AB540 Conference

Resource Guide

San Diego County Office of Education October 15, 2010





Sponsored By: Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)/ SDCOE San Diego and Imperial Counties Cal-SOAP

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Additional AB540 information on www.sandiegocalsoap.com

AB540: The Law

Education Code Section 68130.5 "AB 540" Law

AB 540 was chaptered in to law. The current law is identified as California Education Code 68130.5.

California Education Code Section 68130.5. Notwithstanding any other provision of law:

- (a) A student, other than a nonimmigrant alien within the meaning of paragraph (15) of subsection (a) of Section 1101 of Title 8 of the United States Code, who meets all of the following requirements shall be exempt from paying nonresident tuition at the California State University and the California Community Colleges:
 - (1) High school attendance in California for three or more years.
- (2) Graduation from a California high school or attainment of the equivalent thereof.
- (3) Registration as an entering student at, or current enrollment at, an accredited institution of higher education in California not earlier than the fall semester or quarter of the 2001-02 academic year.
- (4) In the case of a person without lawful immigration status, the filing of an affidavit with the institution of higher education stating that the student has filed an application to legalize his or her immigration status, or will file an application as soon as he or she is eligible to do so.
- (b) A student exempt from nonresident tuition under this section may be reported by a community college district as a full-time equivalent student for apportionment purposes.
- (c) The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges and the Trustees of the California State University shall prescribe rules and regulations for the implementation of this section.
- (d) Student information obtained in the implementation of this section is confidential.

Section 2: Assembly Bill 540 - The Law and the Facts

AB540, signed into law on October 12, 2001, authorizes undocumented students who meet specific criteria to pay in-state tuition at California's public colleges and universities (e.g., California Community Colleges, California State University, and University of California). Any student, except a person in nonimmigrant status, who meets the requirements, shall be exempt from paying nonresident tuition at all public colleges and universities in California.

AB 540 Eligibility Requirements

- □ The student must have attended a California high school for 3 or more years
- □ The student must have graduated from a California high school or attained a G.E.D.
- □ The student must have registered or currently be enrolled at an accredited institution of higher education in California.
- □ The student must have filed or will an affidavit as required by individual institutions, stating that you will apply for legal residency as soon as you are eligible to do so.

Non-immigrant students are <u>not eligible</u> for this exemption. Non-immigrant students, as defined by federal immigration law, may hold one of the following visas: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, TN, TD and V, and TROV and NATO.

AB 540 Affidavit -"CALIFORNIA NONRESIDENMT TUITION EXEMPTION REQUEST"

Students must obtain, complete, and submit the AB540 Affidavit at the appropriate office of the college they WILL attend in order to receive the exemption from nonresident tuition.

California Community Colleges:

Request and submit the completed affidavit at the Admissions Office. You will be required to submit additional documentation such as high school transcripts and appropriate records of high school graduation or the equivalent.

California State University:

Request and submit the affidavit with the Office of Admissions and Records. You will be required to submit additional documentation such as high school transcripts and appropriate records of high school graduation or the equivalent.

University of California:

Request and submit the affidavit with the Office of the Registrar at the UC campus. The affidavit will need to be submitted once you have been admitted to the UC campus. Check with your campus for more specific instructions.

For additional information visit the following websites:

University of California
 California Community Colleges
 Los Angeles Community Colleges
 California State University
 Www.ccco.edu
 www.laccd.edu
 www.csumentor.edu

Who are undocumented students?

Undocumented students include those students born outside of the United States, many of whom have lived in this country for a significant portion of their lives, and who reside here without the legal permission of the federal government. Many undocumented students and their families entered the country legally on tourist or work visas and chose to stay in the US after their visas expired. Others entered without any form of documentation.

- The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that in the year 2000, approximately 2.5. million undocumented youth under age 18 were living in the U.S.
- Each year, over 65, 000 undocumented students graduate from U.S. high schools.
- 40% of all undocumented students live in California.
- In 2001, between 5,000-8,000 students in California were eligible for AB540.
- In 2004, 17 California high school Valedictorians were undocumented.
- Many undocumented students were brought to the U.S. at a very young age.
- Many undocumented students have aspirations to attend college.
- Many undocumented students have excelled as honors students, class valedictorians, and active members of their communities.
- ***The terms "undocumented students" and "AB 540 students" are used interchangeably throughout this guide.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS:

Q: What does it mean to be undocumented?

A: If you are not a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident and do not currently possess a green card, visa, or other legal documentation, you are considered an undocumented immigrant.

Q: If I am undocumented and interested in applying for residency, what should I do?

A: In order to find out if you are eligible to apply for legal permanent residency, contact a licensed immigration attorney. DO NOT give your money to a "notario." In the U.S., a notario is not an attorney and cannot help you establish residency.

Q: If I am undocumented, can I go to college?

A: YES. Undocumented students can go to any college or university in California if they meet admissions requirements.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR AB 540 STUDENTS:

Q: Is 9th grade included in the definition of "high school" if it is included as part of the middle school?

A: Yes. For purposes of eligibility for the tuition exemption, enrollment in the 9th grade, whether at a middle or high school, counts toward the California high school attendance requirement.

Q: Does the high school enrollment have to be at the same California school and for three consecutive years?

A: No, the three years for a student's 9th through 12th grades need not be consecutive or completed at a single California school. For example, if a student attended 9th grade at a California middle or high school, left the state to attend 10th grade in another state, and returned to a second qualified California high school to complete 11th and 12th grades, that student would still meet the requirement of three years of high school attendance in California.

Q: What does "has graduated from a California high school or has attained the equivalent" mean?

A: The three possibilities include the following:

- a. A diploma from a California high school; or
- b. A High School Equivalency Certificate, issued by the California State GED Office; or
- c. A Certificate of Proficiency, resulting from the California High School Proficiency Examination.

Q: Does it matter how far in the past a student graduated from high school to be eligible for nonresident tuition exemption?

