

# Understand the Differences: In-State Tuition vs. CA Dream Act vs. DACA

Jurisdiction	State of California		Federal	
Policy	In-State Tuition	CA Dream Act (Financial Aid)		Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
<b>Law</b>	AB 540, as amended by SB 68, SB 1141 & AB 2000	AB 130	AB 131	Executive Memorandum
<b>What It Does</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AB 540 exempts more students from out-of-state tuition fees</li> <li>Makes students eligible to apply for financial aid under the CA Dream Act</li> </ul>	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"> <li>Employment authorization card and valid Social Security Number</li> <li>Temporary Relief from Deportation/Removal</li> </ul>
<b>What It Does Not Do</b>	Does not change their state residency status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not include eligibility for federal grants or funds</li> <li>Should not be confused with the federal Dream Act</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not provide a path to lawful permanent residence, or citizenship</li> <li>Does not give eligibility for federal financial aid awarded through FAFSA</li> </ul>
<b>Who Can Apply</b>	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>
<b>Eligibility Requirements</b>	<p><b>Student must complete both A &amp; B</b></p> <p><b>Part A:</b> 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</p> <p><b>OR</b> Three years of high school coursework and three years of total attendance in a CA elementary school or secondary school</p> <p><b>OR</b> any combination of the two.</p> <p><b>Part B:</b> Graduate from a CA high school; obtain a certificate of completion, GED, Hi-Set or TASC in CA; or attain an Associate's degree from a CCC or fulfill minimum transfer requirements for UC or CSU</p>	<p><b>Student must meet:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AB 540 eligibility</li> <li>Individual scholarship requirements</li> </ul>	<p><b>Student must meet:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AB 540 eligibility</li> <li>Priority filing deadline income guidelines</li> <li>GPA &amp; other Cal grant eligibility</li> <li>Program requirements for EOP or EOP&amp;S</li> </ul>	<p><b>For DACA eligibility, please go to <a href="https://ilrc.org/daca">ilrc.org/daca</a> or <a href="https://uscis.gov">uscis.gov</a></b></p> <p>For more information about renewing your DACA, use our Steps to Renew DACA flyer at <a href="https://immigrantsrising.org/renewdaca">immigrantsrising.org/renewdaca</a></p> <p>For DACA updates, go to <a href="https://immigrantsrising.org/daca">immigrantsrising.org/daca</a></p>

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