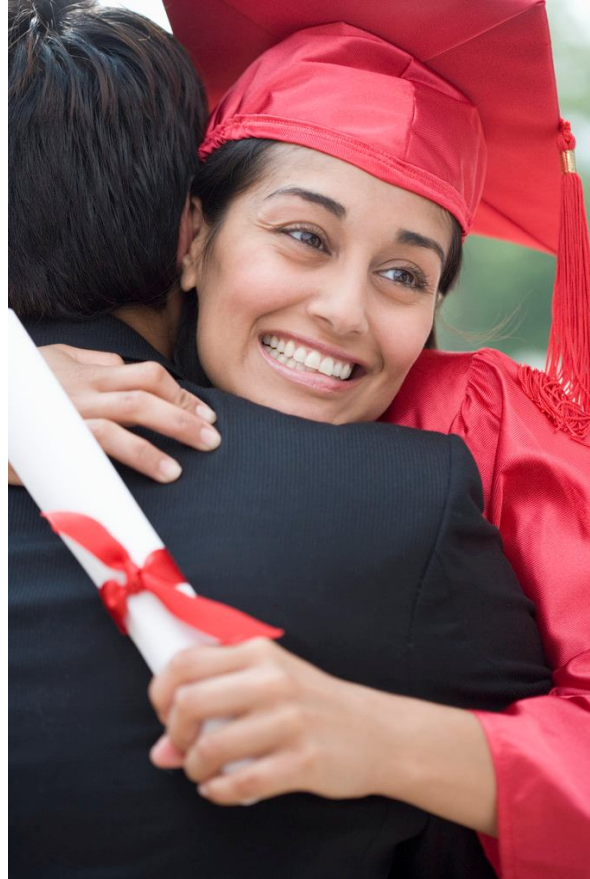


PURSUIING HIGHER EDUCATION



Undocumented Student Resource Guide

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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.

If I am undocumented, can I go to college?

YES!



- ✓ **You can go to any college or university in California, if you meet the admissions requirements.**
- ✓ **You cannot be denied admission based on your immigration status to any state schools.**

California State Law Assisting Undocumented Students

- 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.

What is AB-540?

- Any student, except a person in non-immigrant status, who meets the specific **requirements**, shall be exempt from paying nonresident tuition at all public colleges and universities in California.

- AB-540 only provides in-state tuition cost vs out-of state tuition for those who qualify, but **does not** provide any state or federal aid eligibility.

What does Non-Immigrant mean?

- Students with current nonimmigrant visas are not eligible for this tuition exemption (exp. Tourist (F Visa) or student (B Visa)).
- A student whose visa has expired and is now “out of status,” will be eligible for in-state tuition fees if they meet their state undocumented stated requirements.
- Students categorized as AB 540 (undocumented) will not be classified as California residents.
- A student with “any” legal status is **not** considered undocumented.

AB540: The Facts

- AB540 does not apply to private colleges or universities, unless they decide to abide the set requirements.
- AB540 does not grant legal residency to qualifying students.
- AB540 does not grant state or federal financial aid.
- AB540 only provides an exemption to the requirements of paying nonresident tuition for students who qualify.

What are the AB - 540 requirements?

- Student must have attended a high school in California for three years or more.
- Student must have graduated from a California High School or attained the equivalent of a high school diploma (i.e. Passed the GED or CA High School Proficiency Exam).
- Student must register or be currently enrolled in one of the three state institutions of higher learning (UC, CSU, Community Colleges).
- Student without Immigration status must file an affidavit with the public college or university stating that he or she has applied to legalize his or her legal status or will do so as soon as he or she is eligible to do so. (Some private schools may also require this, not enforced)
- All information provided
- by the student will be kept confidential by the college or university.

What is the Affidavit?

- The affidavit states that the student will adjust their status, as soon as they are eligible to do so.
- The affidavit is required by example at end of document law by the public college where the students will be attending.

- Students are not required to submit a new affidavit when there is continuous enrollment.
- The information on the affidavit is kept confidential, as required by law.

*** A copy of the affidavit is available at the end of this document.*

If I am undocumented, can I apply for financial aid?



- As an undocumented student, you do not qualify for state or federal financial aid.
- Speak to your counselor about scholarships and private grants.
- If a student filed an application with INS and is in the process of obtaining residency, he/she may be eligible for resident fee status and may also be eligible to receive state financial aid. Please speak to an attorney for further details.



HOW CAN I PAY FOR COLLEGE?