A: No, it does not matter how long ago the student graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent.

Q: Are "home schooled" students eligible?

A: A student who is "home-schooled" by a parent or other person who did not hold a California teacher credential is not eligible, because that "school" would not meet the exemption definition of a "high school in California."

Q: Can students living out-of-state enroll in a private California "internet high school," complete their coursework via distance learning correspondence, and meet the California high school enrollment and graduation requirements?

A: No. This type of private school would not meet the requirements of this Section 48222 of the California Education Code, which defines a "high school in California" for the purposes of exemption eligibility.

Q: I pay or have paid out-of-state tuition, but I am not eligible to pay in-state tuition under the new law (AB 540). Will I be able to get a refund?

A: You will not be eligible for a refund if you paid out-of-state tuition for any term before January 1, 2002. You may be eligible for a refund only if you have paid out-of-state tuition for any term that begins on or after January 1, 2002. Contact the university or college administration for more information.

Q: Is there a maximum number of years for which I am eligible to receive this exemption?

A: No. There is no cap on the maximum number of years one can receive this exemption.

AB-540: California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Information



You qualify if:

- You have attended a California High School for 3 or more years (does not have to be the same high school)
- You have or will graduate from a California High School or have attained a G.E.D.
- You have registered at or are currently enrolled at an accredited institution of higher education in California
- You have filed or will file an affidavit, as required by individual colleges (*not* INS), stating that you will apply for legal residency as soon as you are eligible to do so

Financial Aid and Fee Difference:

AB-540 does *not* provide access to federal or state financial aid. Nevertheless, AB-540 eliminates out-of-state fees at colleges and universities for students regardless of legal residency status, making higher education more affordable to non-U.S. residents.*

AB-540 allows undocumented students to pay the in-state fees below.

Institution	In-State Fees	Out-of-State Fees
California Community Colleges	\$26 per unit	\$160 per unit + enrollment fees
California State Universities	\$4,026 per year (tuition only)	\$11,160 per year (tuition only)
University of California	\$9,285 per year (tuition only)	\$22,717 per year (tuition only)

Figures are the estimated costs for 2009-2010. Total costs for 2011 may be higher.

Caveats:

- Students eligible for this exemption who are transferring to another California *public* college or university must submit a new request (and documentation, if required) to *each* college under consideration.
- Students who are non-immigrants [for example, those who hold F (student) visas, B (visitor) visas, etc.] are not eligible for this exemption.
- For more information, go to www.maldef.org

College / University Application Process for Immigrant Students:

- Students should speak with a college/university representative to receive accurate information about the specific campus. For all UC and most CSU campuses, the student must apply in November of the year before they wish to enroll. *Two* sections in the application must be left BLANK[†]:
 - Social Security Number slot should be left BLANK
 - o Immigration Status should be left BLANK

Important Note: AB-540 requires that state colleges and universities keep student information confidential. A student's immigration status cannot and will not be reported to the Department of Immigration or any other third party.

^{*} Non-U.S. resident students are those who do not have legal status in the United States; these students must also meet all the requirements mentioned above.

[†] Everything else should be filled out completely and truthfully. Students should contact a UC or CSU representative for specific instructions for completing the UC and CSU applications, as these may change from year to year. Additional materials should **NOT** be sent with the application. Once the student is accepted by the university, then he/she should fill out and send the AB-540 affidavit. For community colleges, the student must turn in the AB-540 affidavit when they apply.

California Nonresident Tuition Exemption

For Eligible California High School Graduates (The law passed by the Legislature in 2001 as "AB 540")

GENERAL INFORMATION

Any student, other than a nonimmigrant alien, who meets all of the following requirements, shall be exempt from paying nonresident tuition at the California Community Colleges, the University of California, and the California State University (all public colleges and universities in California).

- Requirements:
 - o The student must have attended a high school (public or private) in California for three or more years.
 - The student must have graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent prior to the start of the term (for example, passing the GED or California High School Proficiency exam).
 - An alien student who is without lawful immigration status must file an affidavit with the college or university stating
 that he or she has filed an application to legalize his or her immigration status, or will file an application as soon as he
 or she is eligible to do so.
- Students who are nonimmigrants [for example, those who hold F (student) visas, B (visitor) visas, etc.] are not eligible for this exemption.
- The student must file an exemption request including a signed affidavit with the college that indicates the student
 has met all applicable conditions described above. Student information obtained in this process is strictly
 confidential unless disclosure is required under law.
- Students eligible for this exemption who are transferring to another California public college or university must submit a new request (and documentation if required) to each college under consideration.
- Nonresident students meeting the criteria will be exempted from the payment of nonresident tuition, but they will not be classified as California residents. They continue to be "nonresidents".
- AB540 does not provide student financial aid eligibility for undocumented alien students. These students remain ineligible for state and federal financial aid.

PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING THIS EXEMPTION FROM NONRESIDENT TUITION

California Community Colleges: Complete the form on the reverse. Submit it to the Admissions Office at the community college where you are enrolled or intend to enroll. You may be required to submit additional documentation. Call the college Admissions Office if you have questions.

University of California: The University of California (UC) system has its own nonresident tuition exemption application and affidavit form, but it will accept the exemption request form used by the California Community Colleges and the California State University. Your campus has established deadlines for submission of exemption requests; however, requests are not to be submitted until you have been admitted to a UC campus. Some students, such as transfer, graduate, and professional students, also must submit their official high school transcripts; check your campus for specific instructions. Once you are determined to be eligible for the exemption, you will continue to receive it as long as you fulfill the eligibility requirements or until the University no longer offers this exemption. The exemption covers the Nonresident Tuition Fee and the Educational Fee differential charged to nonresident students. Applying for the exemption does not alter your responsibility to pay by the campus deadline any nonresident tuition and associated fees that may be due before your eligibility is determined. For general information, visit the following website:

www.ucop.edu/sas/sfs/ppolicies/ab540fags.htm. For campus-specific instructions regarding documentation and deadline

California State University: Complete the form on the reverse. Contact the Office of Admission and Records at the CSU campus where you are enrolled or intend to enroll for instructions on submission, deadline information, and additional requirements. You will be required to submit final high school transcripts and appropriate records of high school graduation or the equivalent, if you have not done so already. Call the Office of Admissions and Records at the campus if you have questions.

