



EDUCATORS FOR FAIR CONSIDERATION



CALIFORNIA
STUDENT AID
COMMISSION

THE CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT: A GUIDE FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

WHAT IS THE CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT?

Assembly Bills 130 & 131, known as the California Dream Act of 2011, are laws that increase access to financial aid for undocumented students who attend a public university, community college or private college in California. In order to qualify, students must meet the requirements of AB 540 and not be eligible to apply for the FAFSA.

IMPORTANT NOTE: EACH INSTITUTION WILL IMPLEMENT THE CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT ACCORDING TO THEIR CAPACITY. IT IS UP TO YOU, THE STUDENT, TO BE PROACTIVE, ASK QUESTIONS, AND STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE OF YOUR CURRENT OR PROSPECTIVE COLLEGE IN ORDER TO BE FULLY INFORMED ABOUT THE FINANCIAL AID YOU QUALIFY FOR AND HOW TO APPLY FOR IT.

AB 130 allows eligible AB 540 students to apply for and receive scholarships derived from non-state funds at all California public colleges and universities. These include scholarships funded through private donors, alumni contributions and individual departmental efforts. Students must apply and compete for available awards as determined by their respective college or university. This bill went into effect on January 1, 2012.

AB 131 allows eligible AB 540 students to access state-funded financial aid programs such as Cal Grants, university grants and Board of Governor's Fee Waivers. The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) developed the California Dream Act Application, a FAFSA-like application, to determine the financial need of students who are not citizens, legal permanent residents or eligible non-citizens. For the upcoming 2013-14 academic year, students may complete a Dream Act Application online at www.caldreamact.org in order to determine eligibility to receive state financial aid.

The priority deadline for submitting the application to determine financial need for each academic year is from January 1 to March 2. Given that for the 2013-14 academic year the March 2nd deadline falls on a Saturday, CSAC will accept Dream Act Applications

and GPA Verifications for Cal Grants until Monday, March 4th, 2013.

Important points:

1. In order to be considered for a Cal Grant, students must submit a Non-SSN GPA Verification Form IN ADDITION to the online Dream Act Application.
2. You must re-submit the Dream Act Application every year before March 2nd in order to be considered for financial aid in the upcoming academic year. Even if you completed the Dream Act Application a year ago, you need to complete it again during the current filing period to be eligible for aid during 2013-2014.

For more information on how to fill out the California Dream Act Application, see the California Dream Act Application Instructions at <http://goo.gl/gelJP> or watch videos in English at <http://goo.gl/Wa7le>.

BASIC AB540 REQUIREMENTS

AB 540 is a law that provides in-state tuition benefits for undocumented students and certain other students who attend or will attend public universities in California. To qualify for AB 540 status, students must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Student must have attended a high school (public or private) in California for three or more years
2. Student must have graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent (GED)
3. Students must file an affidavit stating they have filed (or will file) an application to legalize as soon as they are able to do so

Non-immigrant foreign students are not eligible 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, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, TN, TD, and V, AND TROV, and NATO. U visa holders are also considered non-immigrant students for federal aid, but a new California law which goes into effect on January 1, 2013, AB 1899 (Mitchell), allows U and T visa holders to be eligible for the same California student financial aid and nonresident tuition exemption as AB 540 students. U visa holders may file a Dream Application, while T visa holders may file using the FAFSA.

For more information about AB 540, please see the E4FC Financial Aid Guide at <http://e4fc.org/resources/studentguides.html>.

OVERVIEW OF FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS

AB 540 students who qualify under AB 131 and submit the California Dream Act Application will be able to apply for the programs below (types of aid listed by higher education system). For program descriptions please visit, <http://e4fc.org/cadaprogramdescriptions.html>.

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES (CCC)

☐ Cal Grant A (for Associate or Bachelor programs) Held in reserve until you transfer to a 4-year college or university
☐ Cal Grant B (for programs 1 year or longer)
☐ Cal Grant C (for vocational programs 4 months or longer; see priority programs online at: www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=107)
☐ Board of Governors Fee Waiver
☐ Community College Private Scholarships (through AB 130)
☐ Extended Opportunity Programs & Services (EOPS)

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY (CSU)

☐ Cal Grant A
☐ Cal Grant B
☐ State University Grants (SUG)
☐ Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)
☐ CSU Scholarships/Fellowships (through AB 130)
☐ Chafee Foster Youth Grants