- Use creative ways to fundraise (i.e. raffles, donations, etc!)
- Apply for scholarships that do not require U.S. citizenship or residency.
- Evaluate your personal situation and make decisions based on your needs.
- Use technology to your advantage.....Myspace/Facebook and ask for donations.
- **Utilizing any public benefits while undocumented can be deemed grounds for automatic deportation the day you are able to fix your Immigration status (i.e. making up a SS# to access grants; it's considered a federal crime! Don't do it!)**
- **A TIN # (Tax Identification Number) is not a Social Security Number. Should never be used for college admission.**

Types of Financial Aid

- Grants & Scholarships (don't need to pay back)
- Work-study (job opportunity to earn money)...open to those who qualify for federal aid.
- Loans (money borrowed that *must* be repaid)
- Undocumented students can borrow money but will require a legal co-signer with a credit line to borrow funds. May want to shop around and ask questions first.

Scholarship Tips for Undocumented/AB540 Students

- Scholarship providers have their own eligibility requirements. Make sure to obtain current information by contacting each provider directly.
- Scholarship funds are limited and many are only offered on a one-time basis. You must continue applying as time goes on.
- Begin looking for scholarships as early as possible. Search within your school, school district and local community first, then expand from there.
- Find creative ways to fund your education (i.e. ask family members, teachers, local business or large companies for donations.)
- Network! Get to know AB 540 student groups, community supporters, and college organizations or groups that can help you. Get connected!!!
- Don't be afraid to ask questions!
- Do research!!!
- Help others and spread knowledge.
- Document your findings.

FINDING THE \$\$\$\$ FOR COLLEGE!!!

IF YOU HAVE NO SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU CAN DO TO FIND MONEY FOR COLLEGE

- Find out if it's possible for you to get a Social Security number. The nearest office is Suite 200, 2121 Broadway, Redwood City 94063. The phone number is 1-800-772-1213. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You may also contact your local consulate for assistance.
- Familiarize yourself with AB-540 or your local state laws.
- Consider private schools...they are more likely to offer money to qualified candidates
- Think about where you're going to college; talk with our contacts at that college (this is why you should always collect business cards! Follow through.)
- Ask counselors at fairs about and other schools or contacts they may have.
- Check scholarship lists for any scholarships that do not require legal residency or citizenship (i.e. www.fastweb.com or www.latinocollegedollars.org).
- You can also attempt some scholarships that require SS # making your status very clear to the committee, you may be surprised with the outcome.
- Get to know your high school counselor early! Let them know how they can help you. Visit them often and collect all scholarships available to you.
- Think about individuals you might ask to sponsor or support you in college. This may include relatives, friends, neighbors, or the employers of your parents. If you need help writing a formal letter requesting help, ask! Writing skills will become indispensable! Hence...AP, IB, Honors English.
- Consider ways you might earn money that do not require a S.S. # (i.e. tutoring, yard work, babysitting, etc.)
- If you have the possibility, live at home, this will save you housing costs!

What is the process of applying for college for undocumented students?

- Talk to your college counselor as early as possible to receive all the information you need about planning for college including college applications, entrance exams, fee waivers, cost of attendance, and available resources for undocumented students.
- Talk to AB540 College students to get advice about applying to and attending college.
- Research scholarships and other methods to pay for college.
- Know that you have a right to higher education and it is going to take much work and dedication on your part. You can do it!
- Be open-minded and realistic with yourself. Life can take many turns, the point is to get there. If one doors closes, you must to open two!

California Four Systems of Higher Education

- Community Colleges...least expensive!
- California State University...can vary
- University of California...can vary
- Private Colleges & Universities...can vary

Cost of Attendance in California Colleges and Universities:

California Community College

In-state: \$26/ unit Out-of-state: \$170/ unit

California State University

In-state: \$2,860/ year Out-of-state: \$12,946/ year

University of California

In-state: \$5,530/ year Out-of-state: \$19,740/ year

Private

In and out-of-state: \$\$\$

**Footnote: All will be more expensive with housing

Each system has its own requirements, such as

- A-G requirements
- Entrance Exams (SAT, ACT)
- GPA
- Applications deadlines
- Personal essays

- Letters of Recommendation
- Extra curricular activities

Create your own educational plan!

“Undocumented students need to be wise, stay motivated, be resilient, and persevere. Be future-oriented and believe that everything will be okay. It’s just a matter of time.”
 –Undocumented College Student

Colleges to Consider:

Private institutions that historically have offered aid:

Bryn Mawr College	Mount St. Mary’s College	University of Puget Sound
Claremont McKenna College	National Hispanic University	YALE
Dartmouth College	North Western College	
Fresno Pacific University	Princeton Occidental College	
George Mason University	Santa Clara University	
Harvard University	Stanford University	

***Note: Institutional policies always change, please contact minority or outreach counselors individually for more information*

Useful Websites:

- | | |
|--|---|
| www.ucop.edu | www.usc.edu/dept/chepa |
| www.csumentor.edu | www.sen.ca.gov/cedillo |
| www.laccd.edu | www.icirr.org |
| www.cccco.edu | www.lulac.org |
| www.salef.org | www.chirla.org |
| www.maldef.org | www.nilc.org |
| www.ilcha.com | www.pewhispanic.org |
| www.ilrc.org | www.illinoishome.org |
| www.salef.org | www.trip.org |
| www.e4fc.org | http://dsa.csupomona.edu/AB540 |
| www.opcioncanada.com | |

EDUCATE YOURSELF: CURRENT LAWS/ISSUES AFFECTING UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

Federal Development, Relief, and Education for “Alien” Minors Act (DREAM Act) (2003-2004)

IF SIGNED INTO LAW: would grant “qualified” immigrant students the opportunity to obtain legal status and thus enable them to pursue higher education and contribute fully to the nation.

