

Stop at nothing: Supporting undocumented students in the UC system

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Session topics

- Terms & definitions
- Past/current/present policy
- Financial aid & scholarships
- Student support programs
- Campus specific programs
- Resources



Terms & definitions

- Unauthorized immigrant vs. undocumented
- Daca-mented vs. dreamer
- UC system identifies this population as Undocumented Students



Unauthorized immigrant (federal recognize term) vs. Undocumented

- "The unauthorized immigrant population is defined as all foreign-born non-citizens who are not legal residents, including naturalized citizens, persons granted lawful permanent residence, persons granted asylum, persons admitted as refugees, and persons admitted as resident nonimmigrants (i.e., students and temporary workers, as opposed to tourists) who have unexpired authorized periods of admission. Most unauthorized immigrants either entered the United States without inspection or were admitted temporarily and remained past the date they were required to depart."

Source: <https://www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics/reporting-terminology-definitions#:~:text=unauthorized%20immigrant%20population%3A%20The%20unauthorized,and%20persons%20admitted%20as%20resident>

- This term replaced illegal alien
- An Undocumented person living in the U.S is a person who does not have legal status in the U.S. There is no specific country an undocumented person is a citizen of, they can be nationals of countries around the world.

Daca-Mented vs Dreamer

- On June 15, 2012, the Secretary of Homeland Security announced that certain people who came to the United States as children and meet several guidelines may request consideration of deferred action for a period of 2 years, subject to renewal. They are also eligible to request work authorization. Deferred action is an exercise of prosecutorial discretion to defer removal action against an individual for a certain period of time. Deferred action does not provide lawful status.
- Dreamers are persons who may be beneficiaries of DACA or not. However, a dreamer can be best described as a person who is now living in the U.S with some protections or none but dreams of comprehensive immigration reforms. Lastly, dreamers use this term to escape umbrella terms and to find a notion of identity by being called a dreamer.

How the UC System Identifies this population

- UC identified these students as undocumented students. Note that, when referring to residency for admissions purposes, undocumented students are often referred as bona fide residents which means they are eligible for California Residency for tuition purposes. While in our private lives we can refer to terms that favor politics or individual experiences but the University of California recognizes the term undocumented students for this population. At the UC system, the focus is to set a status for in-state tuition purposes for this population. The requirements will be listed in the coming slides as we will move to setting the tone in language to use this term in the remainder of the presentation.
- ❖ There are lots of different terms floating around out there: undocumented, DACA, AB-540, Dreamer, etc. No matter how they are classified (e.g. DACA is a subcategory – not all undocumented students are DACA), all undocumented students are welcome at UC. But to make things simple, there are 2 terms that you should be most familiar with.
- ❖ “Bona fide” – if any undocumented student answers the appropriate residency questions accordingly, he will qualify as a bona fide CA resident for admission purposes. This means that the student will not be required to meet the non-resident GPA requirement, which may be higher in some cases (2.8 for transfers).
- ❖ Undocumented students cannot establish CA residency, even if they do qualify for admission purposes. But, students who meet the requirements set by CA Assembly Bill 540 can qualify for exemption from non-resident supplemental tuition. (In other words, CA residency for tuition purposes.) Traditionally, this meant 3 years at a CA HS and graduating from a CA HS, but in 2017 Senate Bill 68 expanded AB540 to count years at CCCs and CA adult schools toward eligibility.
- ❖ In addition, AB-540 eligible students who meet income guidelines can receive application fee waivers (for up to 4 campuses). The app will ask students questions that align with AB-540 eligibility, plus the family income and how many

- people are supported by it.
- ❖ Finally, undocumented students should choose “No Selection” for citizenship status. This is actually a required response on the UC app to qualify for a fee waiver, and it will also allow students to avoid answering permanent residency and visa status questions that don’t apply to them. (Oftentimes students enter “Mexico” for country of citizenship, and then end up entering a visa status (F1) in order to proceed – this actually makes them appear as non-residents on our end. Although they can get the residency for tuition purposes straightened out after they get admitted, they may wrongly get classified as non-residents for admission purposes and may need to meet a higher GPA!)

