

More Information on AB540

To find more information on AB540, such as Power Point Presentations, fact sheets, a sample affidavit, and answers to frequently asked questions, visit the following sites:

MEXICAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND (MALDEF)
www.maldef.org

California Colleges
www.californiacolleges.edu/finance/financial-aid

The College & Financial Aid Guide for AB540 Students
www.usc.edu/dept/chepa

Legislation/Advocacy

To learn more about current legislation that would help immigrant students gain greater access to higher education, or connect to groups that advocate for AB540 students, contact the following:

Friends Committee on Legislation of California
www.fclca.org

California Legislative Information
www.leginfo.ca.gov

The Coalition for Humane Immigrants Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)
www.chirla.org/CADREAMNetwork

Senator Gilberto Cedillo
Current sponsor of California DREAM ACT
www.dist22.casen.govoffice.com

To advocate for federal bills that could assist undocumented students, contact your U.S. Senators and Congress member:

U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein
www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer
www.boxer.senate.gov/contact

To Find your Congress member in the House of Representatives:
www.house.gov

Some Frequently Asked Questions About AB540

Q: Can I use a false social security number on my application?

A: NO! It is illegal. Using false information can jeopardize your ability to adjust your immigration status in the future.

Q: What happens if I have already given the school a false Social Security number or stated that I am a United States citizen?

A: If you qualify for AB540 but have falsified information in the past, you should seek legal advice with a licensed immigration attorney. To find a licensed attorney contact: State Bar of California (866)442-2529 or American Immigration Lawyers Association www.aiala.org



MALDEF

Know Your Rights!

Undocumented students are allowed to attend California colleges and universities.

To apply for admission to a California College or University you are not:

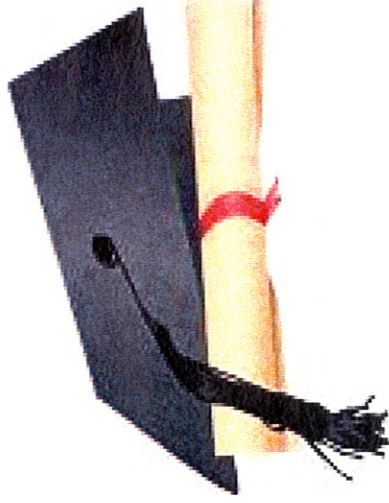
- required to show a state issued ID or Social Security card.
- required to show proof of legal residency or proof of application to adjust your status to legal permanent resident.

If you qualify for AB540 and have been denied admission to a California Public College or University, or if you want someone to conduct an AB540 presentation to your school, association or event, please call MALDEF at:

(213) 629-2512 / Fax: (213) 629-0830
www.maldef.org

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Are You An Undocumented Immigrant Student And Want to go to College? Learn About AB540



MALDEF is a national civil rights organization committed to promoting and protecting the civil rights of the 47 million Latinos living in the United States through advocacy, community education, collaborating with other groups, awarding higher education scholarships, and when necessary, litigation.

MEXICAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND (MALDEF)

634 SOUTH SPRING ST.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90014

What is AB 540?

Several years ago, many undocumented^(c) immigrant students were unable to afford the out-of-state tuition costs that they were required to pay to attend public universities and colleges in California. As a result, many could not attend college. However, higher education became more affordable for undocumented students in California on January 1, 2002, because **California's AB540 law allows qualifying students, including undocumented immigrant students, to pay in-state tuition fees at public colleges and universities (Community Colleges, CSUs, and UCs).**

^(c) Undocumented persons are non-citizens without lawful immigration status, who entered the U.S. without inspection or who stayed after the period they were authorized to be here.

Tuition Cost

In the past, all undocumented immigrant students were charged out-of-state tuition to attend public colleges and universities in California. AB540 waives the out-of-state tuition fees, allowing qualifying students to pay the equivalent of in-state tuition instead. The difference in cost between in-state and out-of-state tuition is significant:

2008-2009

California Community Colleges

\$20.00/unit (in-state) \$173.00/unit (out-of-state)

California State University (CSU)**

\$3,797.00(in-state) \$13,967.00 (out-of-state)

University of California (UC)**

\$8,007.00 (in-state) \$28,615.00 (out-of-state)

(**) All amounts are averages and may vary from campus to campus. Other fees may apply to each campus.

Who qualifies for AB540?

A student must meet all of the following requirements:

1. Attend a California high school for 3 years or more;
2. Graduate from a California high school or receive the equivalent of a high school diploma (such as a GED);
3. Be registered or currently enrolled in one of the three state institutions of higher learning (California community colleges, Cal State or University of California); and,
4. If the students are undocumented immigrants they must file an affidavit with the college or university stating that they will file an application to adjust their immigration status as soon as they are eligible.

Confidentiality

All of the information submitted to a college or university, including the AB540 affidavit, is protected by law and must be kept **confidential**. The information provided by the students will **NOT be shared** with anyone unless they grant written permission for the school to share their file, or unless there is a court order from a judge to view the file.

How to Apply for AB540

For all UCs & most CSUs, you must apply by November of the year before you plan to enroll in school. Two sections of your application must be left blank if you are undocumented:

1. The box where you would put a Social Security number should be left BLANK.
2. The Immigration Status box should be left BLANK.
3. You must file the affidavit with the school, usually in the admissions office, affirming that you will adjust your immigration status as soon as possible.

Funding Your Education

AB540 does NOT allow undocumented immigrant students to apply for or receive state (Cal Grant) or federal (FAFSA) financial aid. Some private organizations and non-profit entities may offer financial assistance to undocumented students.

Scholarships or Grants: You can look for scholarship lists that do not ask for a Social Security number or require legal permanent residency to apply.

Donations/Sponsorships: Talk to people you know and ask them to help you with your education. Many might be willing to support you!

Fundraisers: Organize carwashes, bake sales, raffles, or create or join an AB540 club at your school.

Scholarship Lists

MEXICAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND (MALDEF)
www.maldef.org

Latino College Dollars
www.latinocollegedollars.org

Salvadoran American Leadership and Education Fund (SALEF)
www.salef.org/salef/fulfilling.html

Adelante! California Scholarships and Stipends
www.adelante-ca.org

Fondo Futuro Scholarship
www.fondofuturo.com

The Tomas Rivera Policy Institute
www.trpi.org

L.A. Cash for College
www.lacashforcollege.org