***Requirements to qualify:**

- Student **MUST** have lived in the U.S. for five years or more
- Student **MUST** be a high school graduate
- Student **MUST** have “good moral” conduct
- Student **MUST** attend a minimum of two years of college.

**Please visit <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d108:s.01545>: to obtain more information about this law.*

*For a full list of state policies please visit www.nilc.org

States that Permit Undocumented Students to pay In-State Tuition:

In recent years, 9 states—Texas, California, New York, Utah, Illinois, Washington, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Kansas—have passed laws that permit undocumented students to pay in-state tuition rates under certain conditions.

For example, California’s law requires the undocumented students to have attended a state high school for three or more years, to have graduated from a state high school, and to sign an affidavit promising to file an application to legalize his immigration status. Counselors in and of these states should familiarize themselves with that state’s specific prerequisites.

<u>State</u>	<u>Law/Bill</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Law/Bill</u>
Texas	HB 1403	Illinois	HB 60
California	AB 540	Kansas	HB 2145
Utah	HB 144	New Mexico	SB 909
Washington	HB 1079	Nebraska	LB 152
New York	SB 7784		

States that DO NOT Support Undocumented Students

Arizona, Oklahoma, Colorado, Georgia, and South Carolina

Some Facts:

North Carolina's community colleges in May ordered its 58 campuses to stop enrolling illegal students after the state attorney general said admitting them may violate federal law.

This fall, the University of Arkansas will require students to submit Social Security numbers and proof of residency.

Georgia, which barred illegal students from in-state tuition rates in 2006, enacted laws in May preventing them from receiving state scholarships and certain student loans

Other States that Have Proposed Legislation to Support Undocumented Students:

<u>State</u>	<u>Proposed Bill</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Proposed Bill</u>
Connecticut	HB 6793 (2005)	Missouri	SB 296 (2005)
North Carolina	HB 1183 (2005)	New Jersey	SB 78 (2005)
Oregon	SB 769 (2005)	Rhode Island	HB 6184 (2005)

CA DREAM ACT: SB 65 reintroduced as SB 1301

SB 1301 was introduced in February 20, 2008 by Senator Cedillo. It was introduced to address institutional financial aid eligibility.

This bill would require the Trustees of the California State University and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, and request the Regents of the University of California, to establish procedures and forms that enable persons who exempt from paying nonresident tuition under that provision, or who meet equivalent requirements adopted by the regents, to be eligible to receive institutional financial aid as financial assistance offered by a campus of the California Community Colleges, California State University, or University of California, including grant, scholarship, work study, and loan programs.

The bill would declare provisions to the extent the federal law permits.

Current Bill Status: SB 1301

- House location: State Senate
- Last amended date: May 6, 2008
- Still Active (as of July 3, 2008)
- Majority vote required to become a law

SB 1301 represents the most recent legislative effort to provide undocumented students with financial aid resources in the state of California. Please keep yourself updated!

AB-540

Any student, except a person in non-immigrant status, who meets the specific **requirements**, shall be exempt from paying nonresident tuition at all public colleges and universities in California.

AB-540 only provides an exemption to the requirement to pay nonresident tuition, but **does not** provide any state or federal aid eligibility. (Please read details previously addressed in this document)

***Policies are constantly changing and current laws are always being challenged. Please do your research!**

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!



- You cannot be denied admission to a public California college or university based on your immigration status.
- You are not required to show a state issued ID or social security card to apply for admissions to a California college or university.
- You are not required to pay out-of state, international, capital outlay, or penalty fees (which may be charged to out-of-state students) to enroll at a public California college or university, if you qualify for AB 540.
- You are not required to show proof of either 1) legal residency status or 2) be in process to obtain legal residency status to any department.

***CAUTION:** Some colleges/university staff may be unaware of the AB 540 Law or may interpret the law incorrectly. If you feel that you have been discriminated against because of your residency status or because you have filed an AB 540 Affidavit, contact the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education (MALDEF) at 213-629-2512, for assistance.

TAKE ACTION!!!



WRITE TO OR CALL YOUR SENATORS AND LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES...