Additional Notes:

- All undocumented students who meet “bona fide” CA residency will qualify as CA residents for admissions purposes.
- AB-540-eligible students can qualify for exemption from non-resident supplemental tuition.
- AB-540-eligible students who meet income guidelines can receive UC application fee waivers.

Policy

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AB 540 parameters

Under California law AB 540, certain nonresident students are exempt from paying nonresident supplemental tuition.

- In 2014, AB 2000 expanded AB 540 to students who graduated early from a California high school with the equivalent of three or more years of credits.
- In 2017, SB 68 increased the scope of student eligibility to include students who are attending California adult schools or credit and noncredit courses at CCCs.
- In 2022, SB 1141 further expanded AB 540 by removing the two-year cap on credit courses at California community colleges.

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Under California law AB 540, certain nonresident students are exempt from paying nonresident supplemental tuition.

In 2014, AB 2000 expanded AB 540 to students who graduated early from a California High School with the equivalent of three or more years of credits

- CCC and CSU Policy: If a student graduated early, they must have attended California elementary or secondary schools for a cumulative total of three or more years
- UC Policy: Students are only required to have graduated early with three or more years of credits

In 2017, SB 68 expanded AB 540 a second time. SB 68 kept the elements of AB 540 and AB 2000, while also increasing the scope of student eligibility to include students who are attending and completed a course of study at California adult schools or credit and noncredit courses at California High School

In 2022, SB 1141 further expanded AB 540 by removing the two-year cap on credit courses at California Community Colleges

*Undocumented students should follow these guidelines when completing the About You section of the UC application and submit additional information after admission to determine eligibility for AB 540

(https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/_files/documents/slr-instructions-for-undocumented-students-august-2022.pdf). *

SB 68 and SB 1141

Part 1: Length of time and coursework completed per school

3 full-time years of attendance or attainment of part-time equivalent credits earned in a CA:

- Highschool
- Adult school
- Community College
- Or, any combination of the above

Or, 3 years of HS coursework and 3 years of total attendance in CA

Part 2: Degree completion, unit requirements, GED, etc.

One of the following:

- Graduate from CA HS
- Obtain certificate of completion
- Associate degree
- Transfer requirements

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- As you are working with transfer students, be aware of SB68 and SB 1141. These two bills expanded access for undocumented students and especially those that attend a California community college. In order to be considered, students must meet two requirements as shown on the slide.
- Senate Bill 68 was introduced in 2017. It allocates AB 540 designation to a student who has completed community college course work and who may not have three years of education at a California high school
- SB 1141 removed the two-year limit of credits from the California Community Colleges (CCC). These new eligibility criteria expand possibilities for students educated in CA to qualify for in-state tuition and state based financial aid at CCCs, CSUs, and UCs

Resource: https://immigrantsrising.org/wp-content/uploads/Immigrants-Rising_SB-68-Quick-Guide.pdf

Where is DACA now?

On July 16, 2021, a Texas federal court ruled that DACA is **illegal**. While appeals are pending, the original decision stands.

This means:

- Individuals who already have DACA or who want to renew their expired DACA can continue to do so.
- DHS can no longer grant **new** DACA protection to people requesting it for the first time.
- Current DACA recipients can continue applying for permission to travel outside of the United States through Advance Parole for humanitarian, educational, and employment purposes.

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DACA recipients can apply for permission to travel called “Advance Parole” o Advance Parole is an application to USCIS to allow an immigrant to travel outside the United States and return lawfully.

Advance Parole FAQ:

https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/documents/advance_parole_guide.pdf

Resource: <https://immigrantsrising.org/daca/>

Statement of legal residence question on UC application

As of the fall 2023 application cycle, there is a new [Statement of Legal Residence](#) section on the UC application.