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dates, contact the campus Office of the Registrar.

California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request

For Eligible California High School Graduates

Complete and sign this form to request an exemption from Nonresident Tuition. You must submit any documentation required by the College or University (for example, proof of high school attendance in California). Contact the California Community College, University of California or California State University campus where you intend to enroll (or are enrolled) for instructions on documentation, additional procedures and applicable deadlines.

ELIGIB	ILITY:					
		am applying for the college or unive			Exemption for eligible (
Check Y	ES or NO bo	oxes:				
□ Yes	□ No	High School I	Equivalency Certifi	cate, issued by t	r have attained the equiva he California State GED O hool Proficiency Examination	ffice or a Certificate of
□ Yes	□No		ed high school in C		·	
School				State	nded in grades 9 - 12:	ates:
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AFFID/	AVIT:					
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Print Full	Name (as it app	pears on your campu	us student records)		Campus/Student Identification	Number
Print Full	Mailing Addre	ss (Number, Street,	City, State, Zip Code)		Email Address (Optional)	
					Phone Number (Optional)	
Signature)				Date	

AB 540: The High School Counselor's Role

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 he chooses to share this information. Undocumented students may not even be aware of their legal status.

What you can do:

- Reach out as early as possible to all students and encourage them to envision themselves as college material, explore career options, and prepare academically for college. If the opportunity arises, let students know that undocumented status is not a legal bar to attending a U.S. college.
- Explain the requirements for federal financial aid when discussing financial aid at parent meetings or other group sessions: recipients must ne U.S. citizens or legal residents. You can explain financial aid policies and options to parents and students without asking about their immigration status.
- **Know your state's laws** regarding undocumented students and stay up-to date on changes in the laws
- Let students know there are scholarships available to undocumented students.

Currently, there is no official role a school can play in helping students become documented. However, if an application for citizenship is in the works, you can help determine whether the paperwork is in the application process. And, if appropriate, you can refer students to qualified immigration lawyers.

Top 10 Ways Counselors Can Help Undocumented Students

- 1. Make information and resources about undocumented students easily available to all students. Don't ask students to self-identify. Many students will be too scared to reveal their immigration status. Some students might not even know about their status.
- **2.** Be open-minded. Don't make assumptions about which students may or may not be undocumented. Undocumented students aren't all Latino, Spanish-speaking, or enrolled in ESL classes.
- **3.** Be knowledgeable about specific government and college admission policies that affect undocumented students.
- **4.** Support the federal DREAM Act and other state-based legislation to support undocumented students.
- **5.** Identify private scholarships that don't require citizenship/residency.
- **6.** Encourage private scholarships to allow undocumented students to apply.
- **7.** Identify private sponsors who can provide financial support to undocumented students.
- **8.** Help undocumented students create lasting support networks that can offer ongoing mentoring and advice, even after the college admission process.
- **9.** Identify older undocumented students to serve as role models.
- **10.** Refer students to qualified legal counsel to investigate possible immigration remedies.

Katharine GIN is cofounder and executive director of Educators for Fair Consideration (E4FC), a nonprofit that supports low-income immigrant students in higher education. A fifth-generation Chinese American, Katharine was born and raised in San Francisco, and later received her undergraduate degree from Yale University (CT). For more than 15 years, she has worked to improve arts and education opportunities for low-income youth.

Tips for Advising AB-540 Students

- 1) Assist students with completion of college admission application fee-waivers.
 - Undocumented students ARE NOT eligible for CSU application fee-waivers.
 - Undocumented students ARE eligible for UC application fee-waivers.
 - Undocumented student eligibility for private college/university application fee-waivers is on a campus-by-campus basis. CONTACT EACH CAMPUS the student is interested in attending to find out.
- 2) Assist students with completion of college admission applications.
 - Undocumented AB-540 students often require assistance completing residency questions included in college admission applications.
 - If you are unable to assist the student, refer them to an AB-540 knowledgeable representative from the college they wish to apply to.
 - Develop relations with schools and contact for advice.
- 3) Assist students with scholarships that do not require legal permanent residency, U.S. citizenship, and/or a Social Security Number.
 - Scholarship list available at: www.maldef.org
 - Many private scholarships require proof of citizenship/legal residency, which makes undocumented students ineligible.
 - Undocumented AB-540 students often require assistance with researching and successfully finding scholarships that they are eligible for.
- 4) Assist students with finding alternative options for funding their education.
 - Many undocumented AB-540 students are finding creative ways to fund their education.
 - o Students may consider approaching friends, neighbors, family members, teachers, or local businesses to request financial support for their college education.
 - Students may consider working together to hold fundraisers to help undocumented AB-540 students pay for college.
- 5) Assist students with determining whether or not to complete a FAFSA.
 - ONLY undocumented students with residency paperwork "in process" should complete a FAFSA. If they have filed paperwork then the government is aware of their presence in the U.S. and the student is not at risk for deportation.
 - Undocumented students without paperwork "in process" SHOULD NOT complete a FAFSA. For these students, submitting a FAFSA to the federal government can put them at risk for deportation. Some undocumented students have been placed into deportation proceedings after submitting a FAFSA.
- 6) When providing workshops or informational sessions on higher education, include information on AB-540 and opportunities available to immigrant students.
 - Provide AB-540 trainings to counselors, teachers, and staff.
 - Inform parents about the options their children have.
 - Although most information is presented to high schools, starting at the elementary and middle school levels will increase awareness about college opportunities for **all students**.
- 7) Refer students to www.uscis.gov, so they may learn about the process for attaining citizenship.
 - For a list of legal services that assist with this process, visit www.maldef.org.



Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund 634 S. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90014 Telephone (213) 629-2512 www.maldef.org



AB 540 Frequently Asked Questions

Since January 1, 2002, California's AB 540 law allows undocumented immigrant students in pursuit of a higher education who meet specific requirements to be exempt from paying out-of-state tuition fees.

1. I am an undocumented student who attended high school in Oregon (or a state other than California) for two years and completed my junior and senior years of high school in California. Do I qualify to pay instate tuition under this law?

NO. In order to be exempt from paying out-of-state tuition, undocumented students must meet ALL of the following requirements to qualify for a waiver under AB 540:

- Attend high school in California for 3 or more years; AND
- Graduate from a California high school with a diploma, or obtain the equivalent thereof (such as a GED or the California High School Proficiency Exam); AND
- File an affidavit with the California community college or university the student is currently attending or will attend stating¹:
 - 1) The student meets all of the above requirements; and
 - 2) If the students are undocumented, they are in the process of adjusting their immigration status or will adjust their immigration status as soon as they are eligible to do so.

2. Does the AB 540 law apply to all public systems of higher education in California?

YES. All three public systems of higher education in California have adopted AB 540 as part of their educational code. This includes the University of California, California State University and California Community Colleges.

3. What is the cost difference between in-state vs. out-of-state tuition?

2008-2009 tuition costs are as follows²:

California Community Colleges (CC) \$20 per unit (in-state) \$173 per unit (out-of-state)
California State University (CSU) \$3,797 per year (in-state) \$13,967 per year (out-of-state)
University of California (UC) \$8,007 per year (in-state) \$28,615 per year (out-of-state)

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¹ Samples of the current affidavit can be found in the AB 540 section of the MALDEF website.

² These amounts are tuition only and may not include additional enrollment fees.

4. As an AB 540 student, how do I fill out my college/university admissions application?

We recommend eligible AB 540 students consult with an admissions officer regarding their application inquiries. Generally, there are TWO sections of your application that should be left BLANK:

- 1) Social Security Number box should be left BLANK (unless the applicant has a valid social security number issued by the Social Security administration that may be used for purposes other than work); and
- 2) Immigration Status box should be left BLANK.

All information contained in the application should be truthful, particularly with regard to immigration status and social security information, because providing false information could potentially jeopardize an individual's future efforts to adjust his or her immigration status. In general, the application requires social security number and immigration status information in order for the school to determine whether the student will be classified as a California resident or not. After students have been accepted by a Cal State or a UC university, they should fill out and send the AB 540 affidavit to the admissions and/or registrars office. For community colleges, students must turn in the AB 540 affidavit the same day they register at the college.

5. AB 540 requires that I submit a sworn statement or an affidavit to the admissions office of the college or university that I am attending. What type of information do I have to include in the affidavit?

All students seeking an exemption from non-resident tuition fees must file an affidavit with the student's college or university stating that the student meets the law's requirements and, if the student is not a U.S. Citizen or legal permanent resident, that the student is either in the process of adjusting his or her immigration status or will do so as soon as he or she is eligible to do so. These affidavits are available at all public colleges or universities. By signing the affidavit, the student makes a personal oath to the college or university that all information the student provided in the affidavit is truthful and accurate. These affidavits often ask the student to provide information such as the name of the California high school the student attended, the dates of attendance, and the student's name, address, student ID number and signature.

6. Will the college or university I am or will be attending share the information I provide in the affidavit with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)?

No. Under California law, the information you provide in the affidavit must remain confidential.

7. If I am eligible for the AB 540 tuition exemption, will I be considered a California resident at the public college or university where I enroll?

NO. A student who qualifies for AB 540 is classified as a "nonresident student with AB 540 exemption" by the higher education institution he or she attends.

8. Can I apply for AB 540 status at private universities or technical colleges like USC, Stanford, ITT Tech, Bryman College, etc.?

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NO. AB 540 applies only to PUBLIC community colleges and universities in California. Private colleges set their own tuition policies. If you are interested in attending a private institution, contact the admissions counselor of the institution you are considering to discuss what fees you would be required to pay and whether you may qualify for any scholarships they offer. Also, undocumented AB 540 students are not international students because they do not hold a student visa, and should not apply as such.

9. Does it matter how long ago a student graduated from a California high school to be eligible for the AB 540 tuition exemption?

NO. The date of high school graduation does not affect a student's eligibility for the AB 540 tuition exemption. So long as the student attended a California high school for at least 3 years prior to graduation, the student will be eligible to apply for the AB 540 exemption.

10. Do I qualify under AB 540 if I attended an adult school in California for three years and have a GED?

Attending an adult school is not equivalent to attending a high school and does not generally satisfy the requirement under AB 540 that a student attend a California high school for 3 or more years. However, if the adult school was an "evening high school," there are some higher education institutions that may accept adult school as the equivalent of attending a high school. If you attended an adult school and would like to know about your AB 540 eligibility, please consult with the AB 540 counselor or admissions counselor at the college or university you are considering attending.

11. Can a Certificate of Completion meet the high school diploma equivalent for AB 540?

A Certificate of Completion is generally NOT the equivalent of graduating from high school. Because a Certificate of Completion is given to students who completed all of the required high school curriculum, but did not pass all of their high school exit exams, it is not the equivalent of a high school diploma. A Certificate of Completion is insufficient to gain admission to institutions in the Cal State or UC systems without also obtaining a GED. However, once a student receives his or her GED, the student may be eligible to attend the institution and to apply for the AB 540 exemption. However, some community colleges may accept the Certificate of Completion in lieu of a high school diploma to meet the AB 540 requirement. Please consult with the AB 540 counselor or admissions counselor at the college or university where you are applying for more information.

