

UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCES: IN-STATE TUITION VS. CA DREAM ACT VS. DACA

Revised 1/2023

JURISDICTION	STATE OF CALIFORNIA			FEDERAL
Policy	In-State Tuition	CA Dream Act (Financial Aid)		Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
Law	AB 540, as amended by SB 68, SB 1141 & AB 2000	AB 130	AB 131	Executive Memorandum
What It Does	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AB 540 exempts more students from out-of-state tuition fees Makes students eligible to apply for financial aid under the CA Dream Act 	Opens certain scholarships administered by public institutions to AB 540 students	Opens state-funded grants (including Cal grants, State grants, UC Grants & the CA College Promise Grant) and state programs (EOP & EOPS) to AB 540 students	Allows individuals to receive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment authorization card and valid Social Security Number Temporary Relief from Deportation/Removal
What It Does Not Do	Does not change their state residency status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not include eligibility for federal grants or funds Should not be confused with the federal Dream Act 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not provide a path to lawful permanent residence, or citizenship Does not give eligibility for federal financial aid awarded through FAFSA
Who Can Apply	Undocumented & DACAmented individuals, T and U visa holders, US citizens, & lawfully present immigrants that meet eligibility criteria. <i>NOTE: Students with non-immigrant status (other than T or U visas) are not eligible under this pathway.</i>	AB 540 eligible individuals who are undocumented, DACAmented individuals, T and U Visa holders, U.S. citizens, and lawfully present immigrants who meet eligibility criteria. <i>NOTE: Students with non-immigrant status (other than T or U visas) are not eligible under this pathway</i>		Currently, only individuals who had DACA in the past may submit a DACA renewal application. <i>NOTE: People should speak with a legal services provider if they have questions about their specific situation.</i>
Eligibility Requirements	Student must complete both A & B Part A: Attend three years full-time or the part-time equivalent credits at a CA high school, adult school, Community College (credit or noncredit), or any combination of the above OR Three years of high school coursework and three years of total attendance in a CA elementary school or secondary school OR any combination of the two. Part B: Graduate from a CA high school; obtain a certificate of completion, GED, Hi-Set or TASC in CA; <u>or</u> attain an Associate's degree from a CCC or fulfill minimum transfer requirements for UC or CSU	Student must meet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AB 540 eligibility Individual scholarship requirements 	Student must meet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AB 540 eligibility Priority filing deadline income guidelines GPA & other Cal grant eligibility Program requirements for EOP or EOP&S 	For DACA eligibility, please go to ilrc.org/daca or uscis.gov For more information about renewing your DACA, use our Steps to Renew DACA flyer at immigrantsrising.org/renewdaca For DACA updates, go to immigrantsrising.org/daca