Citizenship & residency questions

- Country of citizenship = No selection
- Can enter US SSN or DACA SSN or ITIN or leave blank
- Respond to questions about graduating from a California High School

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As of the fall 2023 application cycle, there is a new statement of legal residence section on the UC application.

These questions have moved from the Review and Submit section to the About You section.

Undocumented students should follow UC's guidelines when completing this section.

(https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/_files/documents/slr-instructions-for-undocumented-students-august-2022.pdf).

AB 540 Designation

Statement of Legal Residence

- Evaluated for California residency for tuition purposes? Yes.
- Answer questions about physical presence.
- Answer questions on permanent home based on birth year.
- Special circumstances:
 - Select 'I believe that I qualify for an AB 540 nonresident supplemental tuition exemption, based on the number of years I have attended school in California.'

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When students get to this section, they will see a series of questions and we'd like to provide some guidance that you can share with your students.

First, students will be asked if they would like to be evaluated for California residency for tuition purposes, they should select "YES" on this question.

Then, they should follow along and answer questions based on physical presence in California, permanent home based on birth year, and under the 'special circumstances' reason, select the choice that states: "I believe that I qualify...."

Instructions for Undocumented Students:

https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/_files/documents/slr-instructions-for-undocumented-students-august-2022.pdf

Financial aid & scholarships

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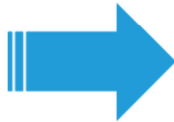
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Financial support

California Dream Act application

- Passed in 2012 and combination of two assembly bills
 - **AB 130:** Allows for students to be eligible for endowment aid on a UC campus (ex. merit scholarship)
 - **AB 131:** Allows for grant money from the state (ex. Cal Grant)



Types of aid

- Grants
- Scholarships
- Work study
- Dream Loan Program (UC funded)

UC supports undocumented students and understands financial support is also important. UC recommends all undocumented students to fill out the CA Dream Act application in order to be considered for financial aid....

CA Dream Act App

1. The California Dream Act allows undocumented students, DACA recipients (valid or expired), U Visa holders and students under Temporary Protected Status (TPS), who qualify for a non-resident exemption under Assembly Bill 540 (AB 540), Senate Bill 2000 (SB 2000) and Senate Bill 68 (SB 68), to receive certain types of financial aid such as: private scholarships funded through public universities, state administered financial aid, university grants, community college fee waivers, and Cal Grants. In addition, the California Dream Act, allows eligible students to pay in-state tuition at any public college in California. Resource: [California Dream Act FAQ's](#)
2. Students should only complete either the FAFSA or Dream Act- both follow same timeline, opening in December this year and Due March 2nd

Work Study

1. Work study is a form of part-time employment (20 hours per week max) that is included in the financial aid package. Instead of a financial aid payment or reimbursement students will be paid by their campus affiliated employers.
2. Eligible undocumented AB 540 undergraduates can apply by submitting a California Dream Act application.
3. Funding is limited, there is no guarantee all students who apply will receive a work study award.

Dream Loan Program

- A. The DREAM Loan Program is funded by the UC and provides eligible undocumented AB 540 undergraduates the option to borrow a subsidized loan to help cover the cost of attending a UC.
- B. <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/tuition-financial-aid/types-of-aid/dream-loan-program.html>
 1. Eligibility- Undocumented AB 540 undergraduates who have financial need and are enrolled at least half time at UC.
 2. Action Steps- Apply for financial aid by filling a California Dream Act application, this process repeats every year.
 3. The DREAM loan is optional. Students are encouraged to reach out to the campus financial aid office if they do not see the DREAM loan on their award letter.
 4. The DREAM loan max is \$20,000. Eligible students can borrow every year until they reach the max.

Additional financial support

Private scholarships

- Immigrants Rising Scholarship and fellowship lists
- Chicana/Latina Foundation
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund
- Latino College Dollars
- The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)
- United States Hispanic Leadership Institute
- Many more



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Private Scholarships

Students can use private scholarships to cover expenses not covered by state financial aid and UC. The following list includes private scholarship opportunities from the [UC website](#). (UC is not affiliated with these sites) Please encourage students to connect with each campus for more scholarship opportunities.

