to join the military and thereby gain eligibility for U.S. citizenship without first having to go through the lengthy process of obtaining a green card. The MAVNI program began in 2009 and remains a pilot program. In late 2016 the [program suspended](https://web.archive.org/web/20170613210316/https%3A//www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/bcm-1612-02.pdf) the application process until certain revisions could be implemented.

### **How to Qualify for MAVNI**

### Generally, applicants must be in a legal immigration status. Legal status means that applicants must be asylees, refugees, recipients of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or hold any of the following non-immigrant visas: E, F, H, I, J, K, L, M, O, P, Q, R, S, T, TC, TD, TN, U or V.

**MAVNI Open to DACA Recipients**

Individuals who have been granted deferred action by the Department of Homeland Security pursuant to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) process are eligible for consideration. Generally the MAVNI requirements stipulate a legal immigration status. However, the military service may on a case by case basis waive the requirement that the foreign national be in a status described above.

The applicant must have been in valid status in one of the above categories for at least two years immediately prior to the enlistment date. However, it does not have to be the same category as the one held on the date of enlistment. Plus, the applicant must not have had any single absence from the United States of more than 90 days during the two year period immediately preceding the date of enlistment.

**How to Apply for MAVNI**

At this time, the Department of Defense has stopped accepting applications for the MAVNI program.

When the MAVNI program was accepting applications, you would have to share your passport, I-94 card, I-797 Notice of Action, your employment authorization document, or other government issued documents proving your legal presence in the United States. Applicants would have to go through background checks, security screenings, and meet all the other general requirements of becoming a U.S. citizen. If you are interested, contact your local [U.S. military recruiting office](http://www.goarmy.com/locate-a-recruiter.html). They may have information when the program becomes available once again.