12. Do I qualify for any type of state or federal financial aid?

NO. Undocumented AB 540 students do not qualify for any type of state (e.g. BOG Fee Waiver at the community college, EOPS and Cal Grant) or federal (e.g. FAFSA, Pell, and SEOG) financial aid. Students may meet the financial requirements to receive these awards, but state and federal laws prohibit undocumented immigrant students from receiving any type of government-subsidized educational benefits. However, undocumented immigrant students may qualify for PRIVATE scholarships that do not require verification of legal immigration status. Students should visit www.maldef.org for a list of these types of awards. Undocumented immigrant students should also look into fundraising, savings, and other opportunities to supplement the cost of their education.

13. Where can I look for scholarships that do not require applicants to have legal immigration status?

MALDEF's website can provide you with an extensive list of scholarships that do not inquire into the applicant's immigration status or do not require the applicant to present a social security number to redeem the award. However, we recommend that you contact scholarship organizations directly and ask if you meet the criteria to receive the scholarship if you are selected. Please browse through the following websites for additional scholarship lists: www.chci.org/chciyouth/resources/2008-2009-Directory.pdf, http://latinocollegedollars.org/, www.scholarships.com, and www.scholarshiphelp.org. DO NOT pay anyone or any organization or company to apply for scholarships or for access to scholarship lists. Legitimate scholarships NEVER ask for an application fee. Beware of scholarship scams.

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14. Do I qualify for an educational loan as an undocumented student?

Undocumented students do not qualify for any type of federal or California state financial aid including educational loans because federal law prohibits them from receiving these loans. Students who are interested in financing their education with private loans should contact private lending institutions to determine their eligibility for these loans.

15. What will happen if I have already given the school a Social Security number that does not belong to me, or stated that I am a United States citizen or lawfully present immigrant and I am not?

If you are eligible to apply for AB 540 but have falsified information regarding your immigration status in the past with your college or university or any other state or federal agency, you should seek legal advice from a licensed immigration attorney. Falsely claiming to be a United States citizen or a legal permanent resident is considered immigration fraud and may cause you to be ineligible to legalize your immigration status if you become eligible to do so in the future. For a referral to a licensed immigration attorney call the State Bar of California at (866) 442-2529 or American Immigration Lawyers Association www.aila.org.

16. I am a student with a valid student visa. Am I eligible for the AB 540 tuition exemption?

NO. AB 540 is only available to United States citizens, legal permanent residents, and undocumented immigrant students who meet the eligibility requirements outlined under AB 540. AB 540 does not permit individuals with any type of nonimmigrant visas (which include student visas) to receive the AB 540 nonresident tuition exemption. Because individuals with student visas are classified as "nonimmigrant aliens" under United States immigration law, they cannot receive the AB 540 exemption.

However, nonimmigrants whose visas have expired – including those with expired student visas – are no longer classified as nonimmigrants under United States immigration law since their immigration status expired. If your nonimmigrant visa has expired and you are currently undocumented, you are eligible to apply for the AB 540 tuition exemption. Even though students with nonimmigrant visas cannot qualify for the AB 540 exemption, some nonimmigrants (not including those with student visas) may be able to establish California residency for tuition purposes. Students with valid nonimmigrant visas should consult with an admissions counselor or the residency deputy at the institution they are considering attending to find out if they meet the California resident criteria.

17. Does AB 540 change my immigration status?

NO. AB 540 only determines what tuition rate a student pays. It **DOES NOT** change your immigration status, and it **DOES NOT** create a path to legalize your immigration status. If you have questions about your ability to adjust your immigration status, please consult with a licensed immigration attorney. For a referral to a licensed immigration attorney, call the State Bar of California at (866) 442-2529 or American Immigration Lawyers Association www.aila.org.

18. Do I need to be in the legalization process to qualify for AB 540?

NO. Both students that are already in the process of adjusting their status and those that are not yet in the process of adjusting their status qualify to apply for the tuition exemption under AB 540. The affidavit that students must sign in order to receive the AB 540 exemption contains a provision requiring the student to swear or affirm that they will start the process to adjust their status as soon as they are eligible to do so.

³ As described in the language of AB 540, a nonimmigrant is defined in paragraph (15), subsection (a), Section 1101 of Title 8 of the United States Code. Visa holders in the following categories are considered "nonimmigrant aliens:" A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, and V.

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19. If I want to attend a graduate program or a professional school (e.g., law school), can I use the AB 540 exemption?

If you obtain admission to a graduate or professional program at a California public university and meet the requirements for AB 540, then you are eligible for the out-of-state tuition exemption. If you are interested in a particular graduate or professional program, please contact the admissions counselor of that program to ask about the program's specific admissions requirements. If you are denied admission and you believe it is because of your immigration status, please contact MALDEF.

For more information contact the

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund

634 S. Spring Street, 11th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90014 (213) 629-2512

www.maldef.org

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	Comments	California Community College	California State University	University of California	Private Schools
Application Deadline	Always check with the individual campus. Deadlines may vary.	There is no formal application deadline, however, you are encouraged to apply early in the final semester of your senior year.	November 30th is the deadline for Fall Admissions. Some campuses extend this deadline.	November 30th is the deadline for Fall Admissions. The University of California publishes specific guidelines on how AB 540 students should proceed with the application. Contact a college counselor or university representative for specific information.	"Early decision" or "Early action" take place in November. Regular admissions application deadlines typically takes place in January but can vary by campus.
Application Fee		None	\$55.00 per campus	\$60.00 per campus	Varies per campus but is often around \$55.
Fee Waiver	AB 540 student eligibility for fee waivers differs by each institution type.	N/A	Request to Waive Admissions Fee forms can be obtained online, from a university representative, or from a college counselor. Fee waiver eligibility is determined based on the online admissions application income criteria calculation and residency requirements.	income criteria calcula- tion and residency requirements. A UC fee waiver waives fees	Contact the respective campus. If you participated in the College Board's SAT® Program Fee-Waiver Service, you may also be eligible to waive application fees at the private colleges to which you're applying. Fee-waiver eligibility is determined on a case-by-case basis.
Admissions Requirements		Students must be 18 years old and/ or have a High School Diploma or GED. www.ccco.edu	www.csumentor.org	www.universityofcali- fornia.edu	www.aiccumentor.org www.commonapp.org
Required Documents and Residency Information		540-eligible as part of your application, and sign an AB 540 Affidavit/Non-Resident Tuition Exemption Form at the campus you will attend. College districts have the ability to accept self-certification via the AB 540	After being admitted, you will be required to complete and submit a AB540-CA Nonresident Tuition Exemption and CSU Residence Questionnaire to the campus that you will attend. You should contact a college counselor or university representative when filling this out. You will also need to provide official high school transcripts and/or community college transcripts	you will be required to turn in a Statement of Legal Residence	dents to pay in-state tuition at private institutions. Therefore, you may be identified as an international student and may have to pay international student fees.