Immigrants Rising Scholarship and Fellowship Lists

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation College Scholarship

PG&E scholarship opportunities

New Leader Scholarship

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

Student support programs at UC

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Centers on campuses

- Undocumented student services available at each campus
- Services include:
 - Academic/ general counseling
 - Internships and fellowships
 - Mentorship
 - Basic needs support
 - Celebrations and graduations
 - Much more!



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Undocumented Student Services

UCB - <https://undocu.berkeley.edu/>

UCD - <https://undocumented.ucdavis.edu/>

UCI - <https://dream.uci.edu/services/>

UCLA - <https://www.usp.ucla.edu/>

UCM - <https://undoc.ucmerced.edu/>

UCR - <https://usp.ucr.edu/>

UCSD - <https://uss.ucsd.edu/>

UCSB - <http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/dreamscholars/home>

UCSC- https://eop.ucsc.edu/undocumented_student_services/index.html

Legal services available to students



UC Immigrant Legal Services Center (UCImm)

ucimmtoolkit.ucop.edu

- Legal advice and representation for undocumented students and their immediate families
- In-depth consultations and direct representation in immigration court or before immigration agencies
- *Free DACA renewal assistance to UC students and their immediate family members.*
- Legal support for campus clinics and workshops

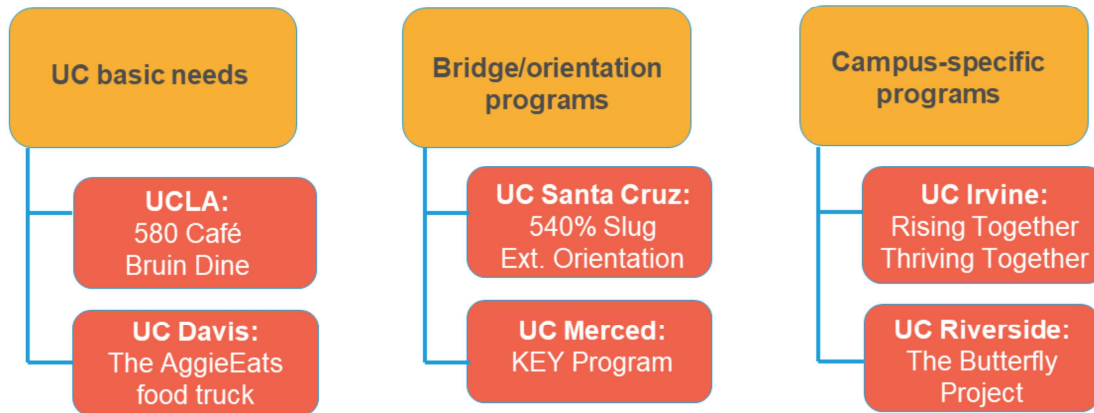
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- Most UC campuses are partnered with UCImm
- UCImm Operates out of UC Davis School of Law
- UC Immigrant Legal Services Center (UCImm)-
<https://ucimmtoolkit.ucop.edu/about-us/>
- Services for students and families include:
 - Legal advice and representation for undocumented students and their immediate families, as well as students who are U.S. citizens with undocumented family members
 - Legal support for informational and know-your-rights sessions at 9 campuses (except UC Berkeley)
 - Legal support for campus clinics and workshops - DACA and other immigration related relief
 - In-depth consultations and direct representation in immigration court or before immigration agencies
 - *Note: UC Immigrant Legal Services provides free DACA renewal assistance to UC students and their immediate family members.*

