

CA Dream Act AB540 Webpage - Paying for College Section Feedback

Paying for College

This section will cover the various resources available to eligible students regardless of immigration status to fund their community college education. We believe that all students should take advantage of all the resources available to them to help them succeed in their personal and personal aspiration. In this section you will find information about:

- [Understanding AB-540: Non-Resident Tuition Exemption](#)
- [The California Dream Act - Financial Aid Application](#)
- [California Community College Promise Grant \(CCPG\)](#)
- [COA Promise Grant: The College of Alameda Promise Program](#)
- [Scholarships for Undocumented Students](#)

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Pathways to Financial Aid: AB540, SB68, and the California Dream Act

Undocumented Students who are eligible for AB-540 and SB68 are eligible to receive various forms of financial aid support to assist them throughout their community college journeys.

Understanding AB-540: Non-Resident Tuition Exemption:

The AB-540 non-resident tuition exemption is a bill that was signed into law in October 2001 allowing undocumented students, legal permanent residents and U.S. Citizen students to pay in-state/resident tuition fees at California community colleges and universities.

In State v. Out of State tuition fees comparison: if you are eligible for AB-540 you can have the extra tuition fees waived!

Fees	Amount	Applies to
Enrollment Fee	\$46 per semester unit	Credit students
Campus Center Use Fee	\$2 per semester, per campus	Credit students
Student Representation Fee	\$2 per semester, per campus	Credit students
Health Fee	\$23 per Fall and Spring Semesters \$20 for the Summer term	Credit students
AC Transit Fee	\$42.88 per semester	Credit Students

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Health Fee	\$23 per Fall and Spring Semester \$20 for the Summer term	Credit students Some exemptions - see note at bottom
Non-Resident/International Tuition	\$290 per semester unit	Non-resident and international credit students
Capital Outlay Fee	\$7 per semester unit	Out of state AND all non-resident credit students who are both citizens and residents of a foreign country
International Health Insurance Fee	The current fee is \$195 per month, totaling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring/Summer (7 months): \$1,365 • Fall (5 months): \$975 • Summer (New Students Only): \$390 	Participating F-1 Visa status students. This fee must be paid prior to enrolling in classes and applying for a payment plan .

Image Credits: <https://www.peralta.edu/admissions/student-finance/fees-and-payment>

To qualify for AB-540, you must meet ALL of the requirements listed below:

1. *Attendance for 3 years full time at a CA High School, CA Adult School (includes non-credit courses offered through a California Community College), or CA Community College OR Three years of California high school coursework and three years of total attendance at a California elementary school, California secondary school, or any combination of the two.
2. Graduated from a California High School or equivalent such as a GED, and
3. Submit a signed AB-540 California Nonresident Exemption Request if you meet the above requirements to admissions and records office

*SB1141 Update: The new bill expands AB-540 eligibility by no longer placing a limit on the number of years of community college full-time attendance a student can use to determine eligibility for AB540. Learn more about SB1141 here: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB1141

Steps to Apply for AB-540:

1. Fill out the AB-540 form: [https://6398505.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/6398505/2023%20AB%20540%20Tuition%20Exemption%20Req%20%26%20Affidavit%20\(in%20cl.%20SB%201141\).pdf](https://6398505.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/6398505/2023%20AB%20540%20Tuition%20Exemption%20Req%20%26%20Affidavit%20(in%20cl.%20SB%201141).pdf)
2. Contact the USSP if you need help filling the form out: juan.lopez@peralta.edu
3. Submit the completed and signed AB540 form to our Admissions and Records office in person or you can also submit through email here: coaadmissions@peralta.edu

Learn more about AB-540 and eligibility requirements here:

- English AB-540 Guide: https://immigrantsrising.org/wp-content/uploads/Immigrants-Rising_SB-68-Quick-Guide.pdf
- Guía para AB-540 en Español: https://immigrantsrising.org/wp-content/uploads/Immigrants-Rising_SB-68-Quick-Guide_Spanish.pdf

The California Dream Act - Financial Aid Application

The California Dream Act is a state- based financial aid application open to undocumented students, *DACA recipients (valid or expired), U Visa holders and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders, who are AB-540 eligible, Senate Bill 2000 (SB 2000) and Senate Bill 68 (SB 68) to be granted various forms of financial aid such as the following:

- Private Scholarships funded through public universities and colleges
- State administered financial aid
- Grants
- Community college fee waivers (CCPG Grant)
- Cal Grants

*DACA or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals is not required to apply for the CA Dream Act financial aid application. DACA is a federal program, while CA Dream Act is a state-based financial aid program.

Steps to Apply for CA Dream Act:

1. Apply for the CA Dream Act at <https://dream.csac.ca.gov>
2. If necessary, complete any additional application materials required by your school (e.g. CA and College Promise Grants, institutional scholarships, etc.).
3. Review and accept award on school's portal.
4. Confirm and accept Cal Grant, if applicable at <https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/>
5. Resolve any outstanding holds on your student portal.
6. Ensure AB 540/SB 68 classification is approved by your institution

Important Deadlines for CA Dream Act:

Application Opens: October 1st, 2022

Suggested Submission Deadline: March 2nd, 2023

*While you can still apply for aid past the suggested deadline, we encourage that you please submit your financial aid application earlier than the March 2nd deadline to benefit from the most aid!

**Add to "Resources to help you apply for the CA Dream Act" Section:

Recursos de Dream Act en Español: https://www.csac.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/2020-21_spanish_paper_cadaa.pdf?1573247073

Other Resources to help you to Pay for College:

If you are eligible for AB-540 you may be eligible for these other forms of financial aid support:

- **California Community College Promise Grant (CCPG):** For eligible California residents, the California Community Colleges Promise Grant permits enrollment fees to be waived. (Assistance for the purchase of books and supplies must be applied for separately.) Learn more here: <https://home.cccapply.org/en/money/california-college-promise-grant>. To begin your CCPG grant application for COA follow this link: <https://boq.openccccapply.net/gateway/boq?cccMisCode=341>
- **COA Promise Grant:** The College of Alameda Promise Program provides free tuition for 2 years, book stipends, priority registration, and dedicated counseling for eligible students. The program is open to first-time, full-time college students who seek to complete a certificate, degree, and/or plan to transfer to a four-year university. Learn more about COA Promise Program and eligibility here: <https://alameda.edu/college-promise/> * The next application cycle opens in April 2023!

Scholarships for Undocumented Students: Add to scholarships section

- **Peralta Colleges Foundation:** The Peralta Colleges Foundation is the 501c3 non-profit auxiliary arm of the Peralta Community College District supporting [Berkeley City College](#), [College of Alameda](#), [Laney College](#) and [Merritt College](#). <https://peraltafoundation.org/> They provide annual scholarships to students; you can learn more about them here: <https://peraltafoundation.org/> To access the list of scholarships, follow this link: <https://pcf.scholarships.ngwebsolutions.com/Scholarships/Search>