Ventura County Community College District

Legislative Committee
Informational Public Policy Hearing

Implementation of the California Dream Act
September 25, 2013

Oxnard College
4000 S. Rose Avenue, Oxnard 93033
Performing Arts Building – Black Box Theater
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Hearing
Wednesday, September 25, 2013
Legislative Committee Policy Hearing

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE POLICY HEARING
ORDER OF THE AGENDA
VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
MEETING LOCATION: OXNARD COLLEGE
4000 S. Rose Avenue, Performing Arts Building, Black Box Theater
Oxnard, CA 93033
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
1.01 Trustee Perez will call the meeting to order.

2. Public Comments
2.01 Chair will ask for public comments. Pursuant to the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need any special accommodation or assistance to attend or participate in the meeting, please direct your written request, as far in advance of the meeting as possible, to the Office of the Chancellor, Dr. Jamillah Moore, VCCCD, 255 W. Stanley Avenue, Suite 150, Ventura, CA.

3. Changes to the Agenda
3.01 Trustee Perez will announce changes to the agenda.

4. Policy Hearing
4.01 STUDY SESSION: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT

5. Adjournment
5.01 Trustee Perez will adjourn the meeting.
Agenda Item Details

Meeting Sep 25, 2013 - Legislative Committee Policy Hearing
Category 4. Policy Hearing
Subject 4.01 STUDY SESSION: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT
Access Public
Type Information, Discussion

Public Content

Opening Remarks
Trustee Bernardo M. Perez, Chair, VCCCD Legislative Committee
Trustee Arturo D. Hernandez, Member, VCCCD Legislative Committee

Overview of the Dream Act
Diana Fuentes-Michel, Executive Director, California Student Aid Commission
Catalina Mistler, Chief Program Administration & Services Division, California Student Aid Commission

How the Dream Act Operates in Higher Education Presentations by Segments of Higher Education
Dean Kulju, Director Student Financial Aid Services and Programs, representing California State University
Rhonda Mohr, Specialist, Student Services and Special Programs, representing California Community Colleges
Ronald Johnson, Director of Financial Aid UCLA, representing University of California
Maureen McRae Goldberg, Director of Financial Aid for Occidental College, representing the Association of Private and Independent Colleges and Universities

The Student Perspective
Debbie Guzman, President, Associated Students
Oxnard College Associated Students -- Student Representatives

Implementation of the Dream Act
Ventura County Community College District
Dr. Bernard Luskin, Interim President, Moorpark College
Dr. Richard Durán, President, Oxnard College
Dr. Greg Gillespie, President, Ventura College

Closing Remarks
Bernardo M. Perez, Chair, VCCCD Legislative Committee
Arturo D. Hernandez, Member, VCCCD Legislative Committee
Assembly Bill No. 540

CHAPTER 814

An act to add Section 68130.5 to the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

[Approved by Governor October 12, 2001. Filed with Secretary of State October 13, 2001.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST


Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. Existing law authorizes the establishment of community college districts under the administration of community college governing boards, and authorizes these districts to provide instruction at community college campuses throughout the state. Existing law authorizes community college districts to admit, and charge a tuition fee for, nonresident students in accordance with specified criteria.

Existing law establishes the California State University, and authorizes the operation of its various campuses under the administration of the Trustees of the California State University. Existing law authorizes the trustees, on the basis of demonstrated financial need and scholastic achievement, to waive entirely, or reduce below the minimum rate, the tuition fee of a nonresident student, as defined.

Existing law prescribes residency requirements for students at public institutions of postsecondary education, including, among others, the campuses of the California Community Colleges and the California State University. With respect to alien students, existing law specifies that an alien, including an unmarried minor alien, may establish his or her residence unless precluded by the federal Immigration and Nationality Act from establishing domicile in the United States. These provisions are applicable to the University of California only if the Regents of the University of California act to make them applicable.

This bill would require that a person, other than a nonimmigrant alien as defined, who has attended high school in California for 3 or more years, who has graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent thereof, who has registered at or attends an accredited institution of higher education in California not earlier than the fall
semester or quarter of the 2001–02 academic year, and who, if he or she is an alien without lawful immigration status, has filed an affidavit as specified, be exempted from paying nonresident tuition at the California Community Colleges and the California State University.

The bill would authorize a student exempt from nonresident tuition under the bill to be reported by a community college district as a full-time student for apportionment purposes. The bill would require student information obtained in the implementation of the bill to be confidential.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of the following:

(1) There are high school pupils who have attended elementary and secondary schools in this state for most of their lives and who are likely to remain, but are precluded from obtaining an affordable college education because they are required to pay nonresident tuition rates.

(2) These pupils have already proven their academic eligibility and merit by being accepted into our state’s colleges and universities.

(3) A fair tuition policy for all high school pupils in California ensures access to our state’s colleges and universities, and thereby increases the state’s collective productivity and economic growth.

(4) This act, as enacted during the 2001–02 Regular Session, allows all persons, including undocumented immigrant students who meet the requirements set forth in Section 68130.5 of the Education Code, to be exempt from nonresident tuition in California’s colleges and universities.

(5) This act, as enacted during the 2001–02 Regular Session, does not confer postsecondary education benefits on the basis of residence within the meaning of Section 1623 of Title 8 of the United States Code.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature that:

(1) A state court may award only prospective injunctive and declaratory relief to a party in any lawsuit interpreting Section 68130.5 of the Education Code, as added by this act during the 2001–02 Regular Session, or any lawsuit interpreting similar requirements adopted by the Regents of the University of California pursuant to Section 68134 of the Education Code.

(2) This act will have no impact on the ability of California’s public colleges and universities to assess nonresident tuition on students who are not within the scope of this act.

SEC. 2. Section 68130.5 is added to the Education Code, to read:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law:
(a) A student, other than a nonimmigrant alien within the meaning of paragraph (15) of subsection (a) of Section 1101 of Title 8 of the United States Code, who meets all of the following requirements shall be exempt from paying nonresident tuition at the California State University and the California Community Colleges:

(1) High school attendance in California for three or more years.

(2) Graduation from a California high school or attainment of the equivalent thereof.

(3) Registration as an entering student at, or current enrollment at, an accredited institution of higher education in California not earlier than the fall semester or quarter of the 2001–02 academic year.

(4) In the case of a person without lawful immigration status, the filing of an affidavit with the institution of higher education stating that the student has filed an application to legalize his or her immigration status, or will file an application as soon as he or she is eligible to do so.

(b) A student exempt from nonresident tuition under this section may be reported by a community college district as a full-time equivalent student for apportionment purposes.

(c) The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges and the Trustees of the California State University shall prescribe rules and regulations for the implementation of this section.

(d) Student information obtained in the implementation of this section is confidential.
THE CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT: PRIMER
“The California Dream Act is a reflection of our state’s commitment to invest in all of its citizens.”

~ Diana Fuentes-Michel
Executive Director
California Student Aid Commission
Executive Summary

The California Student Aid Commission is committed to a clear student-focused core value, one that emphasizes a strong, simple foundation for higher education: Broad Access, Quality Education, Persistence and Completion. Our mission is to help make education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians.

In an effort to invest in all California students and to treat all high school students equitably, regardless of their citizenship status, the California Dream Act expanded the state Cal Grant program. In the 2014-15 academic year, students who attend the University of California or the California State University whose families make up to $150,000 may be eligible for financial aid under the Middle Class Scholarship.

The California Dream Act allows AB 540 students, who have been paying the state resident fees at California’s public colleges and universities, to receive state financial aid and private scholarships administered by public institutions and to apply for Cal Grants. The passage of AB 131 in 2011 authorized the awarding of state-funded student financial aid to AB 540 eligible students. Eligible programs include University of California Grants, California State University Grants and, from California Community Colleges, Board of Governors (BOG) Fee Waivers, as well as other community college student financial assistance programs. The Commission, in consultation with campuses and the public school segmental offices, developed an easy-to-use, online California Dream Act Application to act as a single financial aid application, similar to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This Dream Act Application gathers sufficient financial information to determine eligibility for institutional financial aid at campuses and to award state Cal Grants. Students can apply by visiting www.caldreamact.org.

Since the Dream Act Application was made available on January 1, 2013, over 29,200 students have applied for the California Dream Act to help pay for direct fees and tuition costs. Still, many AB 540 students lack adequate financial resources to pay for their indirect costs for college.
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The California Dream Act and Cal Grants

A key stumbling block for undocumented students had been the requirement to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), a beginning step in the qualification for most types of student assistance. The form requires Social Security numbers for the student and parents, as well as financial information that parents may be reluctant to provide.

To implement the California Dream Act, the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) created a unique application form that mirrors the FAFSA. It allows for the use of a Temporary Identification Number (TIN) in place of a Social Security Number (SSN).

As with the FAFSA, a completed California Dream Act application generates a notification about the student’s eligibility for aid. Institutions use the information to put together financial aid packages so students can make choices about where to attend.

For the 2013-14 academic year the Commission received 29,200 California Dream Act Applications. Out of the 29,200 applications, 6,014 Cal Grant High School Entitlement Award offers were made and 1,275 Cal Grant Community College Transfer Entitlement, and 176 Cal Grant C Award offers were made for a total of 7,465. These outcomes demonstrate that 36% of all California Dream Act applicants were offered a Cal Grant and resulted in disbursement of $32 million in Cal Grants awarded to California Dream Act students during the first year of the program (2013-14). Forty-three percent (43%) of California Dream Act applicants received a Cal Grant to attend a California Community College.

How California Dream Act (CADA) Differs from Deferred Action (DACA)

The same requirements apply for California “Dreamers” as for all Cal Grant applicants. Students must:

- Be a resident of California or an AB540 student;
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident or eligible non-citizen, or an AB 540 student;
- Attend an eligible California school;
- Meet Selective Service requirements;
- Not be in default on a student loan;
- Not have earned a bachelor’s degree;
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress; and
- Be enrolled at least half-time.
A Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) student can apply for California Dream Act financial aid. DACA does not confer a new legal status for students. California students who have applied for or received approval for DACA should complete the CA Dream Act Application and NOT the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

**The California Dream Act and California’s Future**

The California Dream Act reflects California’s ongoing commitment to investing in the workforce of the future by making sure that a higher education remains possible for all eligible students. While it is an important expansion of this commitment, it is important to see its impact in the context of all state financial aid to students:

- For the 2013-14 academic year, the Commission foresees awarding $1.7 billion in Cal Grant funding.
- In the 2013-14 academic year, 29,200 students applied for the California Dream Act, 20,534 of those applications were received on time deeming the students eligible for the California Dream Act. A total of 7,465 students or thirty-six percent (36%) of these applicants were awarded a Cal Grant.
- In the 2013-14 academic year, California Dream Act students are eligible for Cal Grants, community college fee waivers, other financial aid awarded by colleges and universities, and Chafee grants for foster youth.
- In 2014-15 California Dream Act students who are attending a California State University or University of California campus may be eligible to receive a Middle Class Scholarship.
- In the 2012-13 academic year, 685,000 new and renewal students qualified for a Cal Grant award. The Commission awarded Cal Grants to 394,249 of these students; the average income of a new Cal Grant recipient was $24,522.

The California Dream Act is an investment in California’s future. The linkage between supporting students’ aspirations to attend college and a thriving state economy has been long recognized. Among the relevant studies are:

- **An analysis by the Public Policy Institute of California which indicates a shortfall of one million college-educated workers in the state by 2025 unless proactive measures are taken.**

- **Figures from the U.S. Census Bureau that show college graduates earn $1 million more over a lifetime than do high school graduates, driving greater consumer spending and generating more tax revenue for their communities.**

- **One published, peer-reviewed paper found that the federal government’s investment in financial aid generates a return of 14 percent in increased tax revenues, with a payback period of less than six years to recoup the cost of financial aid.**

As California looks to the future, it is important that we leave no one behind. The California Dream Act is an equitable law that benefits students and their parents, and it is also an important investment in building a vibrant, growing economy in California.

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*In 2011-12, 52% of California public school students were Latino. In 2010, only 7% of public college graduates were Latino.*
California and Mexico: Partners for Higher Education

California is the state with the largest Hispanic population in the United States: 14 million people or 37.6% of the total population. Hispanics represent more than one in four of the state residents.¹

Almost 11 million Mexicans live in California.² Mexico and California share a 145-mile border. There are 10 Mexican consulates throughout California: Calexico, Fresno, Los Angeles, Oxnard, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose and Santa Ana.

The Commission works extensively with the Consul General of Mexico in Sacramento to present the annual Steps to College University Fair. The Consul General of Mexico in Sacramento represents 24 Northern California counties including: Siskiyou, Modoc, Shasta, Lassen, Tehama, Plumas, Butte, Glenn, Yuba, Sierra, Colusa, Sutter, Nevada, Placer, Yolo, El Dorado, Sacramento, Amador, Alpine, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Calaveras, Tuolumne, and Mono. The 2013 edition of the Steps to College attracted 2,400 mainly high school students with their parents. Families received a full array of resources, information and on-site guidance about college preparedness, university admissions, and financial assistance opportunities. A third of those students belonged to low-income Latino families from rural areas in Northern California; many of them were migrant families. Over 300 people volunteered to help with Steps to College 2013 including representatives from 45 California and Mexico universities to college and high school counselors, financial aid experts, immigration experts and 150 college student mentors.

256 of the students who attended Steps to College 2013 benefitted from Cien Amigos-Institute for Mexicans Abroad (IME) scholarship, in addition to learning about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the California Dream Act, and Cal Grants.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, March 2011
² U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey
Community Partnerships*

- Educators for Fair Consideration (E4FC)
- Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project
- California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA)
- Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
- Latino Policy Coalition
- Dream, Develop, Do
- Hispanics Organized for Political Equality (HOPE)
- Mexican Cultural Center of Northern California
- Univision
- La Opinion
- FOX Deportes/Telemundo
- Cien Amigos
- Institute for Mexicans Abroad (IME)
- d’primeramano Magazine
- Alianza Student Association at Sacramento City College
- Puente Student Association, Los Rios Community College District

Frequently Asked Questions

**Where do students find the California Dream Act Application?**

The California Student Aid Commission provides FREE support to students and families to help fill out the California Dream Act application. Students can visit [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov) or [www.caldreamact.org](http://www.caldreamact.org), call 1-888-224-7268 or attend one of the 700 free, hands-on Cash for College workshops located in their local community that are provided in both English and Spanish. Visit [www.calgrants.org](http://www.calgrants.org) for more information.

**How do students know if they qualify for the California Dream Act?**

- **Have attended a California high school for three years**
- **Have graduated from high school or completed a graduation equivalency**
- **Have enrolled or will enroll in a public California institution of higher education**
- **Have filed or will file an affidavit about willingness to legalize his or her citizenship status as soon as he or she is able to do so.**
**If students meet the eligibility criteria, what type of financial aid are they eligible for?**

- Private funding provided by colleges and universities (AB 130)
- Public funding through the Cal Grant program, University of California (UC) and State University grants, community college fee waivers, and universities, and Chafee grants for foster youth (AB 131)

**Does applying for the California Dream Act change a student’s immigration status?**

No. The California Dream Act does NOT change a student’s legal status. It treats students who are in California and who attend high school for three years the same when it comes to financial aid, regardless of their citizenship status, but it does not alter that status. Similarly, the California Dream Act has nothing to do with the presidential executive order that created the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to temporarily halt deportations of some undocumented immigrants. Legal status and deportation issues are not part of the California Dream Act.

**Can the federal government see an applicant’s private information?**

No. Your privacy is protected. Students and families may be concerned that filing a California Dream Act application will draw attention to their legal status and cause problems with either jobs or living situations. All California Dream Act filings are confidential, both within the Commission and at colleges and universities. Personal information is not shared with other government agencies.

**How much state funding is available for California Dream Act students?**

The California Student Aid Commission estimates it will award $1.7 billion in Cal Grants in 2014-15 academic year. Almost all Cal Grants are entitlements: This means that if students meet the eligibility criteria [family income and Grade Point Average (GPA) achievement] and follow the appropriate application process (FAFSA or California Dream Act plus GPA filing), they receive an award that can be used at colleges that are qualified participants of the Cal Grant program.

*partial list

Find California Student Aid Commission online at [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov)
Appendix

The California Dream Act authored by Assembly Member Gil Cedillo (Los Angeles-D), became law through the passage of two measures AB 130 and AB 131 (2011). AB 130 allows students who meet AB 540 criteria to apply for and receive non-state funded scholarships for public colleges and universities. AB 131 allows students who meet AB540 criteria to apply for and receive state-funded financial aid such as institutional grants, community college Board of Governors (BOG) fee waivers, Cal Grants, Chafee Grants, and beginning in 2014-15, the Middle Class Scholarship.