Senator Barbara Boxer (CA)
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202)224-3553
www.boxer.senate.gov/contact

Senator Diane Feinstein (CA)
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3841
www.feinstein.senate.gov/email.html

Authors and Co-Authors of CA DREAM ACT SB 1301

Senators

- **Cedillo** (916) 651-4022
- **Calderon** (916) 651-4030
- **Ducheny** (916) 651-4040
- **Kuehl** (916) 651-4023
- **Padilla** (916) 651-4020
- **Perata** (916) 651-4009
- **Romero** (916) 651-4024
- **Steinberg** (916) 651-4006
- **Wiggins** (916) 651-4002
- **Yee** (916)651-4008

Assembly Members

- **De Leon** (916) 319-2045
- **Lieber** (916) 319-2022
- **Browley** (916) 319-2041
- **Coto** (916) 319-2023
- **Eng** (916) 319-2049
- **Fuentes** (916) 319-2039
- **Furutani** (916) 319-2055
- **Jones** (916) 319-2009
- **Mendoza** (916) 319-2056
- **Parra** (916) 319- 2030
- **Soto** (916) 319-2061

*** A sample support letter to send to representatives is attached at the end of this document.*

Now that I know, I am undocumented, what can I do to go to college and learn more about my rights?

- Get involved!
- There are many organizations that are working to pass legislation and advocate on behalf of students. (i.e. DREAM ACT, California DREAM ACT, RISE, ORANGE COUNTY DREAM TEAM, SAHE, etc.)
- Create your own AB540 Student group in your school if one does not already exist.

Other Student Organizations to Know of and Contact:

- Orange County Dream Team
 - West Valley CC Puente Program
 - UCSC Transfer Partnerships Program
 - E4FC
 - Diablo Valley College - Dream Club
 - Latinas for Change
 - Jovenes Inmigrantes por Un Futuro Mejor
 - MAIZ
 - UC Berkeley – RISE
 - DEPIE Cal Poly Pomona
 - http://www.dsa.csupomona.edu/ab540/files/AB540_FACT_SHEET_2_3383.pdf
 - Evergreen Community College (Enlace, MEChA, ESA)
- | |
|------------------------------------|
| ASEE CSU Fullerton |
| De Anza C.C. LEAD Program |
| National Hispanic University LULAC |
| SCU DREAMS |
| UCLA-IDEAS |
| SJSU – SAHE |
| Canada College - MESA |

** Many more student groups may exist so please ask questions.*

Historically: Friendly Organizations to AB 540 Students

- ✓ American GI Forum of San Jose
- ✓ Bar Association of San Francisco
- ✓ The Beca Foundation
- ✓ California Chicano News Media Association
- ✓ Chabot-Las Positas College
- ✓ Chicana/Latina Foundation
- ✓ Chicano/Latina Faculty and Staff Association
- ✓ Coalition for Nursing Careers
- ✓ Hispanic Engineering National Achievement Awards Conference (HENAAC)
- ✓ La Raza Lawyers of Santa Clara County
- ✓ Lambda Theta Nu Sorority, Incorporated
- ✓ Latina Leadership Network of the California Community Colleges
- ✓ Latina Medical Student Association
- ✓ Mexican America Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF)
- ✓ Peninsula College Fund
- ✓ Orange County Community Foundation – Hispanic Education Endowment Fund (HEEF)
- ✓ Salvadoran American Leadership Educational Fund (SALEF)
- ✓ San Joaquin Delta College
- ✓ Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Foundation
- ✓ TELACU Education Foundation

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING AB 540 STUDENTS

CHIRLA

(Coalition for Human Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles)
2533 W. 3rd St. Suite 101
Los Angeles, CA 90057
(213) 353-1333
www.chirla.org

SALEF

(Salvadoran American Leadership & Educational Fund)
1625 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 718
Los Angeles, CA 90015
(213) 480-1052

Mexican American Legal Defense Center (MALDEF)

www.maldef.org

Mini-Corps Program

The Mini-Corps Program provides tutoring to migratory students to give them the academic and social support they need to succeed in their course work and stay in school. The tutors come from a migrant family background and are full-time college students who are pursuing teaching credentials. Mini-Corps tutors work with migratory students during the school year and summer school as role models to strengthen the relationships among students, teachers, family members, and members of the community.

Maria Avila, Director
510 Bercut Drive, Suite Q
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-446-4603
Fax: 916-446-9271
mavila@bcoe.butte.k12.ca.us

Harvest of Hope Foundation

The Harvest of Hope Foundation was established in 1997 to raise funds exclusively for migrant farm worker individuals and families.

CARECEN

(Central American Resource Center)
2845 W. 7th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90005
(213) 385-7800
www.carecen-la.org

Korean Resource Center

900 S. Crenshaw Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90019
(213) 937-3718
www.krcla.org

Immigrant Legal Resource Center

(ILRC)
www.ilrc.org

Harvest of Hope Foundation

The Harvest of Hope Foundation was established in 1997 to raise funds exclusively for migrant farm worker individuals and families.

IME BECAS

A scholarship program that works in partnership with community-based organizations that assist Mexicans living in the U.S. The scholarships are targeted for adult Mexicans who want to further their education here in the U.S.