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SYSTEM (UC)

☐ Cal Grant A
☐ Cal Grant B
☐ UC Grants
☐ Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) or Equivalent Program
☐ UC Scholarships/Fellowships (through AB 130)
☐ Chafee Foster Youth Grants

PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

☐ Cal Grant A
☐ Cal Grant B
☐ Cal Grant C (for qualifying career technical programs)
☐ Private Scholarships and Fellowships
☐ Chafee Foster Youth Grants

VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

☐ Cal Grant A
☐ Cal Grant B
☐ Cal Grant C

CALIFORNIA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO AB540 STUDENTS

Type	Applicable at	Eligible to Apply?	Application	Deadline/File by?	Amount Up To?	Effective When?
In-State Tuition (nonresident tuition exemption)	UC, CSU, CCC	Yes; contact your Admissions Office if you are not already determined as AB 540-eligible	AB 540 Affidavit & AB 540 Nonresident Tuition Exemption; see a sample affidavit at http://www.calgrants.org/documents/2008_AB_540_Affidavit.pdf (file the affidavit supplied by your campus)	Check with respective school; usually follows admissions deadline	N/A (student is exempt from paying higher nonresident tuition charges)	Began Jan. 1, 2002
Private Scholarships (not offered through a campus)	Varies	Varies; depends on eligibility requirements	Varies; see http://www.e4fc.org/resources/scholarshiplist.html for more information	Varies	Varies	N/A
Private Scholarships (offered through a campus under AB 130)	UC, CSU, CCC, Private	Yes	Varies; check with respective school	Varies	Varies	Began Jan. 1, 2012
Board of Governors (BOG) Fee Waiver	CCC	Yes	BOG Application found at your financial aid office or www.icanaffordcollege.com Can also use Dream Act Application found at www.caldreamact.org for BOG Method C	Continuous; Check with current or prospective CCC institution	\$1,104	Began Jan. 1, 2013
Cal Grants	All UC, CSU, CCC, most Private, and some Vocational	Yes	Dream Act Application & GPA Verification Form found at www.caldreamact.org	File between Jan. 1 and March 2nd, 2013	Varies, but can be up to \$12,192	Begins Fall Term 2013
UC Grants	UC	Yes	Dream Act Application found at www.caldreamact.org	File between Jan. 1 and March 2nd, 2013*, for the 2013-14 academic year	Varies	Begins Fall Term 2013 for those who apply between Jan. 1 and March 2nd, 2013*
CSU Grant	CSU	Yes	Dream Act Application found at www.caldreamact.org	File between Jan. 1 and March 2nd, 2013*, for the 2013-14 academic year	Varies	Begins Fall Term 2013 for those who apply between Jan. 1 and March 2nd, 2013*
EOPS	CCC	Yes	Check with respective CCC	Check with Respective CCC	Varies	Began Spring 2013

EOP (Or Equivalent in UC system)	CSU, UC	Yes	Check with respective CSU or UC	Check with Respective CSU or UC	Varies	Begins Fall 2013
Chafee Foster Youth Grants	All Title IV eligible (federal student aid) schools in CA & elsewhere)	Yes	Check requirements at www.chafee.csac.ca.gov	Continuous; funds are limited and awarded based on priorities; see requirements at www.chafee.csac.ca.gov	\$5,000	Next priority award period, Fall 2013
Private Loans	All UC, CSU, CCC, Private, Vocational	Yes, but need a legal resident co-signer	Check with respective financial institution	Check with respective financial institution	Varies based on credit worthiness	Next award period, Winter/Spring 2013

* The normal March 2nd deadline falls on a Saturday in 2013, so CSAC will accept Dream Act Applications and Non-SSN GPA Verification Forms for Cal Grants until Monday, March 4th, 2013. The Non-SSN GPA verification form has to be signed by the high school where you meet the unit requirements. So don't put it off until the last minute since it may take time to find the right person and process the form.

AID NOT AVAILABLE TO AB540 STUDENTS

Undocumented AB 540 students are not eligible for federal student aid, including Pell and other grants, government loans, and federal work-study.

TIPS ON FILLING OUT THE CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT APPLICATION

If you have a Social Security Number through Deferred Action, you should fill out the CA Dream Application, NOT the FAFSA to be eligible for state aid. Students with a SSN through DACA are not eligible for federal financial aid. U visa holders should file the Dream Application, while T visa holders should file the FAFSA.

