

FINANCIAL RESOURCE GUIDE FOR UNDOCUMENTED COLLEGE STUDENTS



August 2020



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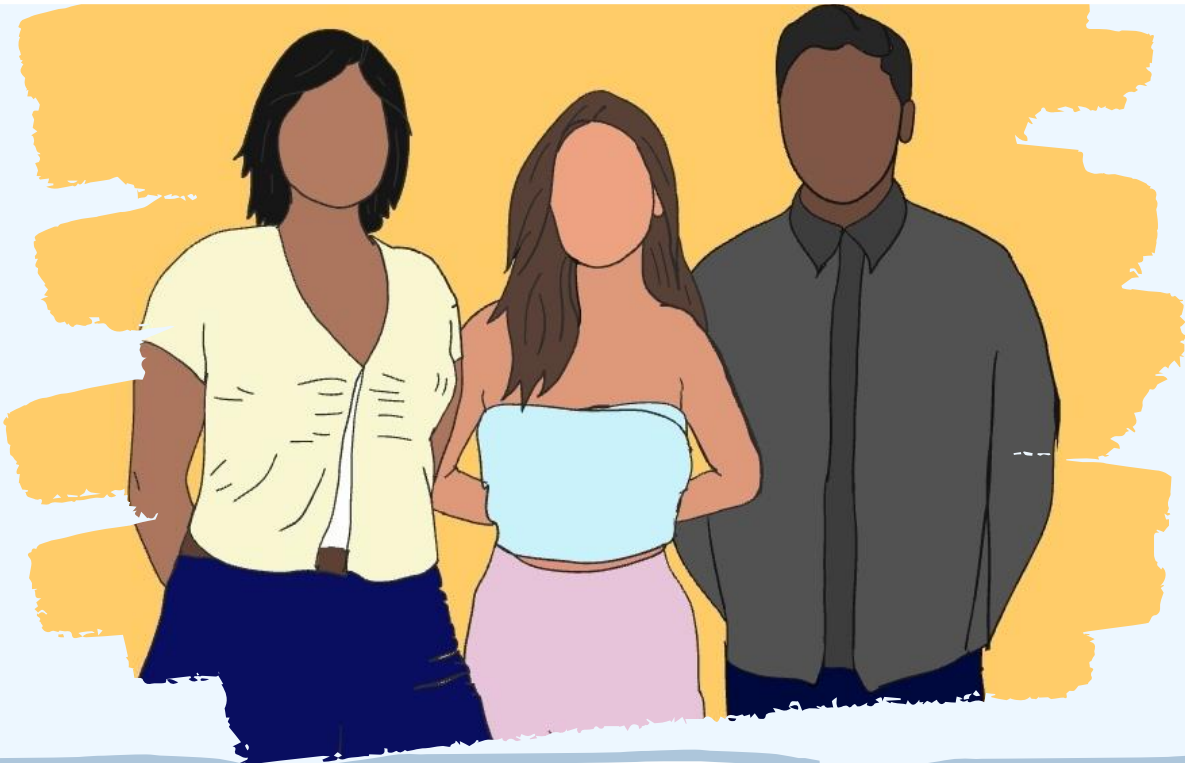
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WHO ARE THE AUTHORS?

This resource guide is created by three students from different backgrounds and educational journeys with support from AHRI's Legal Services Team, and allies who believe in educational equity. As members of mixed-status families in Southern California, we have learned about the disparities and inequalities that undocumented students face; nevertheless, we believe that everyone has the right to an education. This resource guide is founded on wanting to empower, motivate, and equip undocumented students.

If you would like to volunteer with AHRI or donate, please visit our website ah-ri.org or ah-ri.org/donate.



"As a first generation low income student going through the college education system is challenging. Through this resource, I hope to alleviate some stress of trying to figure out college on your own. I believe that everyone should be able to get a college education, no matter their socioeconomic background, immigration status nor the color of one's skin."

- LAURA

"I am a recent UCI graduate, who is invested in creating positive change for people who have been marginalized in society. I believe that it is not a crime to want to survive and thrive, for it is in our human nature to surpass obstacles and oppression, for the sake of our loved ones. I am an aspiring teacher wanting to make a difference in my community, and always striving to be a better person."

- CARLOS

"I'm a college student that believes in community building and equity. I grew up with many disadvantages and difficulties and understand the grind that minoritized groups need to put in. I want those that are placed at a disadvantage by the government to have a master resource guide to refer to, so that they can pursue higher education."

- LEE



WHAT ARE IMPORTANT TERMS TO UNDERSTAND BEFORE APPLYING TO COLLEGE?

We encourage you to apply for college or university regardless of your immigration status. You do not need to be a U.S. citizen, a green card holder, or a DACA recipient to apply or to be admitted into a college or university in California.

Who is considered an undocumented student?	1. Immigrated to the U.S. without inspection or proper documentation. OR 2. Entered legally as a non-immigrant but overstayed the terms of their status and remained in the United States without authorization.
College bound undocumented students:	Lived in the United States most of their lives, brought to the U.S. by their parents at a young age. Learned English and think of themselves as part of American society. Attended elementary, middle, and high school in this country. Want to pursue a college education, but lack a way to become legal residents or citizens in the U.S.
Family Educational and Privacy Act (FERPA):	This federal law protects the privacy of student records at educational institutions, including elementary and secondary schools, colleges, and universities.
AB540:	Authorizes any student, including undocumented students who meet specific criteria to pay in-state tuition at California's public colleges and universities (e.g. California Community Colleges, California State University, University of California).
SB68:	In 2017, SB68 helped expand AB540 to enable students to count Community College and Adult School towards AB540 Eligibility. Link for more in depth information: https://immigrantsrising.org/wp-content/uploads/Immigrants-Rising_SB-68-Quick-Guide.pdf
E.O.P.S.	Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) is a state and college funded program designed to assist students with economic, linguistic, and educational challenges (as defined by Title V) enroll and succeed in higher education. (Los Angeles Colleges)
California Dream Act: (Apply by March 2)	The California Dream Act Application allows students interested in attending eligible California colleges, Universities and Career Education Programs to apply for state financial aid. This application is unrelated to the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. https://dream.csac.ca.gov California Dream Act Video Training: https://youtu.be/cmqa1CA5tYo

HOW TO APPLY FOR COLLEGE?

