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# UC for all: Unlocking opportunities for undocumented students

September 2025

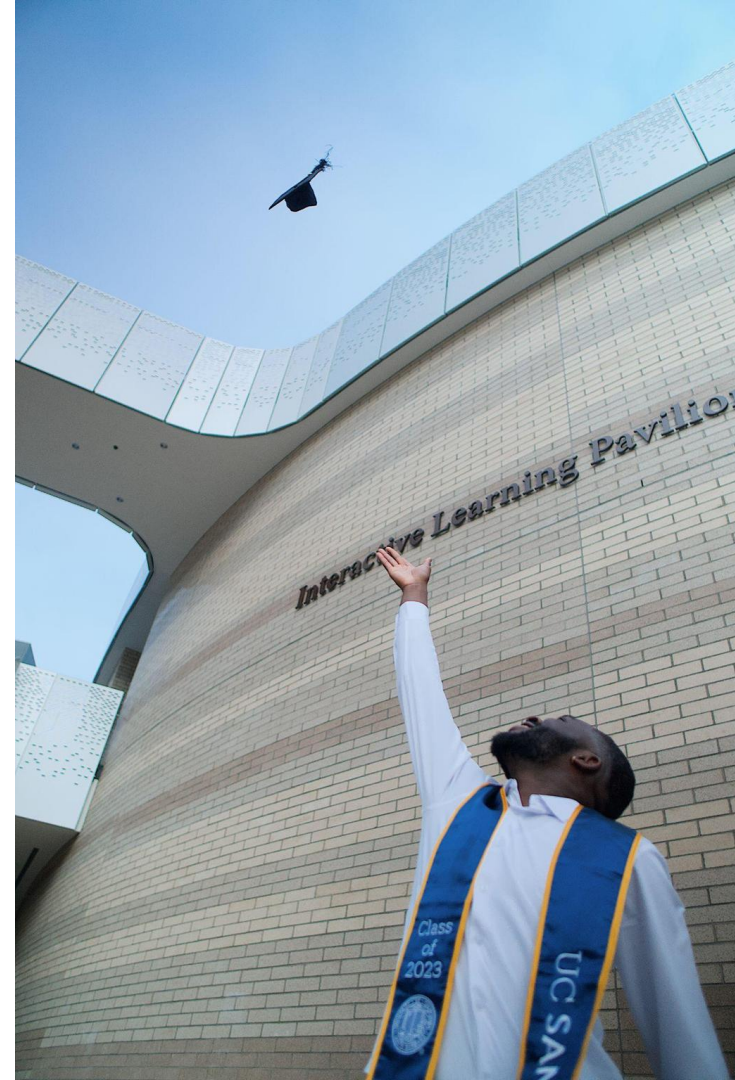
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## Agenda

- Terms & definitions
- Policy
- Financial aid & scholarships
- Support programs & services
- Resources



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**“The University of California  
welcomes and supports  
students without regard to  
their immigration status.”**

– UC Statement of Principles in Support of Undocumented Members (*reaffirmed 01.22.25*)

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# Terms & definitions

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## Terms & definitions

### UNDOCUMENTED

- Unauthorized alien (federally recognized term)
- Self-identifying terms vary
  - Dreamer, undocumented, DACA, AB 540, etc.

UC considers students who fit these definitions to be undocumented



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# Tuition policy

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## CALIFORNIA NON-RESIDENT TUITION EXEMPTION

- California law AB 540 (expanded by SB 68 & SB 1141)
- Must meet all three of following requirements to be eligible
  1. Length of time & coursework completed per school
  2. Degree completion, unit requirements, GED, or other
  3. Signed non-resident tuition exemption request



## AB 540 eligibility, part 1

### 1. Time & coursework

Total full-time attendance of, or attainment of credits earned while in California, equivalent to three or more years at any of the following:

- California high school
- California adult school
- California community college

Three years of California high school coursework completed while in California and three years of total attendance at a California elementary school, secondary school or any combination of the two.