<http://www.imebecas.org/>

APALC

(Asian Pacific American Legal Center)
1145 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 977-7500
www.apalc.org

Bernardo Ruiz

Migrant Education Advisor
Healdsburg High School
(707) 431-3420
<http://www.hhs.husd.com>

NAKASEC

(National Korean American Service & Education Consortium)
 900 S. Crenshaw Blvd.
 Los Angeles, CA 90019
 (323) 937-3703
www.nakasec.org

Path to Scholarships

June McBride
 (407) 877-9630
mcbridejune@msn.com
Needcollegemoney.com

For the past twelve years June has been working with Migrant Education, Title 1 with migrant high school students as a counselor/resource teacher in Florida. She has been traveling throughout the U.S. for the past six years (while working full time with Migrant Ed.) spreading the news that there is hope for all students to achieve post-secondary education.

APPLY, APPLY, APPLY!!!!!!**SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITES**

www.usc.edu/student-affairs/MAAA-Web/	http://honors.csufresno.edu/
www.nhra.com	www.finaid.org
www.ilache.com	www.hispanicscholarships.org
www.maldef.org	www.wiredscholar.com/
www.granmothersforpeace.org	www.collegeispossible.com
www.migrant.net	www.collegenet.com/
www.scholastic.com/artandwriting/ howen!_ter.asp	www.petersons.com/ugchannel/
www.collegescholarships.com/	www.embarc.com/faid.asp
www.artsed411.org/evaa.html	www.freschinfo.com
www.telacu.com/english/graphic_version/application_form/index.asp	www.nasfaa.org/
www.collegeview.com	www.salliemae.com
www.sscnet.ucla.edu/chavez/	www.scholaraid.com
www.hispanicscholarships.org	www.scholarships101.com
www.chicanalatina.org	www.srnexpress.com
www.hermana.org	www.studentrewards.com
www.contracosta.cc.ca.us/foundation/scholarships.html	www.wilsonfund.org/
www.peninsulacollegefund.org	www.kff.org/docs/fellowships/
www.dhr.state.md.us/hispanic/hispano.pdf	www.kodak.com/
www.maqa.org	www.ssrc.org/
www.ccnma.org	www.tsf.org/
www.nahj.org	www.apa.org/mfp
www.shpefoundation.org	www.jackierobinson.org/
www.lambdathetanu.org!	<http://www.microsoft.com/college/>scholarship.htm
www.usc.edu/student-affairs/	http://studentaffairs.csufresno.edu/scholarships/
www.cawq.org	www.nebhe.org/
www.law.harvard.edu	www.aauw.org/3000/fdnfelgra.html#j2
http://automotivehalloffame.org	www.awic-dc.org/
www.salef.org	www.research.att.com/academic/urp.html

www.csac.ca.gov	www.radcliffe.edu/
www.ctc.ca.gov	www.bpwusa.org/
www.estudentloan.com	www.cuinfo.cornell.edu/
www.calteach.com	www.wrei.org/fellowships/
www.AFSA.com http://www.afsa.com/	www.ncsu.edu/careerkey
www.college-scholarships.com	www.ceresources.org
www.hsf.net	www.automotivehalloffame.org
www.blackexcel.org	www.educationisfreedom.org/
www.chelafinancial.com	www.math.jmu.edu/csems/Minority Scholarship Gateway List
www.fastweb.com	www.ronbrown.org
www.fastaid.com	http://advocacy-net.com/scholarmks.htm
www.nysfaaa.org/student/scholars.htm	www.truman.gov
www.theoldschool.org	www.chciyouth.org
www.winscholarships.com	www.aspira.org/Scholarships.html
www.ed.gov/offices/osfap/students	www.marine-scholars.org
www.absolutelyscholarships.com	www.mcdonalds.com/countries/usa/
www.scholarships.com	www.uncf.org/merck/program.htm
www.freescholarships.com	http://ppia.aed.org/index.html
www.jackituckfield.org/	www.ahcpr.gov/fund/minortrg.htm
www.iesabroad.org/info/hbcu.htm	www.alpfa.org/
www.beanactuary.org/minority/scholarships.htm	www.aqiweb.org/
www.maef.org/	www.aicpa.org/
www.iefafa.org	www.bms.com/aboutbms/fellow/data
www.bkscholars.csfa.org/	www.xerox.com
www.siemens-foundation.org/	http://scholarship.tylenol.com http://scholarship.tylenol.com/
www.lulac.org/Programs/Scholar.html	www2.coca-cola.com/citizenship/education_scholarsfoundation.html
www.aflcio.org/scholarships/scholar_.htm	www.paralegals.org/Choice/2000west.htm
www.fedmoney.org/	www.statefarm.com/foundati/awards.htm
www.blackexcel.org/25scholarships.htm	http://trc.dfrnc.nasa.gov/
www.efg.net/	http://ugsp...nih.gov/
www.back2college.com/	http://scholarships.kachinatech.com/scholars.html
www.sit.edu/	www.astronautscholarship.org
http://ccmi.uchicago.edu/schl1.html	www.uncf.org
www.inroads.org/	www.xensei.com/users/adl
www.naacp.org/work/actso/act-so.shtml	www.rotary.org/foundation/educational/
www.baef.org	www.ed.gov/inits/hope/
www.sciencenet.emory.edu/undergrad/	www.nacme.org/
http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/	www.free-4u.com/
www.rhodesscholar.org/info.html	www.project-excellence.com
www.roothbertfund.org/scholarships.php	www.akaef.org/scholarshipprogram.html
www.hacu.net/student_reso!urces/index.shtml	www.aasa.org/discover.htm
www.collegeboard.com	www.usip.org/ed/npec/index.shtml
www.moneycentral.msn.com/family/home.asp	www.college-scholarships.com/fre_scholarship_searches.htm
www.ncaa.org/about/scholarships.html	www.students.gov/
www.nabj.org/html/studentsvcs.html	www.aicpa.org/
www.thurgoodmarshallfund.org/	www.apa.org/students/
www.nationalservice.org/scholarships/	www.cns.gov! /

