

## Important Information for School Counselors

### If a student has a social security number, does that mean he or she has legal status?

Not necessarily. Do not assume that possession of a "social security number" indicates the student has legal status. Some undocumented students believe that they have valid social security numbers, but really do not. Counselors should be careful to make sure SSN are from the Social Security Agency and are not provided by the Department of Homeland Security for temporary work purposes. Students who have been approved for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program may apply for a social security number, but they are not considered permanent legal residents eligible for Federal financial aid.

Lawrence, Carolyn. "Advising Undocumented Students: FAQs For College Counselors" Educational Consultant AdmissionsAdvice.com (2014)

### Privacy

Legally, K-12 school personnel cannot inquire about the immigration status of students or their parents. Therefore, you may learn that a student is undocumented only if the student chooses to share this information. Undocumented students may not even be aware of their legal status.

Students, start browsing colleges' resources for undocumented students:

**University of California (UC)**  
<https://undoc.universityofcalifornia.edu/>

**California State University (CSU)**  
<https://www2.calstate.edu/attend/student-services/resources-for-undocumented-students>

**California Community Colleges**  
<https://www.cccco.edu/Students/Support-Services/Special-population/Undocumented-Students>

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

UC Los Angeles  
UC Berkeley  
UC Santa Cruz  
UC San Diego  
UC Santa Barbara

UC Merced  
UC Irvine  
UC Davis  
UC Riverside  
UC San Francisco

AVERAGE IN-STATE  
TUITION:  
\$14,000/YEAR

AVERAGE NON-  
RESIDENT TUITION:  
\$43,800/YEAR

UCs allow students to use CalGrant and Dream Loan money towards tuition costs.

- If you receive a CalGrant and Dream Loan, you can apply leftover money to living expenses.

## CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

AVERAGE IN-STATE TUITION:  
\$5,742/YEAR

AVERAGE NON-RESIDENT TUITION:  
\$17,622/YEAR



CSU schools only allow students to apply a CalGrant **OR** Dream Loan money towards tuition costs.

- If you plan to attend a CSU, it's better to apply locally.
- Save money by living at home.

## COMMUNITY COLLEGES

- 115 IN CALIFORNIA
- AVERAGE IN-STATE TUITION: \$1,636/YEAR
- AVERAGE NON-RESIDENT TUITION: \$6,797/YEAR

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# APPLY TO UNIVERSITY TODAY!



## How you can fund your HIGHER EDUCATION



## A guide for California Undocumented Students



# PAYING FOR COLLEGE

## FIRST: AM I AB 540 ELIGIBLE? RECEIVE IN-STATE TUITION

### What is AB 540 nonresident tuition exemption?

- Allows someone without official legal status to establish residency in California.
- With California Residency, you can receive in-state tuition rates for public universities and community colleges.
- By establishing residency through AB 540, you are also promising to file an application to adjust your immigration status once you become eligible.

### Who should apply for AB 540?

- If you are undocumented/do not have U.S. Citizenship & no legal visa to be in the U.S.
- If you are still in the process of applying for a visa but no decision has been given yet.

### AB 540 Eligibility

1. You must have spent 3 full-time years at a CA High School, Adult School (min. 420 hours/year), Community College (12 units/semester and max. 2 years) or **any** combination.

**OR**

Completed 3 years of high school coursework and 3 years total attendance in a CA Elementary or Secondary School (or any combination of the two)

**AND**

2. One of the following: Graduate from a CA High School, Obtain a certificate of completion, GED, HiSet or TASC in CA; Attain an associate degree from a CA Community College or fulfill minimum transfer requirements for a UC or CSU.

## SECOND: APPLY FOR ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOANS

The **California Dream Act Application (CADAA)** is an alternative to the Free Application to Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

- Submit CADAA to be eligible for loans & scholarships.

### Who Should use the CADAA? If you:

- Undocumented / Meet non-resident AB 540 requirements, or
- U Visa holder, or
- Have Temporary Protected Status (TPS), or
- Have valid or expired DACA status,

### Apply for CADAA online by March 2nd:

- <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>
- A certified GPA needs to be submitted by your high school or community college by March 2nd.
- Can still apply after March 2nd but less money will be available.
- Resubmit your application each year to renew.

### TYPES OF AID AWARDED THROUGH CADAA

**DREAM Loans** - need to repay after graduating

- A school may grant up to \$4,000/year of state financial aid loan money.

**Cal Grants** - money you do **not** need to repay

- amount awarded depends on GPA and school.
- Up to \$12k for UC, \$5-6k for CSU, and \$9k for other colleges if you have 3.0 high school GPA or 2.4 community college GPA.
- Up to \$1,672 for first year and same amounts listed above for successive years if GPA 2.0 or higher.
- Up to \$1,094 for technical or career education.

### Private Scholarships

- Search university & college websites for additional scholarships offered.
- Look for scholarships from other sources:
  - <https://immigrantsrising.org/2020scholarships/>
  - <https://www.maldef.org/resources/scholarship-resource-guide/>

## PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

### College - Financial Aid - AB 540

1. Apply to a University of California (UC), California State University (CSU), or California Community College.

- Can waive application fee for up to 4 UC applications and up to 4 CSU applications if AB 540 eligible.

a. Four- year

i. UC - **deadline** Nov. 30, 2020 Can submit between Nov. 1- 30

ii. CSU - **deadline** Dec. 4, 2020 Can submit btwn. Oct. 1 - Dec. 4

b. Two-year Community College

i. No deadline but encouraged to apply before January 2021

c. **MUST leave SSN & Immigration Status BLANK**

2. If you are a male between the ages of 18 and 25 you must register with the Selective Service System (SSS). The SSS does not share your immigration status. If you do not have a SSN, you can register with a form found at the U.S. Post Office.

3. Submit CADAA application by March 2nd

4. Submit an AB 540 resident exception to the school you decide to attend and affidavit:

[https://www.csac.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/ab\\_540\\_affidavit.pdf](https://www.csac.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/ab_540_affidavit.pdf)

5. Make a WebGrants 4 Students account to manage Cal Grant: <https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/>

6. Use free, on-campus legal services to adjust immigration status as soon as you become eligible.

