

QUICK GUIDE TO COLLEGE ACCESS FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS IN CALIFORNIA

AB 540/SB 68: IN-STATE TUITION & RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

In-State Tuition vs CA Dream Act vs DACA

Understand the differences between CA In-State Tuition (AB 540/AB 2000/SB 68), CA Dream Act, and DACA, including their implications for tuition and financial aid.

Submitting the AB 540/SB 68 Affidavit

Use this form to apply for AB 540/SB 68 status & be exempt from non-resident fees at CA public colleges & universities.

AB 540/SB 68 Quick Guide & Attendance Worksheet

Learn how in-state tuition eligibility has expanded to include community colleges (credit/noncredit) & adult schools in CA. This could allow you to pay resident fees at CCCs, CSUs & UCs, as well as apply for the CA Dream Act.

CA Residency for Tuition Purposes

Learn how California residency and AB 540/SB 68 affect the amount of tuition that you pay at CA public colleges & universities.

CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT & STATE-BASED FINANCIAL AID

Types of Financial Aid Available for Undocumented Students in CA

Find out what kinds of financial aid and institutional scholarships you can apply for through the CA Dream Act. You must be eligible for AB540/SB68 or hold TPS or U-Visa. You must also meet the income guidelines, apply by the priority deadlines, and complete all necessary paperwork on time.

FAFSA vs CA Dream Act: Apply to the Correct Financial Aid

Have questions about which financial aid application you should fill out? Use this chart to be sure you complete the proper application and receive all CA state financial aid for which you are eligible.

CA Dream Act Map

Understand the four phases required to successfully complete the California Dream Act application and receive the maximum amount of aid for which you are eligible. Priority deadline is March 2nd of every year!

IDEAL TIMELINE TO APPLY FOR CA DREAM ACT

- Review this timeline and stay on track
- Use the tools prepared for each phase
- Every phase must be completed to ensure that you get the aid

1

APPLY FOR THE CA STATE AID
October 1 - March 2

2

VERIFY YOUR GPA WITH CSAC
October 1 - March 2

3

CLAIM YOUR FINANCIAL AID
March - May

4

USE YOUR FINANCIAL AID
May - September

STEPS TO APPLY FOR CA DREAM ACT

Phase 1. Apply for CA State Aid (October 1 - March 2) Checklist for the 2022-23 CA Dream Application

Applying for the CA Dream Act is only the first step to receiving state-based financial aid. This checklist helps you successfully apply for and be considered for all state financial aid.

Phase 2. Verify Your GPA with CSAC (October 1 - March 2) Checklist to Apply for the 2022-23 Cal Grant

Use this checklist to ensure that CSAC has received your GPA verification form. Too many students forget this step and miss out on financial aid they are eligible for!

Phase 3. Claim Your Aid (March - May) Verifying Your Income for the CA Dream Act Application

Don't let income verification stop you from receiving your financial aid. Understand the necessary documentation you must provide and requirements for dependent versus independent students and tax filers versus non-tax filers.

Phase 4. Use your Aid (May - September) Undocumented Student Budget Worksheet

Use this worksheet to calculate your costs of attending college. It's important to know how much state-based financial aid, scholarships, stipends, or savings you'll receive before you start school AND how much you (and your family, if they can help) will need to pay for the upcoming school year.

SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

List of Scholarships and Fellowships That Don't Require Proof of U.S. Citizenship

All undocumented students in California can go to college and receive private or institutional scholarship—even if they don't meet eligibility for AB 540/SB 68 or the CA Dream Act. Find and apply for scholarships and fellowships!

Scholarship & Fellowship Search Chart

Identify and create a game plan for all the scholarships and fellowships you plan to apply for.

Building Your Scholarship or Fellowship Essay

Use this worksheet to build strong essays that could be used for more than one application.

OTHER RESOURCES

CCOP's CA Undocumented Student Resource Map

Find available support at a CA college or university near you.

Spark Entrepreneurship Learning Hub

Learn how to earn income, regardless of your immigration status.

Scan the QR code to access all the resources listed above.



For a full list of our resources, visit immigrantsrising.org