www.wiredscholar.com/	www.bell-labs.com/fellowships/CRFP/info.html
www.apsanet.org/PS/grants/asp3.cfm	www.invent.org/collegiate/
www.guaranteed-scholarships.com/	www.christophers.org
www.boeing.com/companyoffices/	www.aynrand.org/contests/
www.todaysmilitary.com/chart_mil_rotc.html	www.instituteforbrandleadership.org/IBLEssayContest-2002Rules.html
www.naas.org/senior.htm	www.gmsp.org/nominationmaterials/read.dbm?ID=12
www.ca.gov	

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE 101

How to prepare

Planning for college should begin as early as the eighth grade because that is when you need to decide whether or not you are going to follow a college preparatory track. A college preparatory track should include as a minimum:

- 4 years of English and Literature
- 3-4 years of Math (including advanced algebra and trigonometry)
- 2-3 years of Foreign Language
- 2-4 years of Laboratory Science
- 2 years of History and Social Science
- 3 years of Electives from the above list

16 year-long academic subjects

This schedule demands that you take at least 4 college preparatory classes in every year of high school. This still leaves room for you to take additional electives in music, art, yearbook, etc.

If you are interested in engineering, math, science or computers, take all the math and science you can. If your strengths are history, writing, literature or the arts, take extra classes in these subjects. It is always a good idea to take extra foreign language courses. Your school counselor will help you plan your schedule according to your strengths and interests.

The following will help guide you to a successful senior year without stressing too much about your application.

Year-by-Year CHECKLIST!

9th GRADE

- Talk with your counselor and inform them that you want to attend a 4-yr college or university and that you need to schedule college prep courses. Take algebra or geometry and a foreign language in both semesters.
- Maintain “A” and “B” in all your subjects.
- Form a study group with friends who also plan to go to college if needed.
- Create a personal resume file. Save items such as:
 - Copies of report cards
 - Diplomas and certificates presented to you
 - A list of awards and honors you receive
 - A list of all school and community activities you joined
 - A list of offices you hold in these organizations, and
 - A list of jobs you hold (volunteer or paid).
- Update your profile each semester
- Begin visiting colleges or universities; scope out your competition!
- Participate in academic enrichment programs

10th GRADE

- Review your ninth and tenth grade schedules with your counselor to make sure your taking the right classes.

- Maintain “A’s” and “B’s”
- Continue to form study groups and do your research on prospective schools.
- Update your personal resume file at the end of each semester.
- Continue to visit local colleges and universities with family and friends.
- Participate in academic enrichment programs and special summer workshops and camps for music, science, engineering, writing, filmmaking, theater, language and others.

11th GRADE

- Check with your counselor to be sure you are taking the right college prep courses needed for a selective 4-yr college or university and challenge yourself.
- Maintaining “A” and “B” grades is especially important in the junior year.
- Register for the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test) in October. The PSAT is a practice exam for the SAT I and is required for several national scholarship programs.
- Take the PSAT. The results will give you and your counselor an idea of your strengths and the areas you need to improve as you prepare for college admission.
- If you are taking Advanced Placement subjects register for the AP exams in spring. Scoring well on these exams will enable you to earn credit college-level courses. (For SCU 4 or 5 on the AP exams.)
- Attend college fairs and presentations by colleges who visit your school and ask questions.
- Create a file on your favorite colleges. Obtain information about these schools.
- Visit colleges that interest you. Try to meet with admission, academic, student organizations, and athletics. Prepare questions about the school and have a transcript or list of courses you have taken since ninth grade.
- Think about re-taking the SAT I or ACT tests if necessary.
- Update your resume file.
- From May to July be prepared to receive mail from many colleges.