It is important to file the Dream Act Application as early as possible. Filling out the application online is the fastest and easiest way to submit the application. The priority deadline for submitting the California Dream Act Application is March 2, 2013.

Go to www.caldreamact.org to access the application.



GETTING STARTED

First create an account. You will set up a user name, password and security question. Record and save your user name and password because you will need these to login on future occasions to make the edits and check the status of your application.

The application does not ask the student for a Social Security Number (SSN). Provide the names and SSNs of your parents. If they do not have an SSN, you may list their Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITINs), if they have one. If they have neither, list nine zeros in that field.

You must report your income and any cash support given by relatives. You do not need to include the value of food and housing.

If you are under 24, your parents must also report their income and any cash support given by relatives except food and housing-- unless you are married, have children of your own, or are a graduate student etc..

Selective Service registration: Most males, 18-25 must be registered with Selective Service to be eligible for state student aid. All male students can register at their local post office by filling out and mailing a Selective Services Registration Form, (SSS Form 1M(UPO)). You can also download the Selective Service form at www.caldreamact.org, complete and mail it in. Even if you are undocumented, you must register to be eligible. No SSN is required. For more information or questions, you may visit: <http://www.sss.gov/SSSYOU/sss&you.pdf>.

SIGNING THE CA DREAM APPLICATION

Students and one parent must sign if the student is considered dependent (again, that means anyone under 24 with only a few exceptions). There are two steps to successfully signing the California Dream Act Application: the student signature and the parent signature.

First, the **student signs** by checking the signature box and submitting the Dream Application. Students will be taken to a confirmation page.



RETRIEVING THE PARENT PIN

To complete the application, students and one parent will need to complete the 2nd step of the signature process. To create the Parent Pin, students must click the red button indicated in the screen shot above.

The name, birth date and wages of the parent signing the Dream application are entered and must match what the information the student previously provided the Dream application.

Once you retrieve the Parent PIN, you will have to go to the Dream Application home page to **add the parent signature** to the Dream Application.

Once you submit the Parent PIN, the signature process will be done, and the application will be complete.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE PARENT PIN

- » You and your parents must decide which parent will sign the application
- » Only one parent can obtain a PIN number and this PIN is tied to the individual student
- » If there is more than one student submitting a Dream Application in the same household, the parent will have to obtain a Parent PIN for each student
- » Every time the student makes a correction on the application, the parent will need to sign again

For questions, please contact **caldreamact@csac.ca.gov** or call CSAC at 1-888-224-7268.

DEFINITIONS

Income Verification: Certain students will be selected by their college or university to verify their family income. If you or your parents meet income guidelines to submit taxes, you might be required to present IRS transcripts.

Household size includes anyone in the immediate family who receives more than 50% of their support from an independent student or from a dependent student's parents. A spouse may be counted, and if your siblings receive more than 50% of their financial support from your parents, they should be counted as well.

Citizenship status: AB540 eligible students who cannot fill out the FAFSA must choose the third option: "Non-citizen or eligible noncitizen."

A Dislocated worker is anyone who lost their job or had a reduction of hours as of the date when the application is being competed.

INFORMATION/ DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO FILL OUT THE DREAM ACT APPLICATION

Here is a list of the paperwork you will need to provide for you or your parents, if it is relevant to your situation:

- » W-2 forms and other 2012 records of income
- » 2012 income tax returns
- » Records of child support
- » Records of student scholarships and fellowships included in your parents' taxes
- » Current bank statements
- » Current investment records or business records if you own a business with over 100 employees
- » Current business and farm records

ABOUT US

EDUCATORS FOR FAIR CONSIDERATION (E4FC)

Founded in 2006, Educators for Fair Consideration supports undocumented students in realizing their academic and career goals and actively contributing to society. Our programming is designed by and for undocumented young people with support from committed allies. We offer holistic programming that addresses the financial, legal, career, and emotional health needs of undocumented students. Specifically, we provide scholarships, legal services, professional and personal development workshops, and a strong peer network for undocumented students. We also lead presentations and create educational materials to raise awareness and support for undocumented students nationwide. For more information, visit e4fc.org.

CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION (CSAC)

Since its creation by the Legislature in 1955, the Commission has continued to operate as the principal state agency responsible for administering financial aid programs for students attending public and private universities, colleges, and vocational schools in California. The Commission has never wavered from its central mission to make education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians. For more information, visit csac.ca.gov.