

# AB 540 & UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

## 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/SB 68 Eligibility Criteria

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

- Three or more years of full-time high school coursework, and a total of three or more years of attendance in California elementary schools, California secondary schools, or a combination of California elementary, secondary, and adult schools.
- Three years of adult school and GED.
- Two or more years of full-time California Community College AND one year of California elementary, secondary, or adult schools.
- Enroll in an accredited California institution of higher education (CCC, CSU, or UC).
- File a **Non-Resident Tuition Exemption Affidavit** (<http://financialaid.sfsu.edu/sites/default/files/imported/ab540/AB540AB2000Affidavit.pdf>) 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://financialaid.sfsu.edu/sites/default/files/imported/ab540/AB540AB2000Affidavit.pdf>) and official high school transcripts by the first day of classes.
- If you are an 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 high school 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://future.sfsu.edu/tuition-aid>) 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/scholarshiplist.html>. (<http://www.e4fc.org/scholarshiplist.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>).