OVER THE SUMMER

- Read the college mail you receive. Return reply cards to schools that interest you. They will send you viewbooks, catalogues and applications.
- Visit your “short list” colleges.
- Prepare for the SAT I and the ACT by reading books and manuals with the testing tips and sample questions. Attend workshops on how to prepare for these entrance exams if offered at your school or ask a counselor where you can prepare.
- Start looking for scholarships! If you are not a candidate for them at this time save a copy in a folder and revisit it your senior year. All the money you can get is great!!

12th GRADE

- Review your recent and current class schedule to make sure you are taking the right classes.
- Maintain “A’s” and “B’s” and do not get **“SENIORITIS”** early!!!
- Visit your short list schools again.
- Check frequently with your college counselor or career center director for information about scholarships awarded by your school, local companies and community groups.
- In early September, register for the SAT I and the ACT. Register a month or two before the test date. SCU will accept both exams and the more you take it will only benefit your scores because we will take the highest score of any sitting.
- By the end of October, make a final list of the schools to which you will apply for admission.

- Make a file for each school and a checklist of the required admission items: transcripts, applications fees, recommendations, essays, test scores, etc.
- Pay special attention to DEADLINES!
- Apply early if you can!

Internet Resources:

The following websites are commonly used by high school students and contain a great deal of valuable information on financial aid and scholarships available to help them pay for college.

GENERAL FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION:

- U.S. Department of Education's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
 - <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/index.htm>
- College Board
 - <http://www.collegeboard.com>
- California Student Aid Commission
 - <http://www.csac.ca.gov>
- The Smart Student Guide to Financial Aid
 - <http://www.finaid.org>
- 529 Savings Plans
 - <http://www.savingforcollege.com>

LOAN INFORMATION:

- Sallie Mae
 - <http://www.salliemae.com/index.html>
- EdFund
 - <http://www.edfund.org>
- EdWise
 - <http://www.edwise.org>

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION:

- FastWeb
 - <http://www.fastweb.com>
- CollegeBoard
 - <http://www.collegeboard.com>
- FinAid
 - <http://www.finaid.org>
- WiredScholar
 - <http://www.wiredscholar.com>

6 COMMON MYTHS ABOUT COLLEGE

MYTH#1

“You have to be rich to attend a private university.”

Wrong! Seventy percent of the students attending private colleges in California receive need-based financial aid. In fact some students can qualify and attend a private university at little or no cost! Private institutions tend to have more funds available to students than public institutions.

MYTH #2

“Students should know exactly what they want to study before they apply to college.”

Not necessarily. You may have to make a career decision earlier if you plan to attend a specialized college of engineering, music, etc. But most colleges and universities encourage you to take a broad range of subjects to help you decide on a field or study. At most schools you will not need to declare until the end of your sophomore year or early junior year.

MYTH #3

“You must find the ‘perfect’ college.”

The perfect college probably doesn't exist. The best way to select the right school for you is to research three or four colleges that meet your criteria, and then visit each one.

MYTH #4

“Telling a university that you are applying for financial aid may hurt your chances for admission.”

Not true! Selective colleges do not let a family's financial ability enter into the admission decision.

MYTH #5

“Admissions officers consider only grades and test scores when considering an applicant.”

Selective colleges are also interested in the rigor of the subjects taken, the competitiveness of the school, and upward or downward trends in grades. The essay, as well as extracurricular and leadership activities, talent and personal character are also very important. A word of caution! Quality over quantity is what most colleges look for.

MYTH #6

“People say that because I have no social security number I will never be able to attend college!”

No one can ever deny you access to a college education! AB-540 will provide undocumented students that meet certain requirements to pay non-resident tuition in the state of California. There are private scholarships available to help you fund your college education if your academics are there.

EDUCATION IS UP TO YOU...and some tips...



- Read! Learn to write!
- Your education depends on you!
- Establish an educational plan early.
- Challenge yourself!
- Take as many AP/IB/ Honors classes as possible, college admission is getting more competitive.
- Take advantage of dual enrollment programs. Take classes in local community colleges while in high school. This can save you money and time plus give you an edge amongst others applying to college. (Dual enrollment is free, if not less expensive for you while in high school, ask your high school counselor for more information.)
- Be involved in your community!
- Inform and educate other students about educational opportunities for undocumented students.
- Ask questions!
- Look for guidance.
- Apply for scholarships!
- Be patient, current laws may take time to pass.
- Please remember that as an undocumented student you might need to work harder than other students.
- Contact individual colleges for application fee waivers if needed.
- Set your standards high!
- Shoot for the moon. If you end up short it doesn't matter, you will still end up amongst the stars!
- Excel in Honors/AP/IB English and Math. You will need it!

