

Questions and Answers for the California Dream Act and AB 540

The California Dream Act, recently passed by the state legislature and signed by the Governor, enables eligible AB 540 students to apply for California State funded financial aid (Board of Governors' Fee Waivers and Cal Grants), as well as other educational support services.

Question 1: Who is an AB 540 Student?

Answer: You are if you are an undocumented resident or out-of-state resident, and

- Attended high school in California for three or more years, *and*
- Graduated from a California high school, or received its equivalent.
- Undocumented residents must complete an affidavit saying you have filed (or will file when you are eligible to do so) for legal immigration status with the Admissions and Records Office at the college.

If you believe you are eligible or know someone who may be eligible for the AB 540 tuition exemption, please obtain a *California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request* from your college Admissions and Records Office.

Question 2: I already have AB540 status. Am I eligible to apply for a Board of Governors (BOG) Fee Waiver?

Answer: Yes! If you are exempt from paying nonresident tuition as an AB 540 student, you can now apply for the BOG Fee Waiver which will waive your enrollment fees. Apply now by completing the [BOG fee waiver application](#) and taking it to your college financial aid office! If you meet the eligibility criteria for a Board of Governors' fee waiver, your fees will be waived immediately for the Spring 2013 semester. **Register for all of your courses during priority registration.** Note: You will not be dropped from your courses due to lack of payment pending BOG eligibility.

Question 3: I am an out-of-state AB 540 student. What does this mean to me?

Answer: You are eligible to complete the [FAFSA](#). By completing the FAFSA you will be reviewed for both Federal and California state aid. The state will use the information from the FAFSA to determine if you are eligible for the Cal Grants beginning with the 2013-2014 award year. Complete the 2013-2014 FAFSA in January 2013 to be considered for Cal Grants. Visit the California Student Aid Commission website at www.csac.ca.gov.

Question 4: I am an undocumented AB 540 student. What does this mean to me?

Answer: Do NOT complete the FAFSA. Instead, students who do not have legal immigration status should complete the [CA Dream Act Application](#) offered through the California Student Aid Commission.

Although the implementation date of the new law restricts you from being eligible for the Cal Grant program for the 2012-2013 award year, you should complete the California Dream Act Application starting January 1, 2013 for consideration for the Cal Grant in the 2013-2014 award year. For more information on the Dream Act and Cal Grants, visit the California Student Aid Commission at www.csac.ca.gov.

Question 5: I have questions about AB 540. Who should I talk to?

Answer: Contact your campus Admissions and Records staff or see your college counselor. Questions regarding financial assistance programs should be directed to your campus Financial Aid Office.