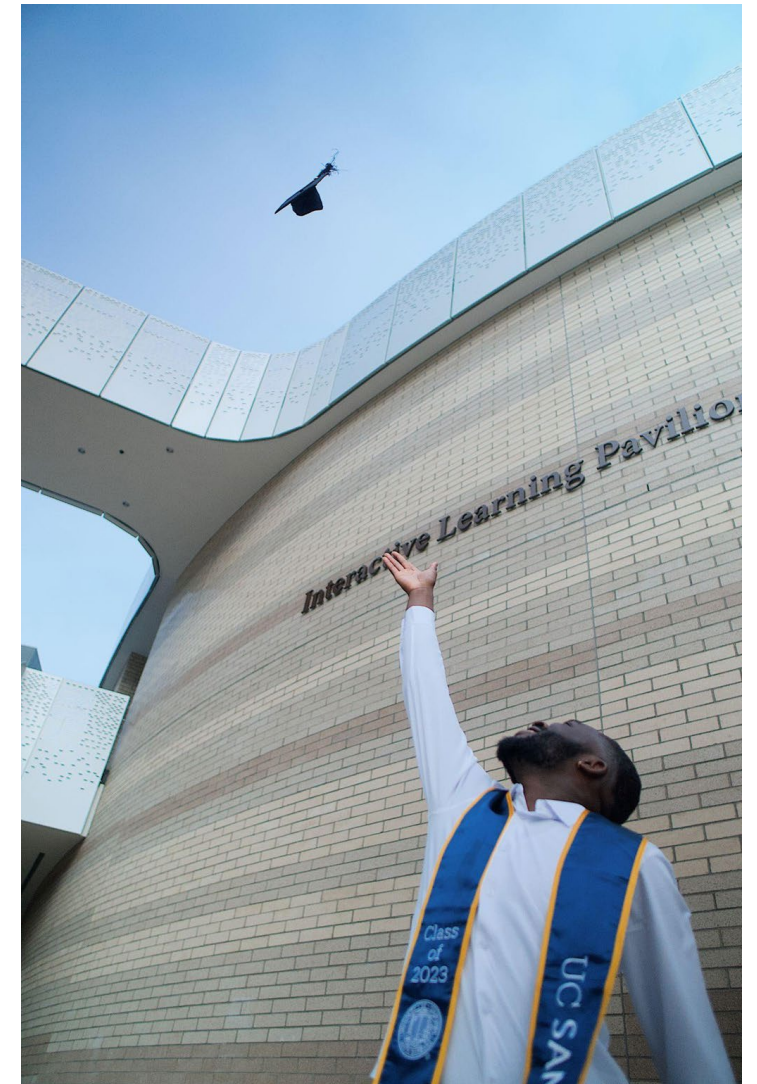


# UC for all: Unlocking opportunities for undocumented students

September 2025

# Agenda

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



# “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*)

# Terms & definitions

# 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



# Tuition Policy

# CA tuition policy

## 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
  4. Must not have a current nonimmigrant visa





# 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.





# 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 associates degree from a CA community college (CCC)
  - Fulfillment of minimum transfer requirements from a CCC to a UC or CSU campus



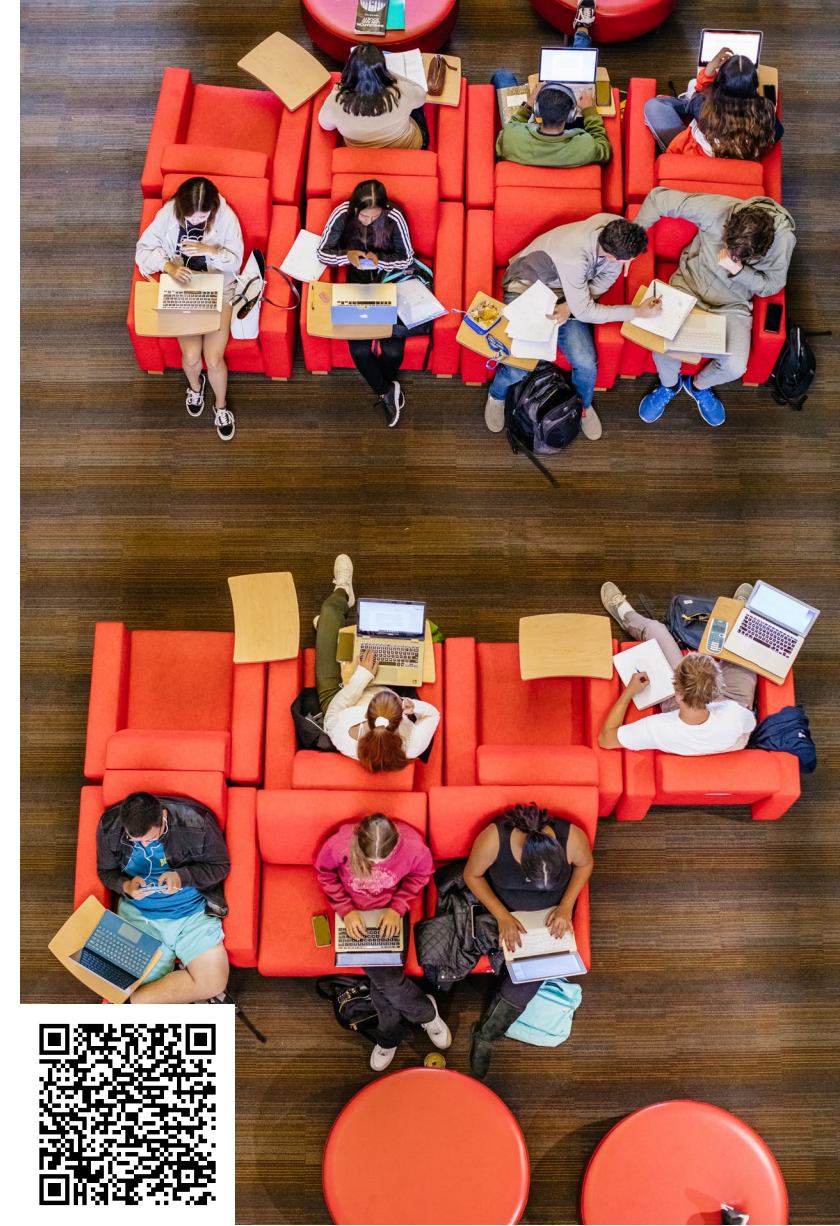
# AB-540 eligibility, part 3

## 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





# Financial aid & scholarships

# Financial aid

## California DREAM Act Application (CADAA)

- California's state financial aid application operated by CSAC that 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 tuition aid

## UC Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan

**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 from the college of attendance





# Employment opportunities

## Institutional work-study

- 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)



# 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!



# Support programs & services

# 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





# 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)

# Campus specific resources



# Resource centers

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

**UC Berkeley  
UC Los Angeles  
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**

# Student organizations

## UC Berkeley

RISE (Rising Immigrant Scholars through Education)

## UC Davis

SPEAK (Scholars Promoting Education, Awareness and Knowledge)

## UC Irvine

DREAMS @ UCI

## UC Los Angeles

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)

# Fellowships

## Campus specific fellowships:

- 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](#)
- UC Santa Cruz - [President's Fellowship](#)

# Important links

UNIVERSITY  
OF  
CALIFORNIA

Undocumented  
Student  
Resources

UC undocumented  
student resources



UC campus supports



Private scholarships



# Thank you