

The cost of tuition and fees at California public colleges and universities based on a student's residency status: resident or non-resident. Details for this flyer were gathered by searching "residency" on the websites for the CA Community College (CCC) Chancellor's Office (cccco.edu), CSU Chancellor's Office (calstate.edu), and UC Office of the President (ucop.edu).

For specific questions, please contact the office that determines residency for tuition purposes at your school: Admissions & Records for CCC, Admissions for CSU, or Registrar for UC.

CA Residency for Tuition Purposes Requirements

1. **Legal presence in the state** (citizenship or immigration status) that allows an individual to establish residence (i.e., citizen, legal permanent resident, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), or other eligible immigration status).
2. **Continuous physical presence** for 366 days immediately prior to the determination date set by each college/university.
3. **Intent and capacity to remain** in California indefinitely.

How Residency is Determined

Rules that determine "CA residency for tuition purposes" are established by the CA Education Code. Students will be classified as residents or non-residents at each public college or university they apply to based on the information submitted on their application for admission or residency paperwork.

If a student is under the age of 19, their status could be determined by the residency status of their parents or legal guardians. This is relevant for students whose parents live in another state or country, or do not have legal presence in the state. Students who are over the age of 19, may be required to demonstrate financial independence. Check with each school for more details.

How CA Residency for Tuition Purposes is Different From U.S. Citizenship/Permanent Resident Status

CA residency for tuition purposes is:

- determined by the college or university;
- governed by CA Educational Codes;
- begins with legal physical presence in California;
- and required to be eligible for state financial aid (unless meets AB 540/SB 68).

Student must provide required documentation by the stated timeline to be admitted as a resident or non-resident and charged the appropriate tuition and fees.

U.S. citizenship and permanent resident status is:

- determined by the US government (DHS and USCIS);
- governed by multiple immigration laws and policies;
- begins with legal presence in the U.S.;
- and required to be eligible for federal financial aid.

Individual must provide necessary documentation to the U.S. government agencies and courts. Citizenship or immigration status does not guarantee CA residency for tuition purposes.

Fee Rates and Financial Aid for Resident and Non-Resident Status

CA resident students:

- pay resident tuition and fees (per unit or per year);
- may be eligible to receive state financial aid;
- and may be eligible to participate in programs for CA residents.

Non-CA resident students:

- pay additional fee and resident fees (per unit or per year);
- are ineligible to receive state financial aid;
- and are unable to participate in programs for CA residents

Tuition Exemption (AB 540/SB 68) for Eligible Non-Residents

[AB 540/SB 68](#) is a tuition equity law in California that exempts students who meet specific eligibility requirements from paying non-resident tuition. Students who meet these requirements may be eligible for aid through the CA Dream Act.

Non-resident tuition exemption (AB 540/ SB 68) students are:

- exempt from paying non-resident fees;
- eligible to receive state financial aid;
- and able to participate in programs for CA residents.

Non-resident students:

- pay non-resident fees (per unit or per year);
- are ineligible to receive state financial aid;
- and are unable to participate in programs for CA residents.