	Comments		California State University	University of California	Private Schools
Admissions Notification	Each campus has its own timeline for notifying students of admission. Some campuses begin notifying applicants of an admission decision soon after the receipt of an application.	You are admitted once you file an admissions application.	The timeline for notifying students of admission varies.		The timeline for notifying students of admission varies. Ask about rolling admissions.
Scholarships	study (on- or off-campus), and various privately support- ed scholarships for outstand- ing students in particular fields. There are some schol-	inquire about scholar- ships available to stu-	campus you wish to attend or the campus		and universities award
AB 540 Point of Contact	Different offices may give you different information depending on their knowl- edge of AB 540 policies.	Admissions Office	Admissions Office		Talk to a trusted adult at any private college or university that you plan to attend, such as the school's Diversity/ Minority Recruiter.
Additional Comments	ask for a counselor who works on minority recruitment and retention. Then ask: How does your office process and evaluate undocumented students' applications? Does your college offer any financial aid for undocumented students (e.g., merit-based scholarships, need-based scholarships, scholarships specifically for undocumented students)? If so, how much do you provide? Is there an application process (e.g., interviews, letters of recommendation, etc.)? What is the timeline? How many apply and how many are awarded? What are the requirements to maintain the scholarship?	ate is eligible for admission to a community college. However, you do not have to have a high school diploma as long as you are over eighteen years of age and can benefit from instruction. High school students may be permitted to enroll for	Webpage citing	receive a letter from the "Central Processing Center" asking them to complete the residency questions on the application. STUDENTS SHOULD IGNORE THIS LETTER. However, this is not to be mistaken with the Statement of Legal Residence (SLR), which must be filled out. Is your current/most recent school a California college, or did you attend a	Students applying to private colleges/universities are often required to complete a CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE. Many colleges, universities, graduate and professional schools, and scholarship programs use the information collected in the PROFILE to help them award nonfederal student aid funds. Some private colleges and universities provide financial aid to undocumented students. See Comments column for more information.

<u>Section 4: Scholarship List</u> The following are scholarships open to students regardless of immigration status. You should contact each scholarship provider for current information.

Scholarship/ Fellowship	Deadline	Contact: Address, Website or	Award	Further
Program		Phone		Requirement
Scholarship for Prospective	01-Jan	www.pdkintl.org, (812) 339-	\$1,000-	Interest in Education
Educators		1156	\$5,000	
AAU Youth Excel Program	07-Jan	www.aausports.org	\$2,000	High School Senior
Scholarship Amateur Athletic				
Discover Card Tribute Award	09-Jan	www.aasa.org/awards	\$2,500	High School Senior
Film & Fiction Scholarship	15-Jan	his@gmu.ed	\$3,000	College Student
Scholarship for Prospective Educators	15-Jan	www.pdkintl.org	\$1,000	HS/College Student
Society of Plastic Engineers	15-Jan	www.4spe.org	\$1,000-	HS/College Student
Scholarship Grants			\$4,000	
Adeline Rosenberg Memorial Prize	15-Jan	www.fcsymphony.org	\$2,000	HS/College Student
SPIE Ed. Scholarship in Optical Science and Engineering	31-Jan	www.spie.org/info/scholarships	\$1,000	HS/College Student Must be a member
William Kappel International Piano Competition	01-Feb	(301) 405-ARTS	\$1,000	HS/College Student
CollegeNET Scholarship Search Engine	01-Feb	www.collegenet.com	Varies	Varies
BMI Student Composer Award	01-Feb	www.bmi.org	\$1,000	HS/College Student
ISA Scholarship Program	01-Feb	www.isa.org	\$1,000	College Student
Roothbert Fund, Inc. Grants and Fellowships	02-Feb	www.roothbertfund.org	\$2,000- \$3,000	HS/College Student
Best Teen Chef Culinary	14-Feb	www.aii.edu	\$2,000	High School Senior
National Portfolio Review Competition	14-Feb	www.aii.edu	\$2,000	High School Student
Worldstudio Foundation Scholarship Program	14-Feb	www.worldstudio.org	\$1,000	HS/College Student
The D.A. Weber Scholarship Fund	15-Feb	www.cta.org, (650) 697-1400	\$2,000	Visit website for info
Helenic Times Scholarship	15-Feb	www.htsfund.org	\$1,000	HS/College Student
Academy of Motion Pictures Students Academy Awards	15-Feb	www.oscars.org/saa	\$2,000	HS/College Student
Society of Physics Students Scholarships, Grants and Internships	15-Feb	www.spsnational.org	\$1,000	College & Member
Wally David Legal Memorial Scholarship Fund	16-Feb	(949) 553-4202	\$1,000	Call for additional information
Youth Opportunities Foundation Scholarship	28-Feb	P.O Box 45762 Los Angeles, CA 90045, (310) 670-7664	varies	Call for additional information