Section 68130.5 of the California Education Code establishes the criteria for AB 540 eligibility. The statute indicates as follows: Notwithstanding any other provision of law: (a) A student, other than a nonimmigrant alien within the meaning of paragraph (15) of subsection (a) of Section 1101 of Title 8 of the United States Code, who meets all of the following requirements shall be exempt from paying nonresident tuition at the California State University and the California Community Colleges:

(1) High school attendance in California for three or more years. (2) Graduation from a California high school or attainment of the equivalent thereof. (3) Registration as an entering student at, or current enrollment at, an accredited institution of higher education in California not earlier than the fall semester or quarter of the 2001-02 academic year. (4) In the case of a person without lawful immigration status, the filing of an affidavit with the institution of higher education stating that the student has filed an application to legalize his or her immigration status, or will file an application as soon as he or she is eligible to do so. (b) A student exempt from nonresident tuition under this section may be reported by a community college district as a full-time equivalent student for apportionment purposes. (c) The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges and the Trustees of the California State University shall prescribe rules and regulations for the implementation of this section. (d) Student information obtained in the implementation of this section is confidential.
DREAM ACT

FACTS
THE CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT:
A GUIDE FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS
WHAT IS THE CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT?

Assembly Bills 130 & 131, known as the California Dream Act of 2011, are laws that increase access to financial aid for undocumented students who attend a public university, community college or private college in California. In order to qualify, students must meet the requirements of AB 540 and not be eligible to apply for the FAFSA.

IMPORTANT NOTE: EACH INSTITUTION WILL IMPLEMENT THE CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT ACCORDING TO THEIR CAPACITY. IT IS UP TO YOU, THE STUDENT, TO BE PROACTIVE, ASK QUESTIONS, AND STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE OF YOUR CURRENT OR PROSPECTIVE COLLEGE IN ORDER TO BE FULLY INFORMED ABOUT THE FINANCIAL AID YOU QUALIFY FOR AND HOW TO APPLY FOR IT.

AB 130 allows eligible AB 540 students to apply for and receive scholarships derived from non-state funds at all California public colleges and universities. These include scholarships funded through private donors, alumni contributions and individual departmental efforts. Students must apply and compete for available awards as determined by their respective college or university. This bill went into effect on January 1, 2012.

AB 131 allows eligible AB 540 students to access state-funded financial aid programs such as Cal Grants, university grants and Board of Governor’s Fee Waivers. The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) developed the California Dream Act Application, a FAFSA-like application, to determine the financial need of students who are not citizens, legal permanent residents or eligible non-citizens. For the upcoming 2013-14 academic year, students may complete a Dream Act Application online at www.caldreamact.org in order to determine eligibility to receive state financial aid.

The priority deadline for submitting the application to determine financial need for each academic year is from January 1 to March 2. Given that for the 2013–14 academic year the March 2nd deadline falls on a Saturday, CSAC will accept Dream Act Applications and GPA Verifications for Cal Grants until Monday, March 4th, 2013.

Important points:
1. In order to be considered for a Cal Grant, students must submit a Non-SSN GPA Verification Form IN ADDITION to the online Dream Act Application.
2. You must re-submit the Dream Act Application every year before March 2nd in order to be considered for financial aid in the upcoming academic year. Even if you completed the Dream Act Application a year ago, you need to complete it again during the current filing period to be eligible for aid during 2013-2014.

For more information on how to fill out the California Dream Act Application, see the California Dream Act Application Instructions at http://goo.gl/geIjP or watch videos in English at http://goo.gl/Wa7le.

BASIC AB 540 REQUIREMENTS

AB 540 is a law that provides in-state tuition benefits for undocumented students and certain other students who attend or will attend public universities in California. To qualify for AB 540 status, students must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Student must have attended a high school (public or private) in California for three or more years
2. Student must have graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent (GED)
3. Students must file an affidavit stating they have filed (or will file) an application to legalize as soon as they are able to do so

Non-immigrant foreign students are not eligible for this exemption. Non-immigrant students, as defined by federal immigration law, may hold one of the following visas: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, TN, TD, and V, AND TROV, and NATO. U visa holders are also considered non-immigrant students for federal aid, but a new California law which goes into effect on January 1, 2013, AB 1899 (Mitchell), allows U and T visa holders to be eligible for the same California student financial aid and nonresident tuition exemption as AB 540 students. U visa holders may file a Dream Application, while T visa holders may file using the FAFSA.

For more information about AB 540, please see the E4FC Financial Aid Guide at http://e4fc.org/resources/studentguides.html.
10 things you need to know about the California Dream Act

1. The California Dream Act allows certain students who meet the requirements below to apply for and receive state financial aid at California public and private colleges and private scholarships administered by California public colleges.

2. California Dream Act Application information is not shared with federal databases, student and parent information is protected by the same privacy and information security laws and safeguards as all other state financial aid applicants.

3. Students need to meet the following Assembly Bill (AB) 540 qualifications:
   - Attend a California high school for a minimum of three years;
   - Graduate from a California high school or pass the California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE) or get a General Equivalency Diploma (GED);
   - Enroll in an accredited and qualified California college or university; and,
   - If applicable, fill out an affidavit to legalize immigration status as soon as eligible.

4. AB 540 students can apply for private scholarship aid administered by public and private colleges and universities. Check with your campus for program details and application information.

5. Beginning January 2013, apply at www.caldreamact.org, for:
   - California Community College Board of Governor’s (BOG) fee waiver. Check with the college for required forms.
   - Cal Grants that can be used in the 2013-14 academic year. Apply by the Cal Grant March 2 deadline.
   - Other state financial aid awarded by colleges and universities. Apply by the March 2 priority deadline.

6. After completing the California Dream Act Application, check with your campus financial aid and scholarship office for further details or requirements.

7. Cal Grants are free money for college that does not have to be paid back. Students may receive up to $12,192 annually for up to 4 years of college. Amount varies depending upon the college of attendance.

8. Submit a verified GPA form by the Cal Grant March 2 deadline. Check with your school about submitting your GPA form.


10. The recent federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) does not prevent students from applying for California Dream Act financial aid. California students who have applied for or received approval for Deferred Action should complete the California Dream Act Application, not the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Learn more at www.uscis.gov, www.e4fc.org, or www.weownthedream.org.
10 cosas que debes saber sobre la Ley Dream Act de California

1. La ley Dream Act de California permite que ciertos estudiantes que reúnen los requisitos que aparecen a continuación soliciten y reciban ayuda financiera estatal en colegios públicos y privados, y becas privadas administradas por colegios públicos de California.

2. Los datos de la Solicitud de la ley Dream Act de California no son compartidos con las bases de datos federales; los datos de estudiantes y padres son protegidos por las mismas leyes de privacidad y seguridad de datos y protecciones que reciben todos los solicitantes de ayuda financiera estatal.

3. Los estudiantes necesitan reunir los siguientes requisitos del Proyecto de Ley (AB) 540:
   • Asistir a una escuela secundaria de California por lo menos 3 años,
   • Graduarse de una escuela secundaria de California o pasar el Examen de Aptitud de la Escuela Secundaria de California (CHSPE, en inglés) u obtener el Certificado de Formación Educativa General (GED, en inglés),
   • Inscritos en un colegio o universidad acreditado y calificado de California, y
   • De ser aplicable, completar un afidávit para legalizar el estado migratorio tan pronto reúna los requisitos.

4. Los estudiantes AB 540 pueden solicitar ayuda de becas privadas administradas por colegios y universidades públicos. Pregunta en tu colegio sobre los detalles de los programas y los datos de la solicitud.

5. Empezando en enero de 2013, visita www.caldreamact.org, para solicitar:
   • Exenciones de Cuotas de Inscripción de la Junta de Gobernadores de los Colegios Comunitarios de California (BOG, en inglés). Pregunta en tu colegio cuáles son los formularios requeridos.
   • Becas Cal Grant que se pueden usar en el año académico 2013-14. Solicita hasta la fecha de vencimiento de la beca Cal Grant del 2 de marzo.
   • Otra ayuda financiera estatal otorgada por colegios y universidades. Solicita hasta la fecha de vencimiento de prioridad del 2 de marzo.
   • Becas Chafee para jóvenes en cuidado adoptivo; presenta una solicitud para la Beca Chafee en www.csac.ca.gov.

6. Después de completar la Solicitud de la ley Dream Act de California, consulta la oficinas de ayuda financiera y becas en tu colegio para más detalles o requisitos.

7. Las becas Cal Grant son dinero para el colegio que no tienes que devolver. Los estudiantes pueden recibir hasta $12,192 al año por hasta 4 años de colegio. La cantidad varía dependiendo del colegio al que asistan.

8. Presenta un formulario GPA verificado hasta la fecha de vencimiento de Cal Grant del 2 de marzo. Pregunta en tu escuela sobre la presentación del formulario de tu GPA.


Myth #1 – All Dream Act students are illegal immigrants

**The Facts:** Dream Act students must meet the requirements of AB 540 law found in Education Code § 68230.5(a). Two groups of students potentially meet those requirements: (1) U.S. citizens who have attended and graduated from a CA high school, but don’t meet state residency requirements, and (2) undocumented students whose parents brought them to the U.S. when they were minors, and who attended and graduated from a CA high school.

Myth #2 – State grants are being taken away from legal U.S. citizens

**The Facts:** The Cal Grants A & B for which Dream Act students are eligible are entitlements. Every California high school graduate (or the equivalent) who meets the qualifications receives an award.

Myth #3 – Dream Act financial aid is a waste of state resources, because these students will not be able to work once they leave college

**The Facts:** As stated under Myth #1, a portion of Dream Act students are U.S. citizens, and there are no occupational restrictions on them, except as pertain to general economic conditions.

**The Facts:** All undocumented Dream Act students must file an affidavit stating they have or intend to (as soon as they are able) apply to legalize their immigration status as a condition of the AB 540 and AB 131 laws. That legal process may result in permanent residency before the students leave college or shortly thereafter.

**The Facts:** The U.S. Congress has attempted to pass various federal DREAM Acts with bipartisan support. The federal Act would create a pathway to permanent residency and work authorization. That law may be put into place before the students leave college or shortly thereafter.

**The Facts:** For all postsecondary students, the college experience expands knowledge, identity and community; develops workforce skills; and builds educated and engaged residents and citizens.
Myth #4 – Dream Act Cal Grants can only be used at California public colleges and universities

The Facts: Dream Act Cal Grants can be used at any eligible Cal Grant participating institution. Click [here](#) to search for an eligible Cal Grant college or university.
## OVERVIEW OF FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS

AB 540 students who qualify under AB 131 and submit the California Dream Act Application will be able to apply for the programs below (types of aid listed by higher education system). For program descriptions please visit, [http://e4fc.org/cadaprogramdescriptions.html](http://e4fc.org/cadaprogramdescriptions.html).

### CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES (CCC)

- Cal Grant A (for Associate or Bachelor programs) Held in reserve until you transfer to a 4-year college or university
- Cal Grant B (for programs 1 year or longer)
- Cal Grant C (for vocational programs 4 months or longer; see priority programs online at: [www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=107](http://www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=107))
- Board of Governors Fee Waiver
- Community College Private Scholarships (through AB 130)
- Extended Opportunity Programs & Services (EOPS)

### CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY (CSU)

- Cal Grant A
- Cal Grant B
- State University Grants (SUG)
- Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)
- CSU Scholarships/Fellowships (through AB 130)
- Chafee Foster Youth Grants

### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SYSTEM (UC)

- Cal Grant A
- Cal Grant B
- UC Grants
- Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) or Equivalent Program
- UC Scholarships/Fellowships (through AB 130)
- Chafee Foster Youth Grants

### PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

- Cal Grant A
- Cal Grant B
- Cal Grant C (for qualifying career technical programs)
- Private Scholarships and Fellowships
- Chafee Foster Youth Grants

### VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

- Cal Grant A
- Cal Grant B
- Cal Grant C
### CALIFORNIA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO AB540 STUDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Applicable at</th>
<th>Eligible to Apply?</th>
<th>Application</th>
<th>Deadline/File by?</th>
<th>Amount Up To?</th>
<th>Effective When?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-State Tuition (nonresident tuition exemption)</td>
<td>UC, CSU, CCC</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>AB 540 Affidavit &amp; AB 540 Nonresident Tuition Exemption; see a sample affidavit at <a href="http://www.calgrants.org/documents/2008_AB_540_Affidavit.pdf">http://www.calgrants.org/documents/2008_AB_540_Affidavit.pdf</a> (file the affidavit supplied by your campus)</td>
<td>Check with respective school; usually follows admissions deadline</td>
<td>N/A (student is exempt from paying higher nonresident tuition charges)</td>
<td>Began Jan. 1, 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Scholarships (not offered through a campus)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies; depends on eligibility requirements</td>
<td>Varies; see <a href="http://www.e4fc.org/resources/scholarshiplists.html">http://www.e4fc.org/resources/scholarshiplists.html</a> for more information</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Scholarships (offered through a campus under AB 130)</td>
<td>UC, CSU, CCC, Private</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Varies; check with respective school</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Began Jan. 1, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Governors (BOG) Fee Waiver</td>
<td>CCC</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>BOG Application found at your financial aid office or <a href="http://www.icanaffordcollege.com">www.icanaffordcollege.com</a> Can also use Dream Act Application found at <a href="http://www.caldreamact.org">www.caldreamact.org</a> for BOG Method C</td>
<td>Continuous; Check with current or prospective CCC institution</td>
<td>$1,104</td>
<td>Began Jan. 1, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cal Grants</td>
<td>All UC, CSU, CCC, most Private, and some Vocational</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Dream Act Application &amp; GPA Verification Form found at <a href="http://www.caldreamact.org">www.caldreamact.org</a></td>
<td>File between Jan. 1 and March 2nd, 2013</td>
<td>Varies, but can be up to $12,192</td>
<td>Begins Fall Term 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSU Grant</td>
<td>CSU</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Dream Act Application found at <a href="http://www.caldreamact.org">www.caldreamact.org</a></td>
<td>File between Jan. 1 and March 2nd, 2013*, for the 2013-14 academic year</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Begins Fall Term 2013 for those who apply between Jan. 1 and March 2nd, 2013*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EOPS</td>
<td>CCC</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Check with respective CCC</td>
<td>Check with Respective CCC</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Began Spring 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CSU, UC</td>
<td>EOP (Or Equivalent in UC system)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Check with respective CSU or UC</td>
<td>Check with Respective CSU or UC</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
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<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chafee Foster Youth Grants</td>
<td>All Title IV eligible (federal student aid) schools in CA &amp; elsewhere</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Check requirements at <a href="http://www.chafee.csac.ca.gov">www.chafee.csac.ca.gov</a></td>
<td>Continuous; funds are limited and awarded based on priorities; see requirements at <a href="http://www.chafee.csac.ca.gov">www.chafee.csac.ca.gov</a></td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>Next priority award period, Fall 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Loans</td>
<td>All UC, CSU, CCC, Private, Vocational</td>
<td>Yes, but need a legal resident co-signer</td>
<td>Check with respective financial institution</td>
<td>Check with respective financial institution</td>
<td>Varies based on credit worthiness</td>
<td>Next award period, Winter/Spring 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The normal March 2nd deadline falls on a Saturday in 2013, so CSAC will accept Dream Act Applications and Non-SSN GPA Verification Forms for Cal Grants until Monday, March 4th, 2013. The Non-SSN GPA verification form has to be signed by the high school where you meet the unit requirements. So don’t put it off until the last minute since it may take time to find the right person and process the form.

**AID NOT AVAILABLE TO AB540 STUDENTS**

Undocumented AB 540 students are not eligible for federal student aid, including Pell and other grants, government loans, and federal work-study.
TIPS ON FILLING OUT THE CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT APPLICATION

If you have a Social Security Number through Deferred Action, you should fill out the CA Dream Application, NOT the FAFSA to be eligible for state aid. Students with a SSN through DACA are not eligible for federal financial aid. U visa holders should file the Dream Application, while T visa holders should file the FAFSA. It is important to file the Dream Act Application as early as possible. Filling out the application online is the fastest and easiest way to submit the application. The priority deadline for submitting the California Dream Act Application is March 2, 2013.

Go to www.caldreamact.org to access the application.

GETTING STARTED

First create an account. You will set up a user name, password and security question. Record and save your user name and password because you will need these to login on future occasions to make the edits and check the status of your application.

