AB 540 & UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

The AB 540 and Undocumented Students program supports the undocumented student population including those who may or may not qualify for AB 540. We are located in a resource center in Mary Park Hall that offers resources and support to current and incoming undocumented students or students with mixed status families. On our website (http://undocugators.sfsu.edu), you will find information about our resources that support the academic and personal success of our undocumented students. All students have the right to attend any public college or university in California regardless of their immigration status. As a university, we encourage personal growth through participation in interactive programming and workshops that support the intersectionalities, multicultural/multiethnic identities, and holistic wellness of our students. SF State has a strong network of campus and community members that are committed to helping AB540 and undocumented students achieve academic excellence. Throughout the year, we will provide a series of leadership and professional opportunities, financial aid resources, connections to legal support, and informational workshops to give you the information you need to continue succeeding on campus.

Contact Us
Dream Resource Center
Phone: (415) 405-3503
Fax: (415) 338-6150
Email: dreamers@sfsu.edu
Website: http://undocugators.sfsu.edu

AB 540 and Residency Status

Assembly Bill 540 (https://undocugators.sfsu.edu/AB540) is a law that was passed in 2001 by the California legislature and was recently amended with Assembly Bill 2000 in 2015. The laws were written for students who are either undocumented or U.S. Citizens/Permanent Residents but are considered non-residents for tuition purposes. If these students meet specific requirements, such as attending a California public institution of higher learning, they are able to pay resident fees instead of non-resident fees.

AB 540/AB 2000 Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for paying “resident fees,” students must meet the following requirements:

- Attend a California high school for a minimum of three or more years; OR
- Have attained credits earned in California from a California high school equivalent to three or more years of full time high school course work and attending a combination of elementary, middle and/or high schools in California for a total of three or more years; AND
- Graduate from a California high school and pass the California High School Proficiency Exam OR get a GED (General Equivalency Diploma) or Graduate from a California high school or the equivalent (for example: pass the California High School Proficiency exam or GED);
- Enroll in an accredited California institution of higher education (CCC, CSU, or UC)
- File a Non-Resident Tuition Exemption Affidavit with the school. In the case of students without legal immigration status, they must state that they have filed or will file an application to legalize their immigration status as soon as they are eligible to do so.

Steps for Submitting your AB 540 Affidavit for Undergraduates and Graduates

- Submit your completed Non-Resident Tuition Exemption Affidavit (http://www.sfsu.edu/~finaid/ab540/AB540AB2000Affidavit.pdf) and official high school transcripts by the first day of classes.
- If you are a SF State undergraduate student now applying to a graduate program at SF State you must ONLY re-submit your affidavit to the Division of Graduate Studies. No need to submit your Official Transcripts. All other graduate students must submit their official HS Transcripts AND Affidavit to the Division of Graduate Studies Admissions.
- AB 540 student status will not be official until final high school transcripts & affidavit are submitted and processed. Non-resident fees (http://www.sfsu.edu/future/costs/fees.html#regfees) will be charged until AB 540 status is approved.
- You will receive a letter or an email from the Admissions Office verifying your status as an AB 540 student (usually just prior to the beginning of classes).
- If you plan to pay out of pocket on the installment plan, bring a copy of the completed affidavit to your orientation and present it to the Bursar’s Office to ensure you will only be required to pay resident fees.

California Dream Act

- Complete the CA Dream Act Application (https://dream.csac.ca.gov) or the FAFSA (https://fafsa.ed.gov) application by the March 2 priority deadline. Please confirm your eligibility so that you can submit the correct application for federal and/or state financial aid.
- Begin looking for scholarships right away at www.sfsu.edu/~finaid/scholarships (http://www.sfsu.edu/~finaid/scholarships) and http://www.e4fc.org/scholarshipists.html (http://www.e4fc.org/scholarshipists.html) Apply for as many scholarships as you can, with Spring being the most opportune time to search for the next academic year.
- For more information check out our AB 540 Financial Aid page (http://www.sfsu.edu/~finaid/ab540).