“Undocumented students need to be wise, stay motivated, be resilient, and persevere. Be future-oriented and believe that everything will be okay. It’s just a matter of time.”

–Undocumented College Student

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Information provided in this document is a compilation of the work of many individuals and organizations who work and advocate on behalf of all student rights.

They include:

- ✓ Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund (MALDEF)
- ✓ CHIRLA
- ✓ Salvadoran American Leadership and Educational Fund (SALEF)
- ✓ Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)
- ✓ Jesus Yanez, Santa Clara University, Class of 2008
- ✓ Claudia Amador, Santa Clara University, Class of 2010
- ✓ Alexander Thome, Santa Clara University, Class of 2004
- ✓ Paz Oliveros, USC
- ✓ Lorenzo Gamboa, Admission Counselor, Santa Clara University
- ✓ Tomas Rivera Policy Institute
- ✓ Every student who has shared their personal stories and insight with this project.
- ✓ All advocates for higher education regardless of status...Thank you all!!!

TODAY I LEARNED ABOUT...

(please check all that apply)

- What AB 540 is and what the requirements are to qualify as an AB 540 student
- What the AB 540 affidavit is
- The current laws affecting undocumented students and how I can take action to support these policies
- Who to contact in case I have any questions about my situation
- My rights as an undocumented student
- The different college systems in California
- The cost of attendance for college
- How to prepare and apply for college
- Where to research and apply for financial aid
- Scholarship websites
- What organizations support undocumented students
- THAT I CAN GO TO COLLEGE!!!!!!!!!!!!

"One of the greatest things you have in life is that no one has the authority to tell you what you want to be. You're the one who'll decide what you want to be. Respect yourself and respect the integrity of others as well. The greatest thing you have is your self image, a positive opinion of yourself. You must never let anyone take it from you."

- Jaime Escalante, Educator

**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.

ELIGIBILITY:

I, the undersigned, am applying for a California Nonresident Tuition Exemption for eligible California high school graduates at (specify the college or university) _____ and I declare the following:

Check YES or NO boxes:

Yes No I have graduated from a California high school or have attained the equivalent thereof, such as a High School Equivalency Certificate, issued by the California State GED Office or a Certificate of Proficiency, resulting from the California High School Proficiency Examination.

Yes No I have attended high school in California for three or more years.

Provide information on all school(s) you attended in grades 9 - 12:

School	City	State	Dates: From - Month/Yr To Month/Yr

Documentation of high school attendance and graduation (or its equivalent) is required by the University of California, The California State University and some California Community Colleges. Follow campus instructions.

Check the box that applies to you -- check only one box:

I am a nonimmigrant alien as defined by federal law, [including, but not limited to, a foreign student (F visa) or exchange visitor (J visa)].

OR

I am NOT a nonimmigrant alien (including, but not limited to, a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or an alien without lawful immigration status).

AFFIDAVIT:

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information I have provided on this form is true and accurate. I understand that this information will be used to determine my eligibility for the nonresident tuition exemption for eligible California high school graduates. I hereby declare that, if I am an alien without lawful immigration status, I have filed an application to legalize my immigration status or will file an application as soon as I am eligible to do so. I further understand that if any of the above information is untrue, I will be liable for payment of all nonresident charges from which I was exempted and may be subject to disciplinary action by the College or University.

Print Full Name (as it appears on your campus student records)	Campus/Student Identification Number
Print Full Mailing Address (Number, Street, City, State, Zip Code)	Email Address and Phone # (Optional)
Signature	Date

July 8, 2008

RE: Letter of Support for (name of supporting document or bill)

Name of Representative
Job Title
Address
City, State, Zip Code

Dear (Representative to whom you are sending this letter to):

On behalf of (Organization Name), I am writing in strong support of SB 1301, which would allow AB 540 students access to non-competitive student aid. This bill will require the Trustees of the California State University and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, and request the Regents of the University of California, to establish procedures and forms that enable persons who exempt from paying nonresident tuition under that provision, or who meet equivalent requirements adopted by the regents, to be eligible to receive institutional financial aid as financial assistance offered by a campus of the California Community Colleges, California State University, or University of California, including grant, scholarship, work study, and loan programs.

Assembly Bill 540 (2001) allowed students who have attended California high schools for 3 years and graduated from a California high school the right to pay in-state tuition. However, without access to financial aid, the dream of a college education is out of reach for many of these students. California's economic success depends on the education of its population – research has shown that for every dollar invested in higher education, the state reaps three dollars in benefits. We hope that you will allow these talented and deserving California high school graduates access to the financial resources needed to realize their dreams for a higher education and to become economic contributors to the Golden State.

We look forward to working with you to make college a reality for all students.

Should you require any additional information (Your Contact Information)

Sincerely,

cc: Senator Gilbert Cedillo
Michael Genest, Director, Department of Finance
Chris Kahn, Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Paul Navarro, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Brenda Quintana, Director of Local Government and Community Relations, Office of the Governor