Scholarship/ Fellowship Program	Deadline	Contact: Address, Website or Phone	Award	Further Requirement
Mable & Lawrence S. Cooke Scholarship	28-Feb	www.scouting.org/nesa/scholar (972) 580-2034	Varies	Eagle Scout Member
Barbara Wiedner and Dorothy Vandercook Peace Scholar.	01-Mar	16335 Patricia Way, Grass Valley, CA 95949 (530) 273- 6018	\$250-\$500	Call for additional information
Executive Women International Scholarship Program	01-Mar	www.executivewomen.org	\$1,000	High School Student
VM Ball Program	01-Mar	afe@endowment.org	\$3,000	HS/College Student
Japanese American Citizen League Entering Awards	01-Mar	www.jacl.org, (415) 921-5225	\$1,000.00	HS Japanese Student
National Association of Pastorial Musicians Scholarship	05-Mar	npmsing@npm.org	\$2,000	HS/College Student
OFA National Scholarship Casey Family Awards	15-Apr	www.orphan.org	\$2,000	HS/College Student
Glenn Miller International Scholarship Search Engine	15-Mar	www.glennmiller.org	Varies	HS Sr. & College Fresh.
Donna Reed Performing Arts Schlolarships and Internships	15-Mar	www.donnareed.org	\$1,000	HS Arts Student
United Agribusiness League Scholarship Program	29-Mar	www.ual.org	\$1,000- \$5,000	HS/College Student
Mervyn's Local Hero Scholarship	30-Mar	www.scholarshipamerica.org	\$1,000- \$10,000	Visit local Mervyn's store/ High School Sr.
National Association of Minority Engineers National Fund	30-Mar	www.namepa.org	\$1,000	HS/College Student
Princess Grace Scholarships, Grants, and Fellowships	31-Mar	www.pgfusa.com	\$5,000	HS/College Student
National Federation of the Blind Scholarships	31-Mar	www.nfb.org, (641) 236-3366	\$3,000	For Blind Students Only
MANA: A National Latina Organization	01-Apr	www.hermana.org, (202) 833- 0060	DC trip / varies	Visit website for additional info
A.W. Bodine-Sunkist Memorial Scholarship	01-Apr	P.O. Box 7888, Van Nuys, CA 91409	\$2,000	Minimum 3.0 G.P.A
Ramona's Mexican Food Products Scholarships	01-Apr	13633 South Western Avenue, Gardena CA 90249, (310) 323- 1950	\$10,000	E.L.A.High School student
The Fountainhead Essay Contest	01-Apr	P.O.Box 57044 Irvine, CA 92619, (949) 222-6550	\$500- \$5,000	11-12th grade student
Yoshiyama Award for Exemplary Service to the Community	01-Apr	www.grantee.hitachi.org, (202) 457-0458	\$5,000	Student must be nominated

Scholarship/ Fellowship Program	Deadline	Contact: Address, Website or Phone	Award	Further Requirement
A. Patrick Charnon Memorial Scholarship	01-Apr	P.O. Box 208, San Francisco, CA 94104, www.cesresources.org	\$1,500	Full-time undergraduate
Armenian Relief Society Undergrad Scholarship	01-Apr	www.arseastus.org	\$13,000	HS/College Student
Third Wave Foundation Scholarships and Fellowships	01-Apr	www.thirdwavefoundation.org	\$2,000	Women only
TELACU Engineering Award	05-Apr	malvarado@telacu.com	\$2,000	11-12th grade student
Signet Classic Student Scholarship Essay Contest	15-Apr	375 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014	\$1,000	Essay Contest
Fountainhead College Scholarship Essay Contest	15-Apr	essay@ayrnrand.org	\$3,000	Visit website for additional info
National Minority Jr. Golf Scholarship	15-Apr	www.nmjgsa.org	\$1,000	HS/College Student
Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Scholarship Data base	15-Apr	www.chciyouth.org, (210) 692- 1971	\$1,500- \$5,000	HS/College Student
Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity: Tau Chapter Scholarship	18-Apr	www.tauchapter.com	\$500	Will attend CSU Dominquez Hills
MEChA de UC Riverside Alumni Scholarship	18-Apr	Mechapublicityucr@yahoo.com Alejandro, (909) 787-3821	\$300	Will attend UC Riverside
Service Leadership Award	19-Apr	1465 E. 103rd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90002, (323) 564- 7911	\$2,000	High School Senior
International Music Competition of ARD Munich	20-Apr	www.ard-musikwetbewerb.de	\$5,000	College Student of 20- 24yrs. of age
National Sculpture Society Scholarship	30-Apr	www.nationalsculpture.org	\$1,000	Visit website for additional info
UCLA Latino Alumni Association Scholarship	01-May	Isidro "Skid" Rodriguez, (310) 825-2420	\$1,000	Will attend UC Los Angeles
NAAS-USA Awards	01-May	www.naas.org	\$1,000	High School Student
BEEM Foundation Scholarships	02-May	http://beemfoundation.org	\$1,000	HS/College Student
Boys & Girls Clubs of America	15-May	1230 W. Peachtree St. NW,	\$1,500	High School Student
National Youth of the Year		Atlanta, GA 30309		
Foundation Research & Education Undergrad Merit	30-May	www.ahma.org	\$1,000	HS/College Student
Automotive Hall of Fame Scholarship	30-May	21400 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn, Michigan 48121, (313) 240-4000	varies	Interest in the Automotive Career
Swackhamer Peace Essay Contest	01-Jun	www.wagingpeace.org, (805) 965-3443	\$500- \$1,500	Visit website for additional info
IFMA Foundation Scholarship	13-Jun	www.IFMA.org	\$1,000	HS/College Student