Other special programs



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UC Basic Needs

- An ecosystem created to strengthen and sustain basic needs security across UC
- All 10 UC campuses have established an on-site basic needs center, which provides access to food, emergency housing and support services
- <https://basicneeds.ucop.edu/about/campus-centers.html>
- Campus links:
 - o UC San Diego: <https://basicneeds.ucsd.edu>
 - o UC Irvine: <http://basicneeds.uci.edu>
 - o UC Riverside: <https://basicneeds.ucr.edu/>
 - o UC Los Angeles: <https://www.basicneeds.ucla.edu/>
 - o UC Santa Barbara: <http://food.ucsb.edu/>
 - o UC Santa Cruz: <https://basicneeds.ucsc.edu/>
 - o UC Merced: <https://basicneeds.ucmerced.edu/>
 - o UC Berkeley: <http://basicneeds.berkeley.edu/>
 - o UC San Francisco: <https://basicneeds.ucsf.edu/>
 - o UC Davis: <https://aggiecompass.ucdavis.edu>
- Campus specific resources:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VvWF001ct89IEfTe_Idd1CWvz4YXaoTdCg_VQAs8yF7k/edit

Bridge/Orientation Programs

- Some orientation programs held during the summer that are designed to assist our Undocumented students transition to our universities:
 - Undocu Summer Intensive Transfer Experience (UndocuSITE) at UCLA
 - Five-day residential program held in July; students learn to navigate the community college system to transfer successfully to the University of California. Introduction to research, university writing and support programs.
 - KEY Program at UC Merced
 - KEY program assists undocumented students and their families & guests in the transition to UC Merced. The program is completely free. Typically four different overnight sessions are available in July.
 - Summer Bridge and Transfer Transition Program at UC Berkeley
 - A six-week rigorous academic residential program that facilitates the transition of students from high school to the university. Summer Bridge cultivates a diverse community of scholars and prepares them to engage actively with and meet the challenges of a large public research university.
 - 540% Slug Extended Orientation: program facilitated by staff and students affiliated with Undocumented Student Services (USS). This summer transition program addresses the unique needs and challenges undocumented students face as they enter a four-year university. It is designed to prepare both first-year frosh and first-year transfer undocumented students to transition smoothly to the university and build a strong and supportive network of undocumented students at UC Santa Cruz. https://eop.ucsc.edu/undocumented_student_services/prospective-students.html

Campus Specific Programs

1. UCLA
 - a. UndocuBruins Research:
<https://www.aap.ucla.edu/programs/undocubruins/>
 - i. The UndocuBruins Research Program guides undocumented AAP students in their junior or senior year to develop research experience and their graduate school goals. Participants undertake a research project under the guidance of a graduate mentor and a faculty mentor. UndocuBruins will also develop their graduate school applications- curriculum vita, draft personal and professional statements, learn how to obtain strong letters of

- i. To broaden and diversify opportunities for undocumented students widely in professional, academic, and/or research based experiences, we have launched the new program called the UndocuCareer Development Fund
 - ii. Previously known Professional Career Development Program (PCDP)
- 1. UC Santa Barbara
 - a. USS Immigrant Resilience Week
 - b. USS Mentoring Program : <https://uss.sa.ucsb.edu/events-programs/uss-mentoring-program>
 - i. Students are paired up with a faculty member in their department or department of interest, a staff, or an alumni. Additionally, we host quarterly socials to allow students and mentors to interact with one another in a friendly environment. As part of this program, you are also eligible to apply for a scholarship that supports research opportunities and/or career development.
- 1. UC Irvine
 - a. Rising Together Thriving Together: The Rising Together, Thriving Together Conference is a unique opportunity for continuing and prospective UCI undocumented students and staff to spend a day together to meet one another, network, and build community within UCI. <https://dream.uci.edu/rttt/>
- 2. UC Riverside
 - a. The Butterfly Project: Students gain hands-on experience through an exciting, eight-week, on-campus mentorship. Students attend weekly workshops and are guided on resume building, interviewing, networking and other professional skills. Upon program completion students earn a \$1,250 scholarship. <https://usp.ucr.edu/butterfly-project>
- 3. UC San Diego
 - a. Laptop Loans: <https://form.jotform.com/212976230422047>
 - b. USS Cap & Gown Lending Program: <https://form.jotform.com/230245596723055>

Thank you!

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UC Undocumented student services and information site:
<https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/student-success/undocumented-students>.