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## AB 540 eligibility, part 2

### 2. Degree or units

Meet one of the following requirements:

- Graduation from a CA high school or equivalent
- Attainment of an associate degree from a CA community college (CCC)
- Fulfillment of minimum transfer requirements from a CCC to a UC or CSU campus

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## AB 540 eligibility, part 3

### 3. Signed nonresident tuition exemption

- In the UC application, students must complete an AB 540 affidavit (Statement of Legal Residency)
- Undocumented students should follow the SLR instructions for undocumented students

### Who's not AB 540 eligible:

- Students in possession of a nonimmigrant visa
- DACA students who do not meet the AB 540 tuition requirements

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# Financial aid & scholarships

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## CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT APPLICATION (CADAA)

- California's state financial aid application operated by California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) allows undocumented and other eligible students to qualify for state and institutional financial aid.
- Eligibility:
  - Undocumented
  - Have a U-Visa or TPS
  - Meet CA non-resident exemption requirements
- CSAC has reaffirmed its commitment to protecting student data

### UC BLUE AND GOLD OPPORTUNITY

**Blue and Gold** is how we award all types of financial aid at UC and is our strategy to make a UC education accessible and affordable for California students:

1. **Most** California students with families that earn up to **\$100,000** pay **\$0** in UC Tuition
2. Many California students graduate **debt free** with the help of part-time work or internship.
3. Provides tuition cost **predictability** for all undergraduates





## State grants

### EXAMPLES OF AVAILABLE AID

- Cal Grant or Middle Class Scholarship (State)
- Dream Service Incentive Grant (State)
- Dream Loan (State)
- California Community College Grant (CCC)
- Student Success Completion Grant (CCC)
- Institutional aid for the cost of attendance



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**STUDENT AID**  
COMMISSION

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## Employment opportunities

### INSTITUTIONAL WORK-STUDY OR INTERNSHIPS

- Paid employment for students who do have legal employment authorization (DACA)
- Internships providing scholarships and/or stipends for students who do not have legal employment authorization (no DACA)

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## Scholarships

### PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS

- Immigrants Rising Scholarship and Fellowship Lists
- 10,000 Degrees undergraduate scholarships
- Golden Door Scholars Program
- East Bay College Fund Scholarship
- Chicana/Latina Foundation
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund
- Latino College Dollars
- The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)
- United States Hispanic Leadership Institute

and many more!



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# Support programs & services

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## Support services

### Undocumented student services are available at each UC campus

Services include:

- Academic / general counseling
- Basic needs support
- Celebrations & graduations
- Internships and fellowships
- Mentorship
- Physical spaces



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## Legal services

### UC IMMIGRANT LEGAL SERVICES CENTER (UC IMM)

Services include:

- Legal advice and representation for undocumented students and their immediate families
- In-depth consultations and direct representation in immigration court or before immigration agencies

### TYPES OF CASES IMM HANDLES

- Adjustment of status (i.e., green card applications)
- Advance parole
- Consular processing
- DACA
- Family-based petitions
- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests
- Naturalization
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)
- U visa and/or T visa
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

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# Campus-specific resources

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## Resource centers

### **Undocumented Student Program (USP)**

**UC Berkeley**

**UCLA**

**UC Riverside**

### **Undocumented Student Services (USS)**

**UC San Diego**

**UC Santa Barbara**

**UC Santa Cruz**

### **DREAM Center**

**UC Irvine**

### **Service for Undocumented Students + The Monarch Center**

**UC Merced**

### **Undocumented Student Resource Center (USRC)**

**UC Davis**

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## Student organizations

### **UC Berkeley**

RISE (Rising Immigrant Scholars through Education)

### **UC Davis**

SPEAK (Scholars Promoting Education, Awareness and Knowledge)

### **UC Irvine**

DREAMS @ UCI

### **UCLA**

IDEAS (Improving Dreams, Equality, Access and Success)

### **UC Merced**

SALE (Students Advocating Law and Education)

### **UC Riverside**

PODER (Providing Opportunities, Dreams and Education in Riverside)

### **UC San Diego**

Migrant Rights Awareness

### **UC Santa Barbara**

IDEAS (Improving Dreams, Equality, Access and Success)

### **UC Santa Cruz**

SIN (Students Informing Now)

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## Fellowships

### **CAMPUS SPECIFIC FELLOWSHIPS OR SCHOLARSHIPS**

- UC Berkeley - [Transcending Beyond Berkeley \(TBB\) Fellowship](#)
- UC Davis - [Immigrants Rising Fellowships & Scholarships](#)
- UC Irvine - [DREAM Project Fellowship](#)
- UCLA - [UndocuBruins Fellowship](#)
- UC Merced - [Opportunities Fellowship Program \(OFP\)](#)
- UC Riverside - [Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute \(CHCI\) Fellowship Programs](#)
- UC San Diego - [PACE Fellowship](#)
- UC Santa Barbara - [USS Programs Scholarships \(7 eligible programs\)](#)
- UC Santa Cruz - [President's Fellowship](#)

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## Important links

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Undocumented  
Student  
Resources

### UC undocumented student resources



### UC campus supports



### Private scholarships



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# Thank you

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