The application does not ask the student for a Social Security Number (SSN). Provide the names and SSNs of your parents. If they do not have an SSN, you may list their Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITINs), if they have one. If they have neither, list nine zeros in that field.

You must report your income and any cash support given by relatives. You do not need to include the value of food and housing.

If you are under 24, your parents must also report their income and any cash support given by relatives except food and housing-- unless you are married, have children of your own, or are a graduate student etc..

Selective Service registration: Most males, 18-25 must be registered with Selective Service to be eligible for state student aid. All male students can register at their local post office by filling out and mailing a Selective Services Registration Form, (SSS Form 1M(UPO)). You can also download the Selective Service form at www.caldreamact.org, complete and mail it in. Even if you are undocumented, you must register to be eligible. No SSN is required. For more information or questions, you may visit: http://www.sss.gov/SSSYOU/sss&you.pdf.

SIGNING THE CA DREAM APPLICATION

Students and one parent must sign if the student is considered dependent (again, that means anyone under 24 with only a few exceptions). There are two steps to successfully signing the California Dream Act Application: the student signature and the parent signature.

First, the student signs by checking the signature box and submitting the Dream Application. Students will be taken to a confirmation page.

RETREIVING THE PARENT PIN

To complete the application, students and one parent will need to complete the 2nd step of the signature process. To create the Parent Pin, students must click the red button indicated in the screen shot above.
The name, birth date and wages of the parent signing the Dream application are entered and must match what the information the student previously provided the Dream application.

Once you retrieve the Parent PIN, you will have to go to the Dream Application home page to **add the parent signature** to the Dream Application.

Once you submit the Parent PIN, the signature process will be done, and the application will be complete.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE PARENT PIN**

- You and your parents must decide which parent will sign the application
- Only one parent can obtain a PIN number and this PIN is tied to the individual student
- If there is more than one student submitting a Dream Application in the same household, the parent will have to obtain a Parent PIN for each student
- Every time the student makes a correction on the application, the parent will need to sign again

For questions, please contact caledreamact@csac.ca.gov or call CSAC at 1-888-224-7268.
DEFINITIONS

**Income Verification**: Certain students will be selected by their college or university to verify their family income. If you or your parents meet income guidelines to submit taxes, you might be required to present IRS transcripts.

**Household size** includes anyone in the immediate family who receives more than 50% of their support from an independent student or from a dependent student’s parents. A spouse may be counted, and if your siblings receive more than 50% of their financial support from your parents, they should be counted as well.

**Citizenship status**: AB540 eligible students who cannot fill out the FAFSA must choose the third option: “Non-citizen or eligible noncitizen.”

**A Dislocated worker** is anyone who lost their job or had a reduction of hours as of the date when the application is being competed.

INFORMATION/DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO FILL OUT THE DREAM ACT APPLICATION

Here is a list of the paperwork you will need to provide for you or your parents, if it is relevant to your situation:

- W-2 forms and other 2012 records of income
- 2012 income tax returns
- Records of child support
- Records of student scholarships and fellowships included in your parents’ taxes
- Current bank statements
- Current investment records or business records if you own a business with over 100 employees
- Current business and farm records
ABOUT US

EDUCATORS FOR FAIR CONSIDERATION (E4FC)

Founded in 2006, Educators for Fair Consideration supports undocumented students in realizing their academic and career goals and actively contributing to society. Our programming is designed by and for undocumented young people with support from committed allies. We offer holistic programming that addresses the financial, legal, career, and emotional health needs of undocumented students. Specifically, we provide scholarships, legal services, professional and personal development workshops, and a strong peer network for undocumented students. We also lead presentations and create educational materials to raise awareness and support for undocumented students nationwide. For more information, visit e4fc.org.

CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION (CSAC)

Since its creation by the Legislature in 1955, the Commission has continued to operate as the principal state agency responsible for administering financial aid programs for students attending public and private universities, colleges, and vocational schools in California. The Commission has never wavered from its central mission to make education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians. For more information, visit csac.ca.gov.
THE COLLEGE & FINANCIAL AID GUIDE FOR AB 540 STUDENTS
The College & Financial Aid Guide for:

AB540 Undocumented Immigrant Students

THE AB 540 COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK
The resource guide is a collaboration between the Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis (CHEPA) at the University of Southern California, the Salvadoran American Leadership and Educational Fund (SALEF), and Maria Lucia Chavez.

In addition, contributions were made by the following individuals and organizations:

Alfred Herrera, UCLA Center for Community College Partnerships (CCCP); Alex Paredes, South East High School College Counselor; Alexander Thome, Santa Clara University; Alicia Vilahpando, Santa Monica College; Ana Maria Valle, Oxnard College; Cash for College; Coalition for Humane and Immigrant Rights - Los Angeles (CHIRLA); Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP) at UCLA; Cora Cervantes, East Los Angeles Community College (ELAC) Student; Espiritu de Nuestro Futuro at CSUDH; Fermin Vasquez, Belmont High School Student; Imelda Quintanar, CSUDH EOP Counselor; Improving Dreams, Equality, Access and Success (IDeAS) of UCLA; Irma Archuleta, Compton Community College, Administrative Dean of Student Services; Llanet Martin, UCLA Alumni; Los Angeles Unified School District, District 2; Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce; Lydia Aguirre-Fuentes, Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) Counselling Department; Marco Antonio Firebaugh Consulting, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF); Michael Mendel, Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) Admissions Outreach Services; Russell Jauregui, Vellanoeth & Gehart, LLP; Marina Gonzalez, Santa Monica College (SMC); Students and Staff of El Camino College and many other individuals and organizations.

The Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis (CHEPA) is an interdisciplinary research unit led by Director, William G. Tierney, and Associate Director, Adrianna Kezar. The Center was established to engage the postsecondary-education community actively, and to serve as an important intellectual center within the Rossier School of Education; it draws significant support and commitment from the administration. The Center's mission is to improve urban higher education, strengthen school-university relationships, and to focus on international higher education, emphasizing Latin America and the Pacific Rim. Working on fulfilling that mission are the Center's faculty, research assistants, and staff. We are currently involved in a three-year study of college access and financial aid for low-income students, a multi-year investigation of governance and decision-making in higher education, a study on ways to increase the diversity of faculty, and a project that will provide ways to increase the transfer rate of urban community college students to four-year institutions.

The Salvadoran American Leadership and Educational Fund (SALEF) is a non-profit, non-partisan, civic organization committed to expanding the political and economic contributions of the Salvadoran and other Central American communities in United States society. Since its establishment in October 1995 by a group of Salvadoran community activists in Los Angeles, the organization has been volunteer-led and driven by its community-based Board of Directors.

This research is supported by a grant from Lumina Foundation for Education. Lumina Foundation for Education, an Indianapolis-based, private, independent foundation, strives to help people achieve their potential by expanding access and success in education beyond high school. Through grants for research, innovation, communication, and evaluation, as well as policy education and leadership development, Lumina Foundation addresses issues that affect access and educational attainment among all students, particularly underserved student groups, including adult learners. The Foundation bases its mission on the belief that postsecondary education remains one of the most beneficial investments that individuals can make in themselves and that society can make in its people. For more details on the Foundation, visit its Web site at www.luminafoundation.org. The contents of this publication do not necessarily represent the views of Lumina Foundation for Education, its officers or staff.

This publication is based on, among other things, the research and findings of the referenced researchers. While the researchers have at all times attempted to provide accurate information, in many instances, the results presented herein are based on data or material provided or created by third parties over which the researchers have no control, or may otherwise contain inaccurate, untested or hypothetical information or data. As a result, neither the University of Southern California nor its researchers, professors, employees or agents shall be liable or responsible for any inaccuracies or misstatements set forth in this publication, nor shall they be liable for any claims, losses, damages or expenses which may result there from.
The College & Financial Aid Guide for:

AB540 Undocumented Immigrant Students

Edited by:

Paz M. Olivérez, Ph.D.
Maria Lucia Chavez
Mayra Soriano
William G. Tierney, Ph.D.

THE AB 540 COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK
CENTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY ANALYSIS
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
OCTOBER 2006
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Since the passage of Assembly Bill 540 in 2001, authored by the late Assemblyman, Marco Antonio Firebaugh, more than 5,000 undocumented students\(^1\) in California have had improved financial access to higher education. AB 540 has become a pinnacle in the lives of students, who because of their immigration status, have historically been denied access to financial aid to fund their college education, despite demonstrated academic excellence. Even since the passage of AB 540 in 2001, many undocumented students remain unaware of the law as well as the rights and opportunities available to them in the United States. Through this resource guide we hope to inform not only those undocumented students who can benefit from AB 540 but also the counselors, teachers, and other advocates who support them.

It is estimated that every year 65,000 undocumented students graduate from high school across the nation\(^2\), with the majority residing in California. Some students will attend a four-year institution, others will find their way to community college, and most will not pursue college at all because of the financial burden that paying for college poses to them and their families. The lack of financial aid available to undocumented students as a result of their residency status has left higher education financially out-of-reach for many.

This guide is the result of a collaborative effort by individuals who work and advocate for students' post secondary access. It provides a comprehensive resource detailing the law, history of relevant legislation, immigration definitions and resources, important information about applying for college, tips on succeeding in college including funding their education, and providing the motivation and examples of students like them who have succeeded.

**Students:**
This Resource Guide was written with you in mind. It is intended to provide you with all of the information you need to be prepared for college, whether you choose to attend a community college or 4-year university, like a UC or CSU. We hope that this guide will help to make the process of applying to college and funding your education as easy as possible. However, it is important to keep in mind that succeeding in college and paying for college will take a lot of hard work on your part. You will have to work twice as hard as students who were born in the U.S. and who are eligible for financial aid. But, don't be discouraged. We believe in you and know that you can achieve your goals. We know this because there are AB 540 Undocumented Students graduating from college every year so it can be done! Good luck!

**Adults:**
This Resource Guide was written to guide AB 540-eligible undocumented students through the processes of preparing for, applying to, and acquiring funds for college. Whether you are well-informed about post-secondary options for undocumented students or not, please use this guide to supplement the information you have received from other sources and please SHARE THIS GUIDE WITH ALL OF YOUR STUDENTS!!! We know that it is sometimes difficult to identify the undocumented students on your campus, so by providing at least some of the information to all students, you are more likely to reach those students most in need. Once students know that they do have options and feel that they can trust you, they are more likely to come to you for additional assistance.

\(^1\) Obtained from a group of studies conducted by the Pew Hispanic Center, www.pewhispanic.org

\(^2\) Obtained from a group of studies conducted by the Pew Hispanic Center, www.pewhispanic.org
SECTION 1: WHO ARE UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS?
Undocumented students include those students born outside of the United States, many of whom have lived in this country for a significant portion of their lives, and who reside here without the legal permission of the federal government. Some undocumented students and their families entered the country legally on tourist or work visas and chose to stay in the US after their visas expired. Others entered without any form of legal immigration status (Oliver, 2005).

According to Badger & Yale-Loehr (2006), undocumented students are foreign nationals who: 1) entered the United States without inspection or with fraudulent documents; or 2) entered legally as a nonimmigrant but then violated the terms of his or her status and remained in the United States without authorization.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that in the year 2000, approximately 2.5 million undocumented youth under age 18 were living in the U.S.\(^3\)

Each year, about 65,000 undocumented students graduate from U.S. high schools.\(^3\)

40% of all undocumented students live in California.\(^3\)

In 2001, between 5,000-8,000 undocumented students in California were eligible for in-state tuition under AB 540.\(^3\)

Many undocumented students have excelled as honor students, class valedictorians, and active members of their communities.\(^4\)

Many undocumented students were brought to the U.S. at a very young age.

Many undocumented students have aspirations to attend college.

\textit{NOTE:} Assembly Bill 540 "AB 540" applies to any student who meets the criteria as set forth in the legislation. Here, the term is used as it applies specifically to AB 540-eligible undocumented students.

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{edu.png}
\caption{Education is essential for the growth and development of the mind. Undocumented students are people like you and me; they have rights. I give support because I believe that their dreams should come true, too.

\textbf{Christina Briones}
\textbf{UC Santa Cruz ’09}}
\end{figure}

\(^3\) These statistics were obtained from a group of studies conducted by the Pew Hispanic Center, www.pewhispanic.org

**Undocumented students give to our community by serving as high achieving role models. We should match them by broadening their access to a college education.**

Vianey Nunez  
Fresno State '06

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS:**

**Q: What does it mean to be undocumented?**

**A:** An undocumented person is a non-citizen who entered the U.S. without legal immigration status or who stayed after the period he/she was authorized to be here.

**Q: If I am undocumented and interested in applying for residency, what should I do?**

**A:** In order to find out if you are eligible to apply for legal permanent residency, contact a licensed immigration lawyer/attorney (abogado). DO NOT give your money to a “notario” (notary public). In the U.S., a notario is not a lawyer/attorney and cannot help you establish residency or “get your papers.”

**Q: If I am undocumented, can I go to college?**

**A:** YES, if you are an undocumented student you can go to any college or university in California as long as you are admitted/accepted. To avoid paying out-of-state tuition, you need to meet the AB 540 requirements listed in Section 2 of this guide.

**Q: If I am undocumented, can I apply for financial aid?**

**A:** As an undocumented student, you ARE NOT eligible for state (Cal Grant) and federal (FAFSA) financial aid. Some colleges and private organizations may offer financial assistance to undocumented students. Visit your college’s financial aid and scholarship offices to find out.

**NOTE:** If you are undocumented but have proof you have taken steps to change your status to an immigration classification that does not preclude establishing domicile in the U.S., you MAY be able to establish California residency for tuition purposes. Classification as a state resident for tuition purposes by a community college admissions office allows you to apply for the Board of Governors (BOG) Fec Waiver and Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) state aid programs and receive assistance from those programs if you meet income and other eligibility requirements. The CSU and UC make separate residence determinations for all students, including transfer students.

**Q: Where can I go to find out about scholarships for undocumented students?**

**A:** There are several places where you can find scholarship lists that do not require you to be a US citizen or legal permanent resident, and that do not ask for a social security number. The following websites include scholarship lists: www.maldef.org,
www.salef.org, www.usc.edu/chepa, and www.fastweb.com. For additional scholarship information see Section 4 of this guide.

Q: How do I qualify to pay in-state tuition?

A: In order to qualify for in-state tuition (at a public California college or university) under AB 540 you must have completed 3 years of high school in California and graduate or obtain the equivalent of a high school diploma. You must also complete an AB 540 affidavit (California Non-Resident Tuition Exemption Request form) at the college/university that you will attend stating that you meet AB 540 eligibility requirements. Each school has different procedures for completing the AB 540 affidavit so contact the admissions/registrar’s office at the college/university that you will attend and ask about how and when to complete and submit the AB 540 affidavit. See the table in Section 4 for more information.

Or, if you or your family have taken steps to obtain or legalize your status (e.g., permanent resident, asylum, family unity program, etc.), you should consult with the college admissions officer to determine whether you are eligible to establish California residency for tuition purposes.

Q: Is the process for applying to college and university for undocumented students any different when applying under AB 540?

A: For all UC and most CSU, you must apply in November of the year before you wish to begin the following fall. Two sections must be left BLANK:

1) Social Security Number slot should be left BLANK or enter zeros.
2) Immigration Status slot should be left BLANK

Everything else should be filled out completely. Additional materials should NOT be sent with the application. Once you have been accepted by the university, you should fill out and send the AB 540 affidavit (California Non-Resident Tuition Exemption Request form).

For community colleges, you are required to turn in the AB 540 affidavit when you submit your college application. The section requesting your social security may be left blank or you may enter “please assign an ID number”. For “immigration status,” you may list “AB 540”.

Q: What happens if I have already given the school a false SS# or stated citizenship?

A: If you qualify for AB 540 but have falsified information in the past, you should seek legal advice about how to correct the information. For a list of low cost or nonprofit legal referrals in your area see Section 6 of this guide.

Many of these hard working students were brought here as pre-school age children, and all they know is our American educational curriculum. Throughout their educational trajectory they have been instilled with the possibilities of the “American Dream” by way of encouragement from their previous teachers and other school personnel. All of these years they were told that college is the only way for a better life. These youth need the necessary resources and support from the state and institutional sectors.

Richard D. Cortes, M.S.
Counseling Faculty, Santa Monica College
Articles about undocumented students:


Undocumented immigrant students: A very brief overview of access to higher education in california" http://tcla.gseis.ucla.edu/reportcard/features/5-6/ab540/pdf/UndocImmigStud.pdf


Undocumented students who are often overlooked and left behind, and deemed unworthy of support because they lack a piece of paper, can do so much for society if they are acknowledged and helped.