Applying to Colleges and Universities may seem complicated and intimidating, but taking the application process one step at a time will enable you to successfully reach completion before you know it.

Once enrolled in said college, ask if there is a **Dream Resource Center (Campus support)** that offers guidance and a safe space for undocumented students. Majority of colleges/universities offer a resource center or student org for undocumented students.

California Community College Support: <https://www.cccco.edu/Students/Support-Services/Special-population/Undocumented-Students>

Cal State Campus Support: <https://www2.calstate.edu/attend/student-services/resources-for-undocumented-students/Pages/campus-support.aspx>

UC Campus Support: <https://undoc.universityofcalifornia.edu/campus-support.html>

Community College (two-year colleges)

There are about 100+ community colleges in California. To apply, you need to choose a Community College you wish to attend, then fill out an online application specific to the Community College of your choice.

This link will direct you to 100+ community colleges and their specific requirements!
<https://www.cccapply.org/en/>

"To apply for regular admission, begin by selecting a community college from the drop down menu in the 'Apply Today' tool. When you click 'Apply' with a college chosen, you will be directed to that college's admission application process." (CCCApply)

Four-year colleges or universities (Cal States, UC's, Private schools)

The application process typically consists of submitting:

An online application form:

Cal State Application Form:
<https://calstate.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>

UC Application Form:
<https://apply.universityofcalifornia.edu/my-application/login>

Private school applications can be found on the school's website under Undergraduate Admission.

- A letter of intent or personal statement;
- At least one supplemental essay (the topic is typically provided by the school);
- Two or more letters of recommendation from previous teachers;
- High school transcripts;
- Standardized test scores;
- Application fees.

**Tips for filling out the UC Application
(Undocumented Student Resource):**

<https://undoc.universityofcalifornia.edu/applying-to-uc.html>

HOW TO GET FINANCIAL AID FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE?



During your senior year of high school, meet with your schools counselor. Let them know you want to enroll in a community college and ask for their assistance. If your counselor cannot assist you, contact the community college you plan on attending.



1. Visit the community college website and contact the admissions and records office. Inform them that you are an undocumented student finishing high school and would like to attend their community college. It is important that you ask them for the **AB540** application and fill it out to ensure In-State tuition and not the out-of-state tuition. Then officially apply to become a student (see page 3 to direct you to all 100+ community colleges in CA).

2. Contact your financial aid office and ask about financial aid resources that community college offers for undocumented students. Some community colleges offer additional help like:

- College offers Board Of Governors Fee Waiver (BOG)
- EOPS (Extended Opportunities Program and Services)
- California College Promise Grant (2 years free college program). Be sure to ask about these resources.

For more information follow:

<https://www.cccapply.org/en/money/california-college-promise-grant>

3. Meet with an academic counselor. During this step, you will receive guidance on how to choose and sign up for classes. You will also learn about the different certificates or services offered, so you can choose what is best for you and stay on track to earn your certificate and/or transfer to a university.

4. Once you are taking classes at your community college, it is advised to start thinking about your future plans or next steps in your educational journey. It is highly recommended that you visit your community college transfer center and get more information on universities and financial aid opportunities for undocumented folks.

*The California Dream Act offers financial aid for undocumented students; the application due date is March 2nd. (See page 2 on how to to apply for the CDA)

Final Advice:

Don't be afraid to **ask for help**, mention that you are an undocumented **AB540** student, so they can refer you to clubs and services (these spaces are always willing to share resources and lend a helping hand) that the community colleges may offer.

HOW TO GET FINANCIAL AID FOR CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITIES?



California State Universities make up the largest public university system in CA. They're affordable and known to accommodate to student needs. This link will help you find which Cal State is right for you:

<https://www.evcs.edu/StudentAffairs/Documents/CSU-Profiles.pdf>

There is a total of **23 California State Universities**, to access the application link refer to page 4.

California State University has a link directing you to the financial aid services that they have for undocumented students:

<https://www2.calstate.edu/attend/student-services/resources-for-undocumented-students>.

Most financial aid comes from state/university grants. Here are the steps to apply for them:

*****IMPORTANT QUALIFICATION:** GPA matters when applying for the grants:

- Cal Grant A: minimum of 3.00 for high school and 2.40 in college
- Cal Grant B: minimum of 3.00 in high school and 2.00 in college

1. Check your eligibility HERE:

https://www.csac.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/g-30_2020_cal_grant_comparison.pdf

2. Ask your school to submit your GPA electronically. It is YOUR responsibility to make sure that they did.

- IF they can't, here is the link to the form you can submit:

https://www.csac.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/g4_gpa.pdf?1590114412

3. Apply for AB540, the link to the form is provided below. Your school's Office of Admissions and Records should also have it.
http://ab540.com/uploads/ca_nonresident_tuition_exemption_request_form.pdf

4. Go to the website (<https://www.csac.ca.gov>) to apply for the grants, follow the steps given there.

- You will receive the grant early June. Your school will show you the amount received through your financial aid section.
- **Disclaimer:** Grants cover 4 years (8 semesters). Summer/winter sessions are counted as a semester.

5. Apply for the CA Dream Act:
<https://dream.csac.ca.gov>
(