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 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 CA State Financial Aid available through the CA Dream Act
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

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

Phase 1. Apply for CA Dream Act - 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. Apply for Cal Grant - October 1 - March 2
Checklist to Apply for the 2022-23 Cal Grant
Use this checklist to successfully apply for the Cal Grant. 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
Selective Service and CA Dream Act
Are you a male between the age of 18 and 25 years old? Be sure to register for the selective service and show proof to your college or university. You may not receive your financial aid if you miss this step. We’ve also included information for individuals who are over 25, but never registered.

SCHOLARSHIPS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP

List of undergraduate and graduate scholarships that don’t require proof of citizenship or legal permanent residency
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!

Scholarship Search Chart
Identify and create a game plan for all the scholarships you plan to apply for.

Building Your Scholarship Essay
Use this worksheet to get started building a strong scholarship essay.

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.

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

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