Maria Gomez
UC Los Angeles '07
A door was opened with AB 540. I was given a chance to pursue higher education and encouraged to overcome the barriers I’ll face.

Glemy Castillo
Riverside Community College
The Law

AB 540, signed into law on October 12, 2001, authorizes any student, including undocumented students who meet specific criteria to pay in-state tuition at California's public colleges and universities (e.g., California Community College, California State University, and University of California).

Non-resident students are required to pay "out-of-state" or "non-resident" tuition fees to attend California's public colleges and universities. These fees are much higher than "in-state" or "resident" tuition fees. For example, AB 540 allows undocumented students to pay $26 per unit (in-state) fees at California community colleges versus $197 per unit (out-of-state) fees. It also allows you to pay $2,864 (in-state) fees versus approximately $12,420 (out-of-state) fees at California State Universities (CSU) campuses and $6,141 (in-state) fees versus approximately $22,504 (out-of-state) fees at University of California (UC) campuses.

Any student, except a person in nonimmigrant status, who meets the requirements, shall be exempt from paying nonresident tuition at all public colleges and universities in California if they meet the following requirements:

**AB 540 Eligibility Requirements**

You must have attended a California high school for 3 or more years;

You must have graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent of a high school diploma;

You must have registered or currently be enrolled at an accredited institution of higher education in California;

You must have filed or will file an affidavit as required by individual institutions, stating that you will apply for legal residency as soon as possible; and

You may not be a non-immigrant holding a valid lettered non-immigrant visa.\(^5\)

**AB 540 Affidavit - "California Non-Resident Tuition Exemption Request"**

You must obtain, complete, and submit the AB 540 Affidavit to the appropriate office of the college you WILL attend in order to receive the exemption from non-resident tuition.

**California Community Colleges (CCC):**

Request and submit the completed AB 540 Affidavit at the Admissions Office when you register/enroll. You may be required to submit additional documentation such as high school transcripts and appropriate records of high school graduation or the equivalent.

**California State University (CSU):**

Request and submit the AB 540 Affidavit to the Office of Admissions and Records from the campus you will be attending after you have been admitted. You will be required to submit additional documentation such as high school transcripts and appropriate records of high school graduation or the equivalent.

**University of California (UC):**

Request and submit the AB 540 Affidavit to the Office of the Registrar at the UC campus you will be attending. The Affidavit will need to be submitted once you have been admitted to the UC campus. Check with your campus for more specific instructions.

\(^5\) Non-immigrant students are not eligible for this exemption. Non-immigrant students, as defined by federal immigration law, may hold one of the following visas: A, B, C, D, F, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, TN, TD and V, and TRV and NATO.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR AB 540 STUDENTS:

Q: Is 9th grade included in the definition of "high school" if it is included as part of middle school?

A: YES, for purposes of eligibility for the tuition exemption, enrollment in the 9th grade whether at a middle or high school, counts toward the California high school attendance requirement.

Q: Does the high school enrollment have to be at the same California school and for three consecutive years?

A: NO, the three years for a student's 9th through 12th grades need not be consecutive nor completed at a single California school. For example, if you attended 9th grade at a California middle or high school, left the state to attend 10th grade in another state, and returned to a second qualified California high school to complete 11th and 12th grades, you will have met the requirement of three years of high school attendance in California.

Q: What does "has graduated from a California high school or has attained the equivalent" mean?

A: In addition to meeting the high school attendance requirement of 3 years, a student qualifies for AB 540 if he or she has one of the following:

A diploma from a California high school; or to attend a community college:
A high school certificate of completion issued by a high school district to students that did not pass the high school exit exam; or
A High School Equivalency Certificate issued by the California State GED Office; or
A Certificate of Proficiency resulting from the California High School Proficiency Examination.

Q: If I am a student who received a high school certificate of completion instead of a regular high school diploma or GED, am I eligible for the exemption from nonresident tuition (AB 540)?

A: YES, provided by Education Code section 68130.5, a student (other than a nonimmigrant) who attends high school for three years in California and receives a certificate of completion from a California high school is eligible for the exemption from nonresident tuition.

Q: Does it matter how far in the past I graduated from high school to be eligible for nonresident tuition exemption (AB 540)?

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6 California law requires that the Certificate of Proficiency be equivalent to a high school diploma. A student who receives a Certificate of Proficiency may, with verified parental approval, leave high school early. The Certificate of Proficiency, however, is not equivalent to completing all course work required for regular graduation from high school. If a student is planning to continue his or her studies in a college or university, they should contact the admissions office of the institution they plan to attend so that the student may understand that institution's admission requirements including whether or not the Certificate of Proficiency will be sufficient for admission.

7 The California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) is a voluntary test that assesses proficiency in basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills taught in public schools. Eligible persons who pass the CHSPE are awarded a Certificate of Proficiency by the California State Board of Education. The test is given in English only. For more information about the CHSPE go to www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sp/chspefaq.asp.
A: NO, it does not matter how long ago you graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent.

Q: Is there a maximum number of years for which I am eligible to receive this exemption (i.e., qualify to pay in-state tuition under AB 540)?

A: NO, there is no cap on the maximum number of years you can receive this exemption (i.e., qualify to pay in-state tuition under AB 540).

Q: Do I need to be in the legalization process to qualify for AB 540?

A: NO, both students that are already in the process and those that are not yet in the process qualify for AB 540. But remember that the affidavit that you sign says that you will start the process as soon as you are eligible to do so.

Q: Can I utilize AB 540 at a private university or technical college like USC, Stanford, Heald College, Bryman College, etc?

A: NO, AB 540 is utilized only by PUBLIC community colleges and universities in California (CSU/UC), therefore students attending a private institution may be charged non-resident tuition or be processed as "international students." If you plan to attend a private university or technical school, contact their admissions office to find out how they process undocumented students.

Q: Do adult school students qualify for AB 540?

A: If you have completed 3 years of adult school or finished your GED through an adult school, you MAY qualify for AB 540 if the community college you wish to attend considers it equivalent to high school. Check with a representative at your college who is knowledgeable about AB 540 to find out about your college's requirements.

Q: Are "home-schooled" students eligible under AB 540?

A: If you were "home-schooled" by a parent or other person who did not hold a California teacher credential, you are NOT eligible, because that "school" would not meet the definition of a "high school in California."

Q: Can students living out-of-state enroll in a private California "Internet high school," complete their coursework via distance learning or correspondence, and meet the California high school enrollment and graduation requirements?
AB 540 is the key to a better future and the ticket to achieving my dreams.

Mario Escobar
UC Los Angeles '07

A: NO, this type of private school would not meet the requirements of Section 48222 of the California Education Code, which defines a “high school in California” for the purposes of eligibility.

Q: Does qualifying for AB 540 allow a student to receive financial aid?

A: Undocumented students are not eligible for state (e.g. BOG Fee Waiver, EOPS and Cal Grant) and federal (e.g. FAFSA, Pell, and SEOG) financial aid. Some colleges may offer financial aid to undocumented students; visit your college’s financial aid office to find out. Scholarships are also available. See Section 4 for more information on scholarship opportunities. However, if the tuition exemption is granted, it could impact the amount and, possibly type, of financial aid the student might receive.

Q: I pay or have paid out-of-state tuition, but I am now eligible to pay in-state tuition under the new law (AB 540). Will I be able to get a refund?

A: You will not be eligible for a refund if you paid out-of-state tuition for any term before January 1, 2002. You may be eligible for a refund only if you have paid out-of-state tuition for any term that begins on or after January 1, 2002. Contact the university or college administration for more information.

Q: Does AB 540 change a student's residence status?

A: NO, AB 540 does not grant residency status; rather, it exempts/waives you from paying non-resident tuition. You will continue to be classified as a non-resident.

Q: Is the AB 540 Affidavit confidential?

A: YES, the AB 540 Affidavit will be filed with the college or university you attend, not the USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Service).

With AB 540 I can focus more on my studies and become the person that I want and need to be... I won’t have to work longer days to afford paying for my education.

Noemi Cazares
AB 540 has helped me to attend college. It has really made a difference because now I am able to afford my education.

N. Ramirez
UC Santa Cruz '08

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!
As an undocumented student it is important for you to know your rights:

You cannot be denied admission to a California college or university based on your immigration status.

You are not required to show a state issued ID and social security card to apply for admission to a California college or university.

You are not required to pay out-of-state, international, capital outlay, or penalty fees (which may be charged to out-of-state and or international students) to enroll at a California college or university if you qualify for AB 540.

You are not required to show proof of legal residency status or proof of application for legal residency status.

You are not required to show proof of legal residency status or proof of application for legal residency status.

IF YOU NEED HELP: Some college/university staff may be unaware of AB 540 or may interpret the law incorrectly. If you feel that your rights under AB 540 have been denied, contact the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) at 213.629.2512 for assistance.

AB 540 has given me a future. Without it, I would not be able to work towards my career.

Keida Velazquez
Riverside Community College
Section 3: State and Federal Legislation

AB 540 is only a step to true democracy and ensuring that students like me have equal access to higher education. Through AB 540, this state is providing a basic human right.

N.D.
UC Santa Cruz '08
As an undocumented student, it is important to be informed of the laws that affect you. The legislation and bill information below provide historical background for you to understand your rights, restrictions and the advocacy needed to assist you in your pursuit of higher education.

**Federal Law**

**1974: THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)**

The FERPA is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children’s education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level.

Any information that a student shares with a college or university is protected by this Act.

**1982: PLYLER V. DOE**

The U.S. Supreme Court invalidated a Texas law authorizing school districts to bar undocumented students from public elementary and secondary schools.

The court noted that the statute imposed a “lifetime hardship on a discrete class of children not accountable for their disabling status.”

The case did not address explicitly the question of postsecondary education, however, Legislative Counsel has suggested that Plyler v. Doe would not apply to postsecondary education.

Elementary and secondary education (K-12) is a fundamental and protected right. All children, including undocumented children, can attend any public elementary and secondary school free of charge.

**1996: ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION REFORM AND IMMIGRANT RESPONSIBILITY ACT (IIRIRA)**

(§§ 505-507) IIRIRA prohibits undocumented immigrants from accessing any postsecondary education benefits unless a U.S. citizen or national is eligible for the same benefit. For example, any state that provides in-state tuition to undocumented students must also provide in-state tuition to out-of-state residents (both permanent residents and citizens).

**Proposed Federal Legislation**

*NOTE:* Legislation is subject to change. Check with your State Senators and Congress Members for updated information on the bills described here.

**2005: THE DEVELOPMENT, RELIEF AND EDUCATION FOR ALIEN MINORS (DREAM) ACT (S. 2075)**

*State and Federal Legislation*
The DREAM Act (S. 2075) was introduced in the U.S. Senate in November 2005. It could become law if passed by both houses of Congress and signed by the President before the end of 2006.

In March 2006, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved the “DREAM Act” as an amendment to the Committee’s comprehensive immigration reform.

If passed, the proposed legislation will have a far bigger impact on education, fairness to children, and American competitiveness than on immigration to the U.S.

The measure would provide that upon high school graduation, individuals who were brought to the U.S. as undocumented children and have grown up in the U.S. would be able to apply for six years of conditional legal immigration status which would be made permanent if they continue to go on to college or serve in the military.

It would eliminate a provision of law enacted in 1996 that currently requires lawful immigration status in order to qualify for any post secondary education benefit based on state residency.


Introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on April 6, 2006 as a bipartisan bill. Formerly known as the Student Adjustment Act, the American Dream Act is the House version of the DREAM Act.

H.R. 5131 still awaits consideration by the House Judiciary Committee, as well as the House Education and Workforce Committee.  

The objective of this bill is to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, to permit States to determine state residency for higher education purposes, and to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to cancel the removal and adjust the status of certain immigrant college bound students who are long-term U.S. residents.

This Act would provide higher education benefits for applicants.

**California Law**

**1986: Leticia A. v. UC Regents and CSU Board of Trustees**

In 1986, the Leticia A. law went into effect, asking public colleges and universities to treat undocumented students as residents for tuition purposes.

Between 1986 – 1991 at the UC system and 1986 – 1995 at the CSU system, students who met state residency requirements (1 year and 1 day) qualified to pay in-state tuition and were eligible for state financial aid (CalGrant).

**1991: Bradford v. UC Regents**

David Paul Bradford, a UCLA staff person filed suit against UC asking that the original residency statute be declared constitutional. Despite appeals by the UC and CSU systems, Bradford won his case and as a result, undocumented students lost the right to state tuition and state financial aid.

In 1991, the UC system was forced to treat undocumented students as “non-residents” for tuition purposes.

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8 National Council of La Raza (NCLR), [www.nclr.org/content/policy/detail/1331/](http://www.nclr.org/content/policy/detail/1331/)
CSU and California Community Colleges continued to treat undocumented as "residents" until adopting Bradford years later.

In January of 1992, California Community Colleges implemented the "Bradford Decision", [Title 5, Division 6, Chapter 5, subchapter 1 sect 54045, Alien Students and ECS 68062 (h) (i)]. Under this decision, undocumented students may be classified as residents if they have taken steps to obtain or legalize their status (e.g. permanent resident, asylum, family unity program, etc.). These students would then be eligible for state aid, provided they meet any additional requirements set forth by those programs (e.g. Low-income).

2001: ASSEMBLY BILL 540

California's AB 540, authored by the late Marco A. Firebaugh, is based on high school attendance, and is not an Immigration bill.

The bill permits students who complete three years or more of high school in California, and who are pursuing documented status, to be exempt from paying out-of-state tuition.

Unlike Leticia A., AB 540 does not provide state financial aid to undocumented students who are eligible.

Proposed California Legislation

2005: CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT, SB 160

Under Senate Bill 160, authored by Hon. Gil Cedillo: Requests the UC system, and requires the CSU and CCC to establish procedures and forms to enable students who are exempt from paying nonresident tuition, under AB 540, to participate in all student aid programs administered by these segments and by the State of California to the fullest extent permitted by, and consistent with, federal law.

The bill also provides that persons exempt from paying nonresident tuition, as specified, who otherwise are qualified, shall receive a CCC's Board of Governors (BOG) fee waiver.

As of April 20, 2006, both the California State University Board of Trustees and the University of California Regents have openly supported this bill along with the California Community College Board of Governors.

NOTE: Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed SB160 on September 30, 2006. Future action is expected, and hence, remains among California's future legislation. Contact Honorable Gil Cedillo's office for more information. www.senate.ca.gov/cedillo

As the leading advocate of Hispanic higher education, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) fully supports SB 160 (Cedillo), the California Dream Act. This legislation would allow AB 540 students to compete for financial aid providing them the resources to achieve their higher education dreams.

Antonio Flores
President and CEO, HACU
Although I am not an AB 540 student, I believe SB 160 is an important bill because it will help build a bridge between undocumented students and higher education. This bridge is critical to the future and building a better California.

Gabriel Salazar

Additional Information

Since 2001, ten states have passed laws permitting certain undocumented students who have attended and graduated from their primary and secondary schools to pay the same tuition as their classmates at public institutions of higher education. Texas became the first state to allow undocumented immigrants who graduate from a state high school to pay in-state resident tuition at public universities. Nine other states have passed similar measures since then. The states are California, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Utah, and Washington. Texas and Oklahoma also allow eligible undocumented students to receive state-sponsored financial aid.

For a complete list of bills proposed or enacted in your state, regarding immigrant access to higher education, please visit: http://www.nilc.org/immlawpolicy/DREAM/DREAM_Bills.pdf

High School attendance is the primary requirement to qualify under these bills. To qualify, all 10 states require the students to have:

- Attended a school in the state for a certain number of years
- Graduated from high school in the state; and
- Signed an affidavit stating that they have either applied to legalize their status or will do so as soon as eligible.

These laws also provide that U.S. citizens or permanent residents who meet these requirements but no longer live in the state are able to qualify for the same tuition rate.

Federal law does not prohibit states from providing in-state tuition to undocumented immigrants. However, it is under the state's discretion to decide whether to do so or not. IRIRA (§ 505) prohibits states from providing any higher education benefit based on residency to undocumented immigrants unless they provide the same benefit to U.S. citizens in the same circumstances, regardless of their residence (state).

Introduced in 2005, the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, S. 2075, is currently pending in the U.S. Congress. The DREAM Act would provide a path to legal status for individuals who are undocumented, even though they were brought to the U.S. years ago as children and have lived most of their lives here. It would also repeal the provision of law discussed above that penalizes states that provide in-state tuition to undocumented immigrant residents by requiring them to provide the same benefits to students who do not reside in the state. Although the DREAM Act eliminates the federal penalty, it does not require states to provide in-state tuition to any undocumented immigrants. Therefore, even after the DREAM Act passes, each state will have to determine for itself whether to do so. 8

If SB 160 were to pass, many of the struggles I am going through now would not exist. I would be able to reach my educational goals, decrease my work hours, and therefore increase my community involvement.