Scholarship/ Fellowship	Deadline	Contact: Address, Website or	Award	Further
Program	20. 1	Phone	φ 500	Requirement Latin American Student
Salvadoran-American	30-Jun	1625 W. Olympic Blvd., Ste.	\$500- \$2,500	Latin 7 merican Student
Leadership & Educational Fund		718, Los Angeles, CA 90015 (213) 480-1052 www.salef.org	\$2,300	
O : W : C F	01.1.1		¢1.000	250 word essay
Organic Way to Grow Essay Contest	01-Jul	www.mambosprouts.com	\$1,000	230 word essay
Rotary Foundation Cultural	01-Jul	www.rotary.org	\$12,000	College JR.
Ambassadorial Scholarship			, ,	
Mexican American Grocers'	31-Jul	www.maga.org, (323) 227-1565	\$250-	Latino College
Association		405 San Fernando Rd., Los	\$1,000	Sophomore
		Angeles, CA 90031	ŕ	
Golden State Minority	01-Aug	1055 Wilshire Blvd. Ste 115 Los	\$5,000	11-12th grade student
Foundation		Angeles, CA 90017	·	
Ellen & Federico Jimenez	15-Sep	634 S. Spring St. Los Angeles,	\$2,000	Community or Cal State
Scholarship		CA 90034, (213) 629-2512 x.		student
_		157		
Atlas Essay Competition	16-Sep	www.aynrand.org/contests	\$1,000	College Student
Prudential Spirit of Community	31-Oct	www.prudential.com, (888) 450-	\$1,000-	Must write an Essay
Award		9961	\$6,000	
SAMMY Award	01-Nov	www.whymilk.com	\$500	High School Athlete
San Jose Mercury News	01-Nov	750 Ridder Park Road, San Jose,	\$500	Must write an Essay
Scholarship		CA 95190, (408) 271-3689		
Guidepost Young Writer's	15-Nov	www.guidepost.com	\$1,000	HS Jr.& Sr.
Program				
Intel Science Talent Search	01-Dec	www.discovery.com/dysc	\$5,000	High School Student
Gina Barchauer International	01-Dec	www.bachauer.com/home.asp	\$4,000	HS/College Student
Artists Piano Competition				
ASSE UPS Scholarship	01-Dec	(847) 699-2929	\$3,000	College Jr. & Sr.
Contemporary Record Society	10-Dec	http://users.erols.com/crsnews	\$1,500	Visit website for additional info
National Perform Artists				
National Competition of	10-Dec	(610) 544-5920	\$1,000	HS/College Student
Composer Recordings				
IACP Foundation Culinary	15-Dec	www.iacpfoundation.org	\$1,000	High School Student
Scholarship				110/0 11 0 1
Worldfest Student Film Awards	15-Dec	www.worldfest.org	\$1,000	HS/College Student
Knight Essay Contest SAR	28-Dec	www.sar.org	\$1,000	HS/College Student
National Association of Black	31-Dec	www.nabainc.org	\$1,000	African descent Student
Accountants National Scholar.			44.000	LIC/C-11- Ct 1
L. Ron Hubbard's Future	Quarterly	www.writersofthefuture.com	\$1,000	HS/College Student
Illustrators Contest			#4.000	IIC/College Ctr. Jan.
L. Ron Hubbard's Future	Quarterly	www.writersofthefuture.com	\$1,000	HS/College Student
Writers	3.7.4		447.000	Students of A 20 22
San Antonio International Piano	N/A	www.saipc.org	\$15,000	Students of Ages 20-32
Competition				

Scholarship/ Fellowship	Deadline	Contact: Address, Website or	Award	Further
Program		Phone		Requirement
Harold F. Wilkins Scholarship Program	N/A	afe@endowment.org	\$1,000	HS/College Student
Joel Garcia Memorial Scholarship	N/A	3800 S. Figueroa St., L.A. 90037, (213) 740-5263	\$500- \$2,000	Interest in Journalism
Chicana/Latina Foundation	N/A	www.chicanalatina.org/resource s	N/A	Call for additional information
Concerned Media Prof.'s. Tony Villegas Scholarship	N/A	P.O. Box 44034, Tucson AZ 85733	N/A	Request an application by Mail
Adolescence and Youth Undergraduate Research Award	N/A	www.radcliffe.edu/murray/grant s/index.htm, 9617) 495-8140	\$1,000	College Student
Hispanic Scholarship Fund	N/A	55 Second St., Ste 1500, San Francisco, CA 94105, 1-877- HSF-INFO, www.hsf.net	\$1,000- \$2,500	H.S. Seniors
Migrant Farmworker Scholarships	N/A	www.migrant.net, 1-800-245- 5681	\$500- \$2,500	Visit website for additional info
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation	N/A	1187 Coast Cillage Rd, Ste 1 Santa Barbara, CA 93108, (805) 965-3443	\$200- \$1,500	Poetry & Essay Contest
PFLAG-HATCH Youth Scholarship Program	N/A	www.pflag.org, (202) 467-8180	varies	LGBT Student
Poetry Contest Scholarship	N/A	www.poetry.com, (410) 356- 2000	\$100- \$10,000	Visit website for additional info
Comisión Femenil Scholarship	N/A	Attn: Ana Gonzalez, P.O Box 86013, Los Angeles, CA 90086	\$1,000- \$1,500	Female of Latino descent
Lambda Theta Nu Sorority Inc., Latina Scholarship Award	N/A	1220 Rosecrans Av. #543, San Diego, CA 92106 www.lambdathetanu.org	\$200- \$1,000	Female of Latino descent
Latin American Professional Women's Foundation	N/A	P.O. Box 31532 Los Angeles, CA 90031	\$500	Female of Latino descent
Estrada Scholarship Fund	N/A	Woodrow Wilson High School, (323) 223-1133	\$500 +	Woodrow Wilson High Student
Muniz Family Scholarship	N/A	Ramon Muniz, (818) 677-2351	\$1,000	Will attend CSU Northridge
TELACU Education Foundation	N/A	5400 East Olympic Blvd., Ste 300 Los Angeles CA 90022	\$500- \$2,500	Multiple Scholarships Available
Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce Award	N/A	www.lajcc.org, (213) 482-1311	\$2,000	Scholar Athlete Student
Scholastic Art & Writing Awards	N/A	www.scholastic.com	\$100- \$5,000	7-12th grade student
Minority Scholarship	N/A	The Modesto Bee, P.O. Box 3928 Modesto, CA 95352, (209) 578-2091	\$500	High School Senior