

Fact Sheet: AB 540 Supplemental Tuition Exemption

Under AB 540, certain nonresident students are eligible to receive an exemption from nonresident supplemental tuition. In 2013-2014, nonresident supplemental tuition for undergraduates at the University of California will be \$22,878.

Who is eligible for the exemption?

Students who meet both of the following criteria may be eligible for the exemption:

- Attended a high school in California for three or more years, and
- Graduated from a California high school, including passage of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) for graduations after 2005, or received a High School Equivalency Certificate issued by the California State GED Office, or received a Certificate of Proficiency resulting from the California High School Proficiency Examination.

In addition, students who meet these criteria but do not have legal immigration status must certify that they are taking steps to legalize their immigration status or will do so as soon as they are eligible.

Nonimmigrant students (e.g., those who hold non-immigrant visas, including but not limited to any of the following visas: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, TN/TD, TWOV, U, and NATO) are not eligible for this exemption. Although the original AB 540 law did not apply to holders of T and U visas, UC policy permits T and U visa holders with approved I-485 applications who meet the requirements described above to be exempt from nonresident supplemental until they are eligible to establish California residency according to University policy.

Does the applicant's high school enrollment have to be at the same California school for three consecutive years?

No. The three years need not be consecutive nor completed at a single California school. For example, if a student attended ninth grade at a California middle or high school, left the state to attend 10th grade and returned to a second qualified California high school to complete 11th and 12th grades, that student would meet the requirement of three years of high school attendance in California.

Is ninth grade included in the definition of high school if it is attended at a middle school?

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Yes. For purposes of eligibility for the AB 540 nonresident supplemental tuition exemption, enrollment in the ninth grade, whether at a middle or a high school, counts toward the California high school attendance criterion.

Does it matter how long ago a student graduated from high school?

No, the date of graduation does not affect a student's eligibility for the exemption.

For how long is a student eligible to receive this exemption?

There is no limit on the number of years a student can receive this exemption. Eligibility continues as long as the student meets the criteria or until the University no longer offers this exemption.

Does this policy affect a student's eligibility to receive financial aid?

Yes. Students eligible for the AB 540 nonresident supplemental tuition exemption who are not otherwise eligible for federal, state, and institutional financial aid can now be considered for state and institutional financial aid by filing a California DREAM application available on line at:

<https://dream.csac.ca.gov>.

Please note: Under federal law, undocumented students are not currently eligible for federal financial aid. This does not change if the student qualifies for an AB 540 nonresident supplemental tuition exemption.

How does a student apply for the exemption?

When applicants accept admission at a University of California campus, they will each be required to complete a Statement of Legal Residence (SLR). When a student is determined to NOT be a resident of this state for purposes of tuition and financial aid at the University of California, campus residency deputies will review student responses to the Statement of Legal Resident questions and will contact potentially-eligible students to complete an application for an AB 540 for Nonresident Supplemental Tuition Exemption. The campus where the student is enrolled will provide access to the application for the AB 540 Exemption. Once a student has been determined to be eligible for the AB540 Exemption, that student need not reapply for the exemption as long as he or she is continuously enrolled in a particular program at a single UC campus.

If a student received this exemption while attending a California State University (CSU) or a California Community College (CCC) campus, does he or she need to apply for the exemption at UC?

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Yes. Information about specific student eligibility for this exemption is not shared among the California public higher education systems. A prior CSU or CCC student needs to apply again once he or she is enrolled at UC. UC determines eligibility for this exemption independently of prior determinations made by other California higher education systems.

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