M.F.
Riverside Community College

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8 Most of the DREAM Act description was obtained from NILC's "Basic Facts about In-State Tuition for Undocumented Immigrant Students" (July 2005).
Helpful Websites:

Center for Community Change  
www.communitychange.org

Friends Committee on Legislation of California  
www.fclca.org

Legislation Information of California  
www.leginfo.ca.gov

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund  
www.maldef.org

NAFSA: Association of International Educators  
www.nafsa.org

Salvadoran American Leadership and Educational Fund  
www.sslf.org

The California Immigrant Welfare Collaborative  
www.nilc.org/ciwc

The Coalition for Human Immigrants Rights of Los Angeles  
www.chirla.org

The National Council of La Raza  
www.nclra.org

The National Immigration Law Center  
www.nilc.org

U.S. Department of Education  
www.ed.gov

Information about policies and programs to assist undocumented immigrants can be found at the following websites:

Facts About Immigrants  
http://www.nilc.org/immspbs/research/pbimmfacts_0704.pdf

Further Demographic Information Relating to the DREAM Act  
http://www.nilc.org/immslawpolicy/DREAM/DREAM_Demographics.pdf

La Agencia de Orci Launches New PSA Campaign for MALDEF  

Overview of Immigrant Eligibility for Federal Programs  

I support SB 160 because I believe that in order for this country to prosper we need a more educated society. SB 160 will allow AB 540 students to apply for financial aid and reach their educational goals and contribute to society.

J.B.

State and Federal Legislation
SECTION 4: APPLYING TO AND SUCCEEDING IN COLLEGE

With AB 540 I was able to attend and complete my very first year of college (2005-2006).

Ali Espinoza
Riverside Community College
Getting Into College

As mentioned earlier, you CANNOT be prevented from attending a college or university in California solely based on your residency status. Undocumented students can attend a California Community College, California State University (CSU), University of California (UC), and many private schools. However, you should be aware that the process of applying for admission to college can be a confusing and expensive process. Undocumented students should seek assistance with their college applications to insure that you correctly complete immigration-related questions and receive application fee-waivers when possible. If you think you meet the eligibility requirements for AB 540, speak to an admissions representative at the college you plan to attend to find out how to complete the California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request form (AB 540 Affidavit).

The tables on the next pages provide an outline of various aspects of the college admissions process for California Community Colleges, California State Universities (CSU), Universities of California (UC), and private colleges/universities, including:

Admissions application deadlines

Application fees

Application fee-waiver eligibility requirements

Admissions requirements

Required documents and residency information

Admissions notification

Scholarship information

AB 540 points of contact

Existing AB 540 support groups

Undocumented students need to be wise, stay motivated, be resilient, and persevere. Be future-oriented and believe that everything will be okay. It's just a matter of time.

Mariana Zamboni
UC Los Angeles '07

Applying to and Succeeding in College
<table>
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<th>Application Deadline</th>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>California Community College</th>
<th>California State University</th>
<th>University of California</th>
<th>Private Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Always check with the individual campus. Deadlines may vary.</td>
<td>There is no formal application deadline, however, you are encouraged to apply early in the final semester of your senior year.</td>
<td>November 30th is the deadline for Fall Admissions. Some campuses extend this deadline.</td>
<td>November 30th is the deadline for Fall Admissions. The University of California publishes specific guidelines on how AB 540 students should proceed with the application. Contact a college counselor or university representative for specific information.</td>
<td>&quot;Early decision&quot; or &quot;Early action&quot; take place in November. Regular admissions application deadlines typically takes place in January but can vary by campus.</td>
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</table>

| Application Fee | None | $55.00 per campus | $60.00 per campus | Varies per campus but is often around $55. |

| Fee Waiver | AB 540 student eligibility for fee waivers differs by each institution type. | N/A | Request to Waive Admissions Fee forms can be obtained online, from a university representative, or from a college counselor. Fee waiver eligibility is determined based on the online admissions application income criteria calculation and residency requirements. | Fee waiver eligibility is determined based on the online admissions application income criteria calculation and residency requirements. A UC fee waiver waives fees for up to four campuses. Contact a college counselor or university representative for specific information. | Contact the respective campus. If you participated in the College Board's SAT® Program Fee-Waiver Service, you may also be eligible to waive application fees at the private colleges to which you're applying. Fee waiver eligibility is determined on a case-by-case basis. |

| Admissions Requirements | Students must be 18 years old and/or have a High School Diploma or GED. www.cccco.edu | www.csumentor.org | www.universityofcalifornia.edu | www.aicumentor.org www.commonapp.org |

<p>| Required Documents and Residency Information | You will have to identify yourself as AB 540-eligible as part of your application, and sign an AB 540 Affidavit/Non-Resident Tuition Exemption Form at the campus you will attend. College districts have the ability to accept self-certification via the AB 540 affidavit; check with the college's admission's office. Those that do not accept self-certification will require the following: Official High School Transcripts w/ posted graduation date. If applying online, most colleges may identify you as AB 540-eligible based on questions answered during the application. | After being admitted, you will be required to complete and submit a AB540-CA Nonresident Tuition Exemption and CSU Residence Questionnaire to the campus that you will attend. You should contact a college counselor or university representative when filling this out. You will also need to provide official high school transcripts and/or community college transcripts | After being admitted, you will be required to turn in a Statement of Legal Residence (SLR) where you will be asked numerous specific questions related to your residency and your parent's residency. You should contact a college counselor or university representative when filling this out. You will also need to provide official high school transcripts and/or community college transcripts. You will be required to sign an AB 540 Affidavit/Non-Resident Tuition Exemption Form only at the campus you plan to attend. | AB 540 does not qualify undocumented students to pay in-state tuition at private institutions. Therefore, you may be identified as an international student and may have to pay international student fees. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Admissions Notification</th>
<th>California Community College</th>
<th>California State University</th>
<th>University of California</th>
<th>Private Schools</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Each campus has its own timeline for notifying students of admission. Some campuses begin notifying applicants of an admission decision soon after the receipt of an application.</td>
<td>You are admitted once you file an admissions application.</td>
<td>The timeline for notifying students of admission varies. You will be notified beginning late-March through early-April.</td>
<td>The timeline for notifying students of admission varies. Ask about rolling admissions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial assistance for students may include: grants, low-interest loans, work-study (on- or off-campus), and various privately supported scholarships for outstanding students in particular fields. There are some scholarship lists compiled with no residency requirements, see Section 4 of this guide for more information.</td>
<td>Visit the campus Scholarship Office and inquire about scholarships available to students regardless of residency. Some Community Colleges have their own scholarship foundation.</td>
<td>Visit the website for the campus you wish to attend or the campus Scholarship Office for more information.</td>
<td>For a list of scholarships per UC campus visit: <a href="http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/undergrad_adm/scholarships.html">www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/undergrad_adm/scholarships.html</a></td>
<td>Many private colleges and universities award merit-based financial aid to undocumented students. Contact a trusted person to inquire about available scholarships.</td>
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<td>AB 540 Point of Contact</td>
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<td>Different offices may give you different information depending on their knowledge of AB 540 policies.</td>
<td>Admissions Office</td>
<td>Admissions Office</td>
<td>Registrar's Office Residency Deputy</td>
<td>Talk to a trusted adult at any private college or university that you plan to attend, such as the school's Diversity/Minority Recruiter.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Comments</td>
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<tr>
<td>When you call the admissions office at a private university, ask for a counselor who works on minority recruitment and retention. Then ask: How does your office process and evaluate undocumented students' applications? Does your college offer any financial aid for undocumented students (e.g., merit-based scholarships, need-based scholarships, scholarships specifically for undocumented students)? If so, how much do you provide? Is there an application process (e.g., interviews, letters of recommendation, etc.)? What is the timeline? How many apply and how many are awarded? What are the requirements to maintain the scholarship? Can transfer students qualify? If not, has your office made any plans to change your policy towards undocumented students?</td>
<td>Any high school graduate is eligible for admission to a community college. However, you do not have to have a high school diploma as long as you are over eighteen years of age and can benefit from instruction. High school students may be permitted to enroll for &quot;advanced placement&quot; courses provided they have the consent of their school principal and their college president and meet grade-point requirements. Students and their families that have taken steps to legalize their status (e.g. permanent resident, asylum, family unity program, etc.), should consult with college admissions officers to determine whether they are eligible to establish California residency for tuition purposes.</td>
<td>Webpage citing AB 540 students may receive a letter from the &quot;Central Processing Center&quot; asking them to complete the residency questions on the application. STUDENTS SHOULD IGNORE THIS LETTER. However, this is not to be mistaken with the Statement of Legal Residence (SLR), which must be filled out.</td>
<td>Students applying to private colleges/universities are often required to complete a CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE. Many colleges, universities, graduate and professional schools, and scholarship programs use the information collected in the PROFILE to help them award nonfederal student aid funds. Some private colleges and universities provide financial aid to undocumented students. See Comments column for more information.</td>
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</table>
Succeeding in College

FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION

Affording school is not a matter of "making thousands of dollars, but of saving pennies". As an undocumented student, you must be creative in order to finance your education since you are ineligible to apply for state and federal financial aid (i.e., FAFSA, BOG Fee Waiver, Pell Grant, Cal Grant). Remember, you can obtain a higher education with hard work, resourcefulness, and support!

FUNDRAISING TIPS

Below is a list of various ways AB 540 students have raised money to fund their college education:

**Work.** If you have a work permit, that provides you the right to seek employment in the U.S.

**Stipends.** Undocumented students may be eligible for privately funded stipends. ¹⁰

**Donations.** Ask for donations from former teachers and/or current professors. Do not be afraid to ask! Many individuals are willing to support you in one way or another.

**Fundraisers.** Hold "house parties" to raise money from friends and family; organize car washes, food sales, book sales, graduation sales (candy leis, teddy bears, etc.); or, attend comedy shows (a group gets paid for attending tapings of shows).

**Scholarships.** Undocumented students are eligible for many private scholarships. Use scholarship search engines like www.fastweb.com to look for scholarships.

SCHOLARSHIP TIPS

Scholarships are a great way to fund your education, especially if you do not qualify for state/federal financial aid. Below are some tips to help finance your education:

There are organizations and individuals that provide scholarships to undocumented students; however, these are limited in number and becoming increasingly competitive.

Students must contact individual scholarship providers for eligibility requirements, specific deadlines, and application process information. Make sure to obtain information from a representative since the information printed on the list may be outdated. Also, be sure to CHECK ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS. You do not want to spend hours putting a scholarship application packet together only to find out that you are ineligible or that the scholarship is no longer offered.

You should also ask about how the scholarship is awarded. Is the money given to you in the form of a check? Is the money deposited directly with the college? Answers to these questions are important because they determine whether the money may be used for tuition only or for housing, food, books, or other cost you may incur as a student. Some scholarship providers may provide students with a check and others may send it directly to the school you will attend.

It is recommended that students begin looking for scholarships as early as possible. What does this mean? Do not wait until the summer before entering college to apply! Begin your search while in high school and within your high school, school district and local community.

Scholarship lists can be found on the following websites: www.maldef.org, www.salef.org, www.usc.edu/dept/chepe, www.fastweb.com. Please contact support groups, such as other

¹⁰ Stipend – A fixed and regular payment, such as a salary for services rendered or an allowance.
non-profit organizations, student groups, or your campus scholarship office for more information on available scholarships.

PRIVATE AID
Some private universities, companies, and organizations may provide financial assistance to help undocumented students pay for college. Contact individual groups or colleges/universities about resources that may be available to you.

NETWORKING
AB 540 Student Networks are a great way to get connected with other undocumented students at your college/university.

When visiting college campuses, talk to:
  AB 540 advocates and allies
  AB 540 student organizations
  Chicana/o Studies Department
  Diversity/Minority Recruiter
  Support/Outreach Programs (EAOP, EOPS, UCLA AAP, Cal SOAP, etc.)

There are many students who want to contribute positively to this country by getting an education. It is only fair that we receive financial aid to help us continue with our education without worrying about our economic situation.

Paola Leon
Cal State San Marcos
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT COLLEGE:

Q: What is the first step I should take if I want to attend college?

A: If you want to attend college, you should look at the website(s) for the school(s) you are interested in attending to find out about their admissions requirements and costs of attendance.

Q: Is the process for applying for admission the same for all colleges?

A: NO, there are different applications to complete for each system. For example, you will complete one UC application that will go to all UC campuses that you wish to apply to. You will also complete one CSU application that will go to all CSU campuses that you wish to apply to. Each community college and/or private college/university that you apply to will usually require you to complete a separate application. Private colleges/universities may also ask you to complete the “Common Application,” which can be found at www.commonapp.org. Talk to a college counselor, college representative, community organization or other group in your local community that can provide guidance.

Q: What else can I do to improve my chances of being admitted to college?

A: GPA/ Rigor of Courses

College admissions counselors usually consider your GPA and how challenging (rigorous) your courses were to compare your academic performance with that of your peers. Be sure to keep your grades up! This will provide more opportunity not only for college admissions but also for scholarship competitions.

Standardized Tests

In addition to coursework and grades, scores on standardized tests (such as the SAT I, SAT II, and ACT) can be included among the criteria for admission to some colleges and universities.

Take these tests seriously. Be sure to prepare yourself for these tests and ask your high school counselors about test-preparation classes.

Personal Statement/ Essay

Some colleges/universities will require you to complete a personal statement or series of essays. This is why it is always a good idea to look into what each application for admission requires, ahead of time.

Give yourself enough time to write multiple drafts of your essay/personal statement. Do not submit the first draft of an essay. Share your essays with teachers, friends, and others who can provide you with feedback.

Your personal statement/essay is your chance to talk about yourself. Keep your focus narrow and personal, be specific, don’t tell them what you think they want to hear.

For more tips on writing your essay/personal statement, check out the following websites:
Letters of Recommendation

Many private colleges/universities will require you to submit 2-3 Letters of Recommendation.

These letters must be obtained from a teacher, counselor, administrator, employer, or other individual outside of your family who can speak about your strengths and what you will bring to the college or university you are applying to.

It is important that the person providing the recommendation has a good understanding of your academic history, interests, goals, and direction. Normally this type of letter is addressed to a specific person and should be submitted along with the admissions application or as outlined in the admissions procedure.

Try to give people from whom you are requesting letters sufficient time to write them and return them to you or the college/university you are applying to.

Academic letters of recommendation may contain evidence or confirmation of the following:
- Academic performance
- Honors/awards
- Initiative, dedication, integrity, reliability, etc.
- Ability to work with others and independently

Community Service/Extra Curricular Activities

Get involved! It is not only important to maintain good grades but also to be involved in your community. You can help other undocumented students know about how to obtain a higher education, tutor younger children at your local elementary, gain leadership skills through programs and internships, and develop other essential skills you will need in college, such as critical thinking, problem solving, and networking skills.

College Credit Before You Start

Often high school students are eligible to receive college credit while they are still enrolled in high school. For example, Advanced Placement courses offer students who prepare early and take more difficult courses during their high school years the chance to gain college credit and save on tuition.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are available in more than 20 subjects. Students scoring 3 and above on AP exams can receive college credit and save time and money by taking fewer college courses. Ask your high school counselor if AP courses are available in your school.

You may also be eligible for Dual-Enrollment at a Community College. Dual-Enrollment means that you can also take college courses while in high school and, generally, they may be counted toward your college degree. Contact the communi-
ty college of your choice to find out if you qualify for the following:

Dual-Credit Student: High school student enrolled in courses that receive both college credit and credit toward meeting secondary school requirements for graduation.
Dual (Concurrent)-Enrolled Student: High school student enrolled in college courses while continuing to be enrolled as high school students. The college courses are only used for college credit.

Q: How much does it cost to attend college?

A: The costs of college attendance will differ depending on the college. For example, community colleges are the least expensive colleges to attend, as tuition is typically less than $1,000 per year. Attendance at a California State University costs about $2,864 per year for tuition and $6,530 for room & board. Attendance at a University of California costs about $6,141 per year for tuition and $11,928 for room & board. The costs of tuition and housing at private schools can range from $20,000-$50,000 per year. Regardless of the university, college attendance is considerably less expensive when students do not live on campus.

For current tuition/housing fees and additional information visit the following websites:

- University of California: www.universityofcalifornia.edu
- California Community Colleges: www.cccco.edu
- Los Angeles Community Colleges: www.laccd.edu
- California State University: www.csumentor.edu
- Private Universities: www.commonapp.org
- California Private Colleges/Universities: www.aiccumentor.org
SECTION 5: WHAT CAN I DO AFTER I GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE?

AB 540 made pursuing a masters degree in Biology a reality that otherwise I could not have afforded. Paradoxically, to fully impact our community we are just one immigration policy away.

Saul Verduzco
San Jose State, MS
Graduate/ Professional School

There are no restrictions to prevent undocumented students from attending public Graduate/ Professional schools in California. However, some professional schools require employment as part of their curriculum (e.g. graduate teaching credentialing programs). There may be some exceptions if you are interested in attending a School of Education, for instance, but the difficulty is securing employment once you have earned your degree. These types of professions require that you be legally eligible to work in the state of California.

Obtaining Certifications/ State Licenses required for some professions is also difficult for undocumented immigrants due to requirements such as background-checks, a social security number, and state examinations. For more information on obtaining certifications/licenses, please refer to the Department of Consumer Affairs license lookup web page: http://www2.dea.ca.gov/pls/wlpub/wlquery$startup.

If you are interested in practicing law in the state of California, please go to the following website: http://calbar.ca.gov/calbar/pdfs/admissions/sf_legal-edu-outside-us.pdf.

Because undocumented AB 540 graduate/professional students are not eligible for any type of federal or state financial aid, paying to attend college remains a concern. You are strictly dependent on your own financial resources, such as private scholarships, grants, and/or loans. Obtaining loans is one possible method of paying for your tuition. The most suggested methods of obtaining a loan are private lending institutions. If you reside in CA without legal immigration status, a legal permanent resident/ U.S. Citizen co-signer is often required.

Employment

Some undocumented AB 540 students who are in the legalization process are eligible for a U.S. work permit. This permit may be adequate for you to work legally. There also may be opportunities to start your legalization process through employer sponsorship under rigorous requirements. For more information, consult a licensed immigration attorney. Violating the terms of your visa status may be enough to prohibit you from future adjustment of your status.

Sometimes, entrepreneurship\textsuperscript{11} is an option. For example, you may be able to apply for a business license and start your own business.

\textit{My dream and promise to my parents of becoming a pediatrician will soon come true. Thanks to the late Marco Firebaugh and AB 540, I have more hopes now than ever.}

Jhovanna Rojas
CSU Dominguez Hills '07

\textsuperscript{11} Entrepreneurship refers to the organization, management, and assumption of risks of a business or enterprise, usually implying an element of change or challenge and a new opportunity.
Internships/ Fellowships

Internships are often made available to high school students, college students, and/or recent graduates interested in receiving supervised practical training in their field or profession of interest. Internships are a great way to get “real world” experience while applying to graduate/professional school. In doing so, you will get work experience and/or community service experience. Internships are also a great way to meet people and develop networks that may help you while you are in college, and after you graduate and are seeking employment. Fellowships refer to money granted by a university, foundation, or other agency for advanced study or research. Fellowships are often financial grants made to a fellow in a college or university. Fellowships can be viewed as paid internships, for which some undocumented AB 540 students may be eligible.

Research

Working on your own research with faculty members at a college or university is one way to get research experience and possibly earn money. Sometimes undocumented AB 540 students are paid for this type of work in the form of a “stipend.” A stipend is a sum of money allotted on a regular basis, such as a salary for services rendered or an allowance. Undocumented AB 540 students may be eligible for stipends if the source of funding is tax-exempt. If the stipend comes directly from a public college or university’s funds, undocumented AB 540 students are not eligible. Remember, government funds are not available to undocumented AB 540 students.

Networking

If you want to increase your opportunities for employment upon graduation, networking with college/university staff members and faculty while you are in college is extremely important. You should also try to connect with local professionals in your field of study to determine the types of job opportunities that may be available to you after college. Other students on your college campus may also be able to provide you with this type of information or connect you with people who can help. The size and quality of your academic/professional network will largely determine your access to opportunities and information while in college and when you begin exploring potential careers.

I've learned that the world would be a better place to live in if we all work together and give back to our community. By becoming a Spanish teacher, I want to be a leader and guide my future students to find their unique abilities.

Erika Sanchez
CSU Los Angeles

What Can I Do After Graduating from College?
SECTION 6: IMMIGRATION INFORMATION
Definition of Terms

Child Citizenship Act of 2000 – A Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) child under the age of 18 may automatically become a U.S. citizen if his/her parent is a U.S. citizen or becomes a U.S. citizen. The child must reside in the U.S. in the legal and physical custody of the U.S. citizen parent.

Employment Authorization – A non-citizen needs employment authorization from the federal government in order to work legally in the United States. Employment authorization may be proven through a card or visa. For legal permanent residents it is permanent although the card may have an expiration date. For others, it may be temporary and renewable.

Green Card – A resident alien card (also known as a green card, although it is not green) is evidence of lawful permanent residency. It may have an expiration date but the status, including employment authorization, is permanent.

Immigrant – A non-citizen who intends to live permanently in the U.S.

Immigration Consultant, Notary Public (Notario Publico, or Notarios) – These are persons who are not lawyers and CANNOT give legal advice. Before going to a notario, consult with a community organization that provides free or low-cost service. See the agency list at the end of this section. A Notary Public is licensed by the state to administer an oath or witness a statement and is not qualified to give immigration advice.

Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) – A person who has a “green card” and may live permanently in the U.S. An LPR may work in the U.S. and may serve in the military and pay taxes, but cannot vote. An LPR may be deported for certain criminal convictions or other serious problems. An LPR may become a U.S. citizen through naturalization.

Lawyer/Attorney – A person who is permitted to give legal advice. This person has studied law, has a law degree and is licensed by the State to practice law.

Naturalization – Naturalization is the process of applying for U.S. citizenship. Usually, a person must have been an LPR for 5 years in order to apply for naturalization. A person who is an LPR and is married to a U.S. citizen may apply for citizenship in 3 years.

Non-Immigrant – A non-citizen who is permitted to enter the U.S. for a specific limited period of time, and is given a temporary visa (e.g., students, tourists, diplomats) with an expiration date. Some non-immigrants are granted employer authorization.

Undocumented – A non-citizen who entered the U.S. without legal immigration status or who stayed after the period they were authorized to be here. An undocumented person does not have employment authorization (cannot work lawfully) and may be deported if discovered by CIS. He/she is not eligible for financial aid for college, but may be eligible for private scholarships.

U.S. Citizen – A person born in the United States or a person who naturalized. A U.S. citizen may not be deported, may petition to immigrate family members more easily and quickly than an LPR, and may vote in elections.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) – It is the agency of the U.S. government principally dealing with enforcing immigration laws in the United States. Prior to March of 2003, the USCIS was called the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). It is also sometimes referred to simply as CIS.

Visa – A document or stamp placed in a person’s passport issued by a U.S. consulate to a non-citizen to allow that person to enter the U.S. Visas are either nonimmigrant or immigrant.
FREQUENTLY ASKED IMMIGRATION QUESTIONS:

Q: I am a nonimmigrant with a currently valid visa (for example, a student or tourist visa). Do I qualify for in-state tuition?

A: You do NOT qualify for in-state tuition under the law (AB 540). However, you may qualify for in-state tuition as a "resident" if your nonimmigrant status allows you to "establish domicile" in the U.S. and you satisfy other requirements for residency. For example, persons with "V" or "K" visas, and citizens of Micronesia or the Marshall Islands should be able to pay in-state tuition if they have lived in the state for more than one year.

Q: How do I apply for a social security card?

A: To obtain a social security card, you must be a U.S. citizen, Lawful Permanent Resident, or have been lawfully admitted to the U.S. You must complete an application, and prove your age, identity and lawful status. There is no charge for a social security card. For more information, go to www.ssa.gov or call, toll-free, 1-800-772-1213. This information is also available in Spanish at www.segurosocial.gov or call, toll-free 1-800-772-1213.

Q: My parents use a number for their tax returns. Is this a social security number?

A: Your parents probably have an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN). This number is issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to persons who are not eligible for a social security number. It does not provide you with the employment authorization and does not grant you any immigration status. To apply for an ITIN, you must file a Form W-&, or W-&SP (in Spanish) with the IRS.

Q: How do I apply for a California driver's license or ID?

A: To obtain a California driver's license or ID, you must have a social security number and meet other requirements. If you are not eligible for a driver's license or ID, you should apply for some other form of photo identification. For example:

Apply for a passport at your local consulate office. If you are from Mexico, you can apply for a "Matricula Consular" or Consular Identification Card at the Mexican Consulate. Sometimes you can use the card to get a library card, public utilities, and to open a bank account. The card does not provide you with employment authorization and does not grant you any immigration status.

Q: How do I select an immigration lawyer?

A: There are a number of guidelines for selecting an immigration attorney that you must take into account. Remember that some agencies that administer information for immigration help and advice have no responsibility or liability for information they provide because they are usually not adequately trained in immigration law. On the other hand, immigration lawyers do because they keep up with the latest updates of the law. Because individual cases differ dramatically, consulting with an immigration attorney can assure you that your immigration matters will be handled in the best possible way. Immigration attorneys can help you overcome and avoid legal issues, and simplify the immigration process as much as possible.

The following are suggestions to consider but are not sufficient for choosing an immigration attorney:

1. County Bar Lawyer Referral Services
2. MABA of Los Angeles County Lawyer Information Referral Services:  
www.mablawyers.org

3. Visit the California Bar website at www.calbar.org to verify whether the individual is licensed to practice within California and has had disciplinary proceedings brought against him or her.

4. California Immigration Lawyers:  
http://www.lawinfo.com/attorney/Immigration/California

Q: How Do I Become a Lawful Permanent Resident While in the United States?  

A: Background

An immigrant is a foreign national who has been granted legal permission to live and work permanently in the United States. You must go through a multi-step process to become an immigrant. In most cases, USCIS must first approve an immigrant petition for you, usually filed by an employer or relative. Then, an immigrant visa number must be available to you, even if you are already in the United States. After that, if you are already in the United States, you may apply to adjust to permanent resident status (If you are outside the United States, you will be notified to go to the local U.S. consulate to complete the processing for an immigrant visa.)

Where Can I Find the Law?
The Immigration and Nationality Act is the law that governs immigration in the United States. The part of the law concerning most types of permanent resident status, is Section 245.

How Do I Apply?
To find out how you can apply to become a lawful permanent resident (LPR) of the United States, please consult with an immigration attorney or an informational website for application and processes. After you submit your application materials, you will be asked to go to a USCIS office to answer questions about your applications.

Will I Get a Work Permit?
Applicants for adjustment to permanent resident status are eligible to apply for a work permit while their cases are pending. You should use USCIS Form I-765 to apply for a work permit. You do not need to apply for a work permit once you adjust to permanent resident status. As a lawful permanent resident (LPR), you should receive a permanent resident card that will prove that you have a right to live and work in the United States permanently.

Can I Travel Outside the United States?
If you are applying for adjustment to permanent resident status, you must receive advance permission to return to the United States if you are traveling outside the United States. This advance permission is called Advance Parole. If you do not obtain Advance Parole before you leave the country, you will abandon your application with USCIS and you may not be permitted to return to the United States.

How Can I Check the Status of My Application?
Please contact the USCIS office that received your application. You should be prepared to provide USCIS staff with specific information about your application.

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12 Some information was obtained from the following source: http://uscis.gov/graphics/howdoillegpermres.htm.
How Can I Appeal?
Some applications for permanent residency (Form I-485) can be appealed to the Administrative Appeals Unit (AAU). Decisions from immigration courts can be appealed to the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA).

Generally, you may appeal within 30 days after the immigration judge decides to remove you from the country. After your appeal form and a required fee are processed, the appeal will be referred to the Board of Immigration Appeals in Washington, D.C. For more information, consult with a community organization or licensed immigration attorney.

Can Anyone Help Me?
If advice is needed, you may contact the following organizations:

NON-PROFIT AND LOW-COST LEGAL REFERRALS:

**Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles**
8601 S. Broadway Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90003
(213) 640-3883
www.lafla.org

**L.A. County Bar Immigration Project**
300 N. Los Angeles St., Room 3107
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 485-1872
www.lacba.org

**MABA**
(Mexican American Bar Association of Los Angeles County)
1301 W. 2nd St., #101
Los Angeles, CA 90026
(213) 481-ATTY (2889) (main office)
(213) 250-LAWS (5297) (lawyer referral line)
www.mabalawyers.org

**MALDEF**
(Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund)
634 S. Spring St. 11th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90014
(213) 629-2512
www.maldef.org

**National Immigration Law Center**
3425 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 2850
Los Angeles, CA 90010
(213) 639-3900
www.nilc.org

**One-Stop Immigration & Education Center**
3600 Whittier Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90023
(323) 268-8472
www.weingart.org
Public Counsel Law Center
601 S. Ardmore Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90005
(213) 385-2977
www.publiccounsel.org

Immigrant Advocates & Organizations:

APALC
(Asian Pacific American Legal Center)
1145 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 977-7500
www.apalc.org

CARECEN
(Central American Resource Center)
2845 W. 7th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90005
(213) 385-7800
www.carecen-la.org

CHIRLA
(Coalition for Human Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles)
2533 W. 3rd St. Suite 101
Los Angeles, CA 90057
(213) 353-1333
www.chirla.org

KRC
(Korean Resource Center)
900 S. Crenshaw Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90019
(213) 937-3718
www.krcla.org

NAKASEC
(National Korean American Service & Education Consortium)
900 S. Crenshaw Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90019
(323) 937-3703
www.nakasec.org

SALEF
(Salvadoran American Leadership & Educational Fund)
1625 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 718
Los Angeles, CA 90015
(213) 480-1052
www.salef.org

Publications:
**SUPPORT GROUPS:**
Contact campus or student groups/organizations on the respective campus for updated information.

East Los Angeles Community College - Student Empowerment Project  
www.cadteamalliance.org or email: coracervantes@yahoo.com

Glendale Community College - Voces del Mañana or Association of Latin American Students (ALAS)  
email: ydanzer1@yahoo.com

Oxnard College - EOPS  
http://www.oxnardcollege.edu/studentservices/extendedopp/index.asp

Riverside Community College - MEChA  email: mechadercc@yahoo.com

Santa Barbara City College - Cal SOAP  http://www.sbcalsoap.org/resources.htm

Santa Monica College - Association of Latin American Students (ALAS) or EOPS  
http://www.smc.edu/eops

CSU Dominguez Hills - Espíritu de Nuestro Futuro  email: espiritudenuestrofuturo@yahoo.com

Cal State LA - Students United to Reach Goals in Education Project  
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/csula_surge/ or csula_surge@yahoo.com

San Jose State University - Student Advocates for Higher Education (SAHE)  
http://www.geocities.com/ab540students

Chico State  email: chicostateequaleducation@yahoo.com

Cal Poly Pomona  email: mchernandez@csupomona.edu

UC Berkeley - Multicultural Student Development Center  
http://www.multicultural.berkeley.edu/clsd  
- Rising Immigrant Scholars through Education (RISE)  
email: brenda@uclink.berkeley.edu

UC Davis - Improving Dreams, Equality, Access and Success (IDEAS)  
email: ucdequaleducation@yahoo.com

UC Irvine - Dedication for the Realization of Education & Always Motivated for Success (DREAMS)  
email: pmedina@uci.edu

UC Los Angeles - Improving Dreams, Equality, Access and Success (IDEAS)  
http://www.studentgroups.ucla.edu/ideas

UC San Diego  
email: glima@ucsd.edu

UC Santa Barbara - Improving Dreams, Equality, Access and Success (IDEAS)  
email: ideasatscbsb@yahoo.com

UC Santa Cruz - Students Informing Now (SIN) Verguenza  
email: porlacausadelosestudiantes@yahoo.com

University of Southern California - Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis (CHEPA)  
http://www.usc.edu/dept/chepa or email: chepa@usc.edu

Orange County DREAM Team Coalition  
http://istillhaveadream.org

CHIRLA's AB540 Network - statewide effort to organize AB 540 groups  
email: mrodriguez@chirla.org
SECTION 7: APPENDICES
California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request
For Eligible California High School Graduates

Complete and sign this form to request an exemption from Nonresident Tuition. You must submit any documentation required by the College or University (for example, proof of high school attendance in California). Contact the California Community College, University of California or California State University campus where you intend to enroll (or are enrolled) for instructions on documentation, additional procedures and applicable deadlines.

ELIGIBILITY:

I, the undersigned, am applying for a California Nonresident Tuition Exemption for eligible California high school graduates at (specify the college or university) _____________________, and I declare the following:

Check YES or NO:

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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I have graduated from a California high school or have attained the equivalent thereof, such as a High School Equivalency Certificate, issued by the California State GED Office or a Certificate of Proficiency, resulting from the California High School Proficiency Examination.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I have attended high school in California for three or more years.</td>
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Provide information on all school(s) you attended in grades 9-12:

School
City
State
Dates From - Month/Year To -Month/Year

The University of California, the California State University and most California Community Colleges require documentation of high school attendance and graduation (as an equivalent). Follow campus instruction.

Check the box that applies to you—check only one box:

I am a nonimmigrant alien as defined by Federal law, [including, but not limited to, a foreign student (F visa), or exchange visitor (J visa)].

OR

I am NOT a nonimmigrant alien (including, but not limited to, a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or an alien without lawful immigration status).

AFFIDAVIT:

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information I have provided on this form is true and accurate. I understand that this information will be used to determine my eligibility for the nonresident tuition exemption for eligible California high school graduates. I hereby declare that, if I am an alien without lawful immigration status, I have filed an application to legalize my immigration status or will file an application as soon as I am eligible to do so. I further understand that if any of the above information is untrue, I will be liable for payment of all nonresident charges from which I was exempted and may be subject to disciplinary action by the College or University.

Print Full Name (as it appears on your campus student records)
Campus/Student Identification Number
Print Full Mailing Address (Number, Street, City, State, Zip Code)
Email Address (Optional)

Phone Number (Optional)
Signature Date

USC Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis
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<th>University of California</th>
<th>Private Colleges</th>
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<td>Over 70</td>
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<th>California State University</th>
<th>University of California</th>
<th>Private Colleges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harbor, El Camino, Compton, Long Beach, LA Trade Tech, LA Southwest, West LA, Cerritos, etc.</td>
<td>CSU Dominguez Hills, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Fullerton, Northridge, Cal Poly Pomona, etc.</td>
<td>UCLA, UCI, UCSD, UCSC, UCR, UCB, UCSD, UCD, UCSF, UCM</td>
<td>USC, Pepperdine, La Verne, Claremont, Loyola-Marymount, Redlands, Occidental, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Nature of Programs and Curriculum</strong></th>
<th>Community Colleges</th>
<th>California State University</th>
<th>University of California</th>
<th>Private Colleges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two-year schools</td>
<td></td>
<td>Four-year schools with graduate programs</td>
<td>Four-year schools with graduate and professional programs</td>
<td>Varies according to size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Career and job entry majors</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Various majors, depends on campus</td>
<td>• Various majors, depends on campus/Research Institution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Transfer classes</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Pre-professional training</td>
<td>• Pre-professional training</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• AA degrees</td>
<td></td>
<td>• BA and BS degrees</td>
<td>• BA and BS degrees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Vocational certificates</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Master’s degrees</td>
<td>• Doctorates and professional degrees (i.e. law, medicine, dentistry)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Concurrent enrollment</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Teaching credentials</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Costs: Fees and/or Tuition (does not include room &amp; board)</strong></th>
<th>Community Colleges</th>
<th>California State University</th>
<th>University of California</th>
<th>Private Colleges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1,000 per year $26 per unit (decreasing to $20 per unit, effective 1/07) fees $330; books &amp; supplies $648</td>
<td>Approx. $3,137 per year</td>
<td>Approx. $7,000 per year</td>
<td>Approx. $16,000-33,000 per year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Supported by:</strong></th>
<th>Community Colleges</th>
<th>California State University</th>
<th>University of California</th>
<th>Private Colleges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public tax monies and student fees</td>
<td>Public tax monies and student fees</td>
<td>Public tax monies and student fees</td>
<td>Private funds and tuition fees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Entrance Requirements for Freshman</strong></th>
<th>Community Colleges</th>
<th>California State University</th>
<th>University of California</th>
<th>Private Colleges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Subject and GPA</td>
<td>No subject requirements; must be 18 years old, a high school Graduate or the equivalent. No tests required</td>
<td>High school graduate; Meet eligibility index, minimum of 2.0 GPA; full pattern of subject requirements completed w/C or better (see over). All grades count except P.E. and ROTC (grades 10-12). SAT Reasoning Test* or ACT *(formerly known as the SAT I)</td>
<td>A-G academic subject requirements completed w/C or better. At least a 2.8 GPA and meet eligibility index; Only UC approved courses calculated in GPA (grades 10-12). SAT Reasoning Test* or ACT and two SAT Subject tests: 1) Elective choice (if math is chosen, Math 2C is required) 2) Elective choice</td>
<td>Prefer students who have met UC entrance requirements. Above 2.0 GPA. SAT Reasoning Test * or ACT Some require SAT Subject Tests Check catalogs for specific test requirements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Appendices** | 42 |

Page 79 of 133
# AB 540 Student

## COLLEGE PREPARATION TIMELINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior Year</th>
<th>Senior Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>September</strong></td>
<td><strong>September</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» Inquire about the PSAT test date, time and location in October - this test is a preparation for the SAT Reasoning Test and is a qualifying test for several national scholarship programs, including: National Merit, National Achievement, and National Hispanic scholarships.</td>
<td>» Apply for a FAFSA PIN, only if you are already in the process of establishing residency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» Meet with your guidance/track counselor and your college counselor to make sure that you are taking college preparatory (A-G) courses and plan for your senior year.</td>
<td>» Sign up for the SAT Reasoning Test or ACT.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» Strive for mostly As - your grades are especially important this year. CSU/UC schools require you to earn a C or better in A-G courses.</td>
<td>» Meet with your guidance/track counselor or college counselor to review your academic records for accuracy and to be sure that you have met the eligibility requirements for the colleges that you plan to apply to.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>October - November</strong></th>
<th><strong>October</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>» Take the PSAT/NMSQT.</td>
<td>» Consult with your college counselor to review your final list of colleges.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| » Think about colleges you are interested in attending; research them online, at your school's college center, at college fairs, and call them to request brochures. | » Get information about college application fee waivers from your college counselor if the application fees would be a financial burden to your family.  
**NOTE:** AB 540 students ARE eligible for fee waivers for the UC's, but NOT for the CSU's. AB 540 students may be eligible for fee waivers for some private universities, so you should contact the schools to find out. |
| » Start a file on the colleges that appeal to you. | » Attend college fairs at your high school. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>December</strong></th>
<th><strong>November</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>» Receive results of the PSAT. Read the score report and consult your school counselors about your strengths and areas where you can improve.</td>
<td><strong>Application submission deadline for UC/CSU is November 30th.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» Think about when you’ll take your college entrance exams (SAT Reasoning Test or ACT). If you take the exam in the spring of your junior year, you'll have another chance to retake the test in the fall.</td>
<td>» Take SAT Reasoning Test and have scores sent to colleges you will apply to.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>January</strong></th>
<th><strong>December</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>» Begin searching for scholarships.</td>
<td>» File your last college application! Make sure you meet the deadlines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» A list of scholarships for AB 540/undocumented students can be found at: <a href="http://www.maldef.org">www.maldef.org</a>.</td>
<td>» If you are eligible, obtain the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Cal Grant GPA Verification Form from your college counselor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» Look at your high school's college center for scholarship information.</td>
<td>» ‘Take the ACT’ (if applicable to schools you are applying to), and have score sent to colleges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>» Early decision notifications should arrive.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# AB 540 Student
## COLLEGE PREPARATION TIMELINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Junior Year</strong></th>
<th><strong>Senior Year</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>February</strong></td>
<td><strong>January</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Meet with your guidance/track counselor and your college counselor to talk about the colleges you are interested in.</td>
<td>› Take the SAT Subject Tests (if applicable) and have scores sent to colleges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Start preparing for the SAT Reasoning Test or ACT if you’ll be taking them in the spring. Guidebooks with testing strategies and sample questions are available at public libraries, bookstores, at your school, or online.</td>
<td>› Request that your counselor send the transcripts of your first semester grades to colleges you have applied to.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Ask your college counselor if your school will offer an SAT prep course.</td>
<td>› Attend a Cash for College FAFSA or AB 540 Workshop, at a location near you, apply to.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>March</strong></td>
<td><strong>February, March &amp; April:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Evaluate the college literature that you have collected.</td>
<td>› Submit FAFSA &amp; Cal Grant GPA Verification forms by March 2nd (if applicable).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Begin visiting the campuses of the colleges that interest you. Call ahead to participate in a campus tour and presentations about academics, admissions, financial aid.</td>
<td>› Call colleges to make sure your application materials were received.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Register for AP Exams.</td>
<td>› Receive acceptance letter and decide on the college you will attend.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>April</strong></td>
<td><strong>May</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Select challenging senior year courses.</td>
<td>› By May 1st, notify your selected college that you will be attending.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Sign up for the May/June SAT II subject tests (if applicable for the school you are considering).</td>
<td>› Notify other colleges that accepted you that you have selected another college.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Look into summer jobs, camps, study programs, or internships - some of them offer scholarships.</td>
<td>› Take Advanced Placement exams for any AP subjects you took senior year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Check with your counselor to decide if you should take the SAT Subject Tests in any subject that you will complete in your junior year.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Continue evaluating colleges and narrow down the list of schools that you will apply to.</td>
<td><strong>June</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>› Request that your counselor send your final high school transcript to the college you will attend.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>May</strong></td>
<td><strong>NOTE:</strong> The college you attend will require you to provide them with your final transcript, in order to qualify for AB 540.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Take SAT Subject Tests (if applicable).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Take Advanced Placement exams for AP subjects you studied junior year.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Enroll in a summer program, if possible.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>June, July and August</strong></td>
<td><strong>June</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Visit your favorite colleges with your family.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› You’ll receive mail from colleges over the summer; be sure to return the reply cards to the schools that interest you.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Prepare for the SAT Reasoning Test or ACT.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE GLOSSARY DEFINITION OF TERMS

About Classes:

A-G requirements: This term refers to the list of high school courses that are necessary for eligibility for admission to University of California (UC) and many California State University (CSU) campuses. Each high school should have a list of A-G courses available to students.

Advanced Placement courses (AP classes): Advanced placement refers to honors-level classes offered to high school students who seek the most rigorous possible academic preparation and potential college credit upon passing a national exam (see AP tests). The AP Program currently offers 34 courses in 19 subject areas. Different high schools offer different classes. Each course is developed by a committee composed of college faculty and AP teachers, and covers the breadth of information, skills, and assignments found in the corresponding college course.

About Exams:

Advanced Placement tests (AP tests): Advanced placement tests are the final component of AP classes. The AP Examinations are administered each year in May and represent the culmination of college-level work in a given discipline in a secondary school setting. Students who receive a passing score of 3-5 on the AP test earn college credit for that particular subject area.

American College Test (ACT): This test is a standardized test that some universities accept in addition to, or in place of the SAT test (see definition below). The ACT Assessment is designed to assess high school students' general educational development their ability to complete college-level work. The test covers four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science.

Preliminary SAT (PSAT): The PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) is a program co-sponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation. This test assesses skills developed in a wide range of courses as well as through experiences outside the classroom. The PSAT/NMSQT consists of three parts: Critical Reading, Math, and Writing Skills. Students who take this test are considered for many scholarships. Don’t miss out!

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT): The SAT is a test that measures verbal, mathematical and reasoning skills. Many colleges and universities use the SAT as an indicator of a students' readiness to do college-level work. SAT scores can be used as a basis for awarding merit-based financial aid. The SAT is typically taken by high school juniors and seniors and is administered several times each year.
About Financial Aid:

NOTE: As an AB 540 undocumented student, you are not eligible for state and federal financial aid. The information below is provided in the event that you become eligible by establishing legal permanent residency or U.S. citizenship.

**Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):**

To apply for federal student financial aid, and to apply for many state student aid programs, students must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The information provided on the FAFSA determines a students’ eligibility for state and federal financial aid and sometimes institutional aid as well.

**Loans:**

Federal programs are the single largest source of education loans. Private education loans are also available from a variety of sources to provide supplemental funding when other financial aid does not cover costs. All student loans must be repaid, usually after graduation. It is important to shop around for loans and seek those with a low APR. Some loans are offered by community based organizations and cities that are 0% interest for the life of your loan.

**Grants:**

Grants are available to students through the state and federal governments. They are typically awarded to students based on financial need or academic indicators such as a student’s grade point average. Unlike loans, grants are monetary awards that the student does not have to pay back.

**Scholarships:**

Scholarships are another good source of aid for college because, like grants, they do not need to be paid back. Scholarships are offered by many organizations, including government, businesses, and nonprofit organizations. They may be based on academics, achievements, hobbies, talents, organizational affiliations, and career aspirations.

**Work Study:**

Work study is another form of aid provided to help students subsidize their college costs. Work-study positions are limited to college students and provide them with employment opportunities on or off campus.
This publication is dedicated to the author of CA AB 540:

Marco A. Firebaugh - Gracias por darnos voz, iluminar nuestro camino, y darnos esperanza para luchar por nuestro derecho a la educación.

CSUDH Espíritu de Nuestro Futuro
espiritudenuestrofuturo@yahoo.com

Marco Antonio Firebaugh - You will always be remembered for your dedication to equality and social justice. Thank you for improving our access to higher education. You will be missed!

IDEAS of UCLA
ideas@ucla.edu
California Nonresident Tuition Exemption
For Eligible California High School Graduates
(The law passed by the Legislature in 2001 as “AB 540”)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Any student, other than a nonimmigrant alien, who meets all of the following requirements, shall be exempt from paying nonresident tuition at the California Community Colleges, the University of California, and the California State University (all public colleges and universities in California).

- Requirements:
  - The student must have attended a high school (public or private) in California for three or more years.
  - The student must have graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent prior to the start of the term (for example, passing the GED or California High School Proficiency exam).
  - An alien student who is without lawful immigration status must file an affidavit with the college or university stating that he or she has filed an application to legalize his or her immigration status, or will file an application as soon as he or she is eligible to do so.

- Students who are nonimmigrants [for example, those who hold F (student) visas, B (visitor) visas, etc.] are not eligible for this exemption.

- The student must file an exemption request including a signed affidavit with the college that indicates the student has met all applicable conditions described above. Student information obtained in this process is strictly confidential unless disclosure is required under law.

- Students eligible for this exemption who are transferring to another California public college or university must submit a new request (and documentation if required) to each college under consideration.

- Nonresident students meeting the criteria will be exempted from the payment of nonresident tuition, but they will not be classified as California residents. They continue to be “nonresidents”.

- AB540 does not provide student financial aid eligibility for undocumented alien students. These students remain ineligible for state and federal financial aid.

PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING THIS EXEMPTION FROM NONRESIDENT TUITION

California Community Colleges: Complete the form on the reverse. Submit it to the Admissions Office at the community college where you are enrolled or intend to enroll. You may be required to submit additional documentation. Call the college Admissions Office if you have questions.

University of California: The University of California (UC) system has its own nonresident tuition exemption application and affidavit form, but it will accept the exemption request form used by the California Community Colleges and the California State University. Your campus has established deadlines for submission of exemption requests; however, requests are not to be submitted until you have been admitted to a UC campus. Some students, such as transfer, graduate, and professional students, also must submit their official high school transcripts; check your campus for specific instructions. Once you are determined to be eligible for the exemption, you will continue to receive it as long as you fulfill the eligibility requirements or until the University no longer offers this exemption. The exemption covers the Nonresident Tuition Fee and the Educational Fee differential charged to nonresident students. Applying for the exemption does not alter your responsibility to pay by the campus deadline any nonresident tuition and associated fees that may be due before your eligibility is determined. For general information, visit the following website: www.ucop.edu/sas/sfs/ppolicies/ab540faqs.htm. For campus-specific instructions regarding documentation and deadline dates, contact the campus Office of the Registrar.

California State University: Complete the form on the reverse. Contact the Office of Admission and Records at the CSU campus where you are enrolled or intend to enroll for instructions on submission, deadline information, and additional requirements. You will be required to submit final high school transcripts and appropriate records of high school graduation or the equivalent, if you have not done so already. Call the Office of Admissions and Records at the campus if you have questions.
California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request
For Eligible California High School Graduates

Note: This form is accepted by all California Community Colleges and all Universities in the both the University of California and California State University systems.

Complete and sign this form to request an exemption from Nonresident Tuition. You must submit any documentation required by the College or University (for example, proof of high school attendance in California). Contact the California Community College, University of California, or California State University campus where you intend to enroll (or are enrolled) for instructions on documentation, additional procedures and applicable deadlines.

ELIGIBILITY:

I, the undersigned, am applying for a California Nonresident Tuition Exemption for eligible California high school graduates at (specify the college or university) ______________________________ and I declare the following:

Check YES or NO boxes:

☐ Yes ☐ No I have graduated from a California high school or have attained the equivalent thereof, such as a High School Equivalency Certificate, issued by the California State GED Office or a Certificate of Proficiency, resulting from the California High School Proficiency Examination.

☐ Yes ☐ No I have attended high school in California for three or more years.

Provide information on all school(s) you attended in grades 9 - 12:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Dates: From – Month/Year</th>
<th>To – Month/Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Documentation of high school attendance and graduation (or its equivalent) is required by the University of California, the California State University and some California Community Colleges. Follow campus instructions.

Check the box that applies to you -- check only one box:

☐ I am a nonimmigrant alien as defined by federal law. [Nonimmigrant aliens have been admitted to the United States temporarily and include, but are not limited to, foreign students (persons holding F visas) and exchange visitors (persons holding J visas)].

OR

☐ I am NOT a nonimmigrant alien. [U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or aliens without lawful immigration status, among others, should check this box.]

AFFIDAVIT:

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information I have provided on this form is true and accurate. I understand that this information will be used to determine my eligibility for the nonresident tuition exemption for eligible California high school graduates. I hereby declare that, if I am an alien without lawful immigration status, I have filed an application to legalize my immigration status or will file an application as soon as I am eligible to do so. I further understand that if any of the above information is untrue, I will be liable for payment of all nonresident charges from which I was exempted and may be subject to disciplinary action by the College or University.

Print Full Name (as it appears on your campus student records) Campus/Student Identification Number

Print Full Mailing Address (Number, Street, City, State, Zip Code) Email Address (Optional)

Phone Number (Optional)

Signature Date

RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO THE CAMPUS ADMISSIONS OFFICE
DREAM ACT

PRESENTATIONS:

RONALD JOHNSON, DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL AID, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES (UCLA)

DEAN KULJU, STUDENT FINANCIAL AID SERVICES & PROGRAMS, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY (CSU)

DR. RICHARD DURÁN, PRESIDENT, OXNARD COLLEGE

DR. BERNARD LUSKIN, INTERIM PRESIDENT, MOORPARK COLLEGE

DR. GREG GILLESPIE, PRESIDENT, VENTURA COLLEGE
Update on DREAM Act Implementation at the University of California

Ventura Community College District
Legislative Committee Policy Hearing
September 25, 2013
Ronald W. Johnson
Director of Financial Aid
University of California Los Angeles
Recap: Steps Towards College Access for Undocumented AB 540 Students

January 2012
• Eligible for privately funded UC scholarships

January 2013
• Eligible for UC grants and scholarships from any source

Fall 2013
• Eligible for Cal Grants, too
Tremendous Impact Already from UC Institutional Aid

- 2010-11: 0 Recipients
  - $0

- 2011-12: 203 Recipients
  - $1.2M

- 2012-13 (est.): 701 Recipients
  - $8.6M

- UC Grants
- UC Scholarship

$0 $2,000,000 $4,000,000 $6,000,000 $8,000,000 $10,000,000 $12,000,000

0 Recipients 203 Recipients 701 Recipients

2010-11 2011-12 2012-13 (est.)
Prospects for 2013-14

• Systemwide, among students enrolling in Fall 2013,
  – 1,200 new students filed a DREAM Application
  – 1,300 continuing students filed a DREAM Application
• Very preliminary estimates suggest:
  – Students will receive about $11M in Cal Grants and $25M in UC Grants
  – About 90% of DREAM Applicants will receive an average of $16,000 from Cal Grants and/or UC Grants
• Many will qualify for work authorization under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
Raising Awareness is Priority for UC Students and Staff

**Examples:**

- Facebook & other social media outlets
- Student-run conferences on UC campuses
- Partnerships with ethnic alumni associations and student organizations
- High school and CCC counselor conferences
- Speakers at community, church, & other local events
- Flyers to potentially eligible students
Being able to afford a UC education isn’t a dream.

You can make it a reality.

Submit a financial aid application & Cal Grant GPA Verification form by March 2, 2013. Instructions inside.
What Has Worked Well

• CSAC commitment to make Dream Act application for both Cal Grants and institutional aid
• Smart design choices
  – Resembles the FAFSA used by other students
• CSAC staff has been inclusive and responsive
• Generally positive feedback from applicants
Challenges and Lessons Learned

• Serving a population that is especially sensitive to messaging, procedural ‘hiccups’
  – Warning messages, confirmation emails must be very carefully worded
• Linking CSAC and segment student records
  – Implementing an identifier other than SSN
• Clear instructions to DACA students about which forms to file
  – Some filed a FAFSA instead of a DREAM App
Looking Forward

• Continued UC/CSAC collaboration will be key
• Outreach is critical
  – Incorporated into UC counselor conferences
  – Campus emails to current/prospective students
  – Working with student groups on campus
  – Cash for College is a good model: radio, TV, local politicians
  – No opportunity should be missed
VCCCD Legislative Committee Policy Hearing

CSU Dream Act Implementation

September 25, 2013
Dean Kulju, Director, Student Financial Aid Services & Programs
CSU-Office of the Chancellor
Systemwide Initiatives

Financial Aid Director committee:

• Outreach Strategies
• Developed equitable policies
• Identified key stake-holders
Best Practices

Student Outreach:

• Identified potential student populations
• Developed email communications
• Created campus flyers
• Identified partners on-campus
• Workshops and presentations
• Web presence
Sample: Outreach Materials

Flyer

California Dream Application
Available April 2, 2012
Apply at:
www.california.gov/california-dream-act

Who is considered an AB540 student?
Students who meet the following requirements:
- Attended a CA high school for 3 or more years
- Graduated from a CA high school or obtained the equivalent of an H.S diploma
- Registered or currently be enrolled at a public college/university in CA

California Dream Act (ADA)
ADA 540
- Effective January 1, 2012
- Authorizes AB540 students to apply for and receive publicly funded scholarships, grants, and institutional financial aid

California State University
Northridge
Financial Aid and Scholarship Department
Office of Student Affairs

Website

California Dream Act
- California Dream Act
- AB 540 Eligibility Requirements
- Types of Financial Assistance are Available

Application Process
- How to Apply
- FAFSA Filings Tips
- Verification at FAFSA

Financial Aid
- FAFSA School Code 015139
- New and Prospective Students
- Graduates and Continuing Students

Financial Services
- Enrollment Services
- Students Affairs
- Faculty & Staff
- Alumni
- Parents
- Visitors & Community
- Giving to Cal State Long Beach

California Dream Act
The California Dream Act of 2011 allows students who meet AB540 criteria to apply for and receive funds from certain state and institutional financial assistance programs.

AB 130 is effective January 1, 2012, and allows students attending CSU Long Beach who are exempt from paying nonresident tuition under another law, Assembly Bill 540 (AB 540), and who are ineligible for federal financial aid to be eligible to receive privately funded scholarships for attendance at CSU Long Beach.
Policies for Phase 1

• Developed financial verification
  • Modeled after a simplified Federal Verification
  • 20% of applicants were selected by each campus

• Selective Service confirmation required for males
Key Campus Stakeholders

- Admissions
- Outreach
- Campus Advisors
- On campus partners & advocates
- Diversity
- EOP
- Campus Task Forces
2012-13: Statistics

Reported numbers are for Winter/Spring 2013-

- 7,600 unduplicated applications received
- Nearly 1,600 students received CSU grants
- $4.5M paid
Areas for consideration (lessons learned)

• Educating the population & partners on the process
  • Providing personally identifiable information
  • Forms/deadlines
  • Communication(s) from many parties
• Although the Dream application provides a standard platform; has to interface with campus student system
• Multiple applications and duplicate records
• Mismatches between Dream application and campus info.
• Review and awarding often still a manual process
• Either not completing or meeting AB 540 requirements
• DACA- Dream application vs. FAFSA
Questions??
AB540

“DREAM ACT”

Presented by
Richard Durán, Ed.D.
President, Oxnard College
## Oxnard College

### AB540/BOGW Student Enrollment Fall 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall 2013</th>
<th>09/24/13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total College Enrollment</td>
<td>6,961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AB540</strong></td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AB540 with BOGW</strong></td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AB540 Code 7</strong> (undocumented)</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AB540 Code 9</strong> (US citizen)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Dream Act Applications</strong></td>
<td><strong>199</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2
### Oxnard College

#### AB540 Students with State/Federal Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall 2013</th>
<th>09/24/13</th>
<th>Resident Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PELL Grant</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cal Grant B (high school students)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EOPS Book Grant</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OC Foundation Scholarship</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- AB540 students identified with a residency code 7 or 9
- College is determined by a student’s Primary campus
- Code 7* AB540 Exempt not CA resident
- Code 9* AB540 Exempt US citizen not CA resident
IMPLEMENTATION

• How to deal with students who represented themselves on prior years regarding citizenship status who now want to apply for Dream Act status

• Awaiting advice from the State Chancellor’s Office.
FAFSA and DREAM ACT OUTREACH

- Distributed flyers to area high schools for a workshop (20% of attendees represented AB540 eligible students)
- “Cash for College” workshop held one week prior to March 24 application deadline
- Offer FAFSA/Dream Act application workshops every Wednesday
- Beginning in January-March visit area high schools
Presented at Migrant Education conference, Ventura County CLUE – Dream without Borders, high school counseling, STEM Conference

Higher Education Parent Night offered every semester in partnership with UCs

OC EOPS has conducted informational outreach to area high schools
FAFSA and DREAM ACT OUTREACH

- STEM Program Participation
  - Annual workshops/presentations/discussions on AB540 at STEM Expo and at the MESA Science and Technology Day
  - Professional Development for high school teachers and counselors on AB540 university application process and financial aid (included webinars, academic preparation training, tutor training, counselors conference, college Board)
  - On-going one-on-one or small group workshops with MESA/STEM students
Oxnard College’s DREAM ACT CLUB PARTICIPATION

• OC Dream Club volunteered to assist other student with their deferred action applications
• OC Dream Club and the President’s Office co-sponsored a forum entitled, “A Day of Action for Immigration Reform”
Oxnard College’s
DREAM ACT CLUB PARTICIPATION

The
Dream Club of
Oxnard College
Presents
RECOMMENDATIONS

• Incorporate AB540 materials anytime we do outreach
• Conduct a State-wide campaign for the Dream Act – similar to the ICanAffordCollege.com campaign
• Conduct an AB540 conference for the County inviting parents, students and educators
• Develop District-wide informational materials (in both English and Spanish) regarding AB540-Dream Act
The DREAM Act Implementation
What is the Dream Act?

The California Dream Act of 2011 is the result of two bills, Assembly Bill 130 (AB 130) and Assembly Bill 131 (AB 131). Together, these bills allow undocumented and documented students who meet certain provision of AB 540 law to apply for and receive private scholarships funneled through public universities (AB 130), state-administered financial aid, university grants, and community college fee waivers (AB 131). The California Dream Act, also known as AB 131, allows students who are AB 540 eligible to apply for California State financial aid programs. AB 540 is a law that allows non-resident students who are living in California to pay resident fees at public colleges and universities in California. The California Dream Act (AB 131) now allows non-residents to apply for state aid programs such as the Board of Governor’s (BOG) fee waiver, University of California Grants, and State university grants. In the 2013-2014 academic year, the Cal Grant is added to the list of aid those qualifying under the California Dream Act will be eligible to apply for. The California Dream Act does not apply to federal financial aid. To receive Dream Act Aid, AB 540 and AB 131 students must:

1. Have attended a California high school for a minimum of three years
   1. Graduate from a California high school or pass the California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE),
   2. or get a General Equivalency Diploma (GED, also called General Educational Development test)
2. Enroll in an accredited California institution of higher education
3. In the case of students without legal immigration status, fill out an affidavit stating that they have filed or will file an application
4. to legalize their immigration status as soon as they are eligible to do so

To get a Cal Grant, they must also meet all other Cal Grant eligibility criteria.
What Does the Law Require?

• Colleges are required to determine and verify eligibility of Dream Act Applicants for
  – In-state Resident fees (AB540)
  – Cal Grants (AB131)
  – Board of Governor’s (BOG) Waivers (AB131)
  – Private scholarships funneled through public colleges (AB130)
Who Are Our Students?

• Fiscal Year 2011-12 Moorpark College Student
  – Headcount = 20,779
  – African-American = 2.1%
  – American Indian/Alaskan Native = 0.4%
  – Asian/Pacific Islander = 9.4%
  – Hispanic = 24.9%
  – Multi-Ethnicity = 4.2%
  – White Non-Hispanic = 57.0%
  – Unknown = 2.0%
**Who Are Our Students?**

**Snapshot of Financial Aid/Scholarship Assistance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Students Receiving Aid (%)</th>
<th>BOG Waiver (%)</th>
<th>Grants¹ (%)</th>
<th>Loans (%)</th>
<th>Work Study (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>African-American</strong></td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>American Indian/Alaskan Native</strong></td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Asian/Pacific Islander</strong></td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hispanic</strong></td>
<td>34.5</td>
<td>34.8</td>
<td>35.8</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>22.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multi-Ethnicity</strong></td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>White Non-Hispanic</strong></td>
<td>47.3</td>
<td>47.2</td>
<td>46.6</td>
<td>62.9</td>
<td>54.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unknown</strong></td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹includes: Cal Grants, Pell, FSEOG, EOPS, & CARE
How Are We Complying?

- Compliance efforts are college-specific
  - Fall 2013
    - AB540 eligible
      - Type 7 = 136
      - Type 9 = 52
    - Financial Aid Office has a dedicated webpage to Dream Act Information, Video, and link to application
    - Developed FAQs specifically for the Dream Act
    - FAO staff work with students to complete applications
How are We Complying?

- Targeted Outreach to 17 feeder High Schools in collaboration with campus EOPS, CALWorks, and Outreach Offices
  - Meetings with high school counselors
  - Workshops
  - Specially-designed flyers
  - Foster Youth ILP workshops
- Automation of the Cal Dream Act application (ISIRS) to speed awarding of BOG Fee Waivers
- Created a step-by-step check list for use to ensure complete applications
How are We Complying?

- Mass emails to identified AB540-eligible, non-BOG students re: Dream Act provisions
- Cross-training other student services staff in Dream Act provisions and requirements
What Else Do We Plan to Do?

• Continued Outreach
  – Cal Works Student Workshops planned for Spring 2014
  – Webinars to train counselors and other staff
  – Contacting Type 9 (foreign resident) students
Legislative Committee –
Policy Hearing

Dream Act Implementation
Ventura College
Dream Act Students

- 299 AB540 students initiated the admissions process for Fall 2013 and 73 actually enrolled.
- 236 students have applied for the California Dream Act application demonstrating interest in Ventura College.
- 172 of those financial aid applications are processed or being processed.
Accessing Financial Aid

- Ventura College Promise – 43 students
- Board of Governor’s Fee Waiver – 191 students ($90,482)
- Cal Grant B – 6 students ($4,442) plus additional awards pending
- Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Scholarship – 1 student ($500)
- Eligibility of EOPS grants to AB540 students in process
- Ventura College Foundation scholarships – 3 students ($4,000)
Reaching Out...

- Student Outreach Specialist visits area high schools (22), alternative high schools, and other organizations.
  - Cover matriculation and support services with potential students.
  - Inform students, parents, and community members about the difference between the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program and the AB540 bill.
  - Discuss financial aid options and how to proceed.

- Welcome Center on campus
  - A first stop for many new students on campus where questions can be answered and information about the college is provided.
  - Computers available to access web information.
Reaching Out...

• Student Services Departments created the AB540 Resource Guide containing information on admissions, affidavit, and financial aid resources for AB540 students.
• Financial Aid Office conducted two workshops for AB540 students in spring 2013 on completing the California Dream Act application and had an information table during College Club day this fall.
• Financial Aid computer lab with bilingual staff support to assist students with completion of California Dream Act application or FAFSA.
EOPS and Dream Act Students

- 15 students participating in the program
- Growth expected as outreach continues.
- Dream Act students eligible for all program services: counseling, tutoring, book vouchers, book grants, early registration, bus passes, college orientation, and transfer assistance.
The MESA Program

• Five AB540 students are actively involved with the MESA program.
• Provides access to tutoring, workshops, college campus visits, and travel.
• Eligible for a gpa stipend.
Challenges with Campus Implementation

• Providing adequate information through web information, printed materials, and personal contact.
• Focused work with cohort groups of Dream Act students to provide support and direction for success.
• Adequate professional development on specifics of AB540 and options for Dream Act students.
• Personnel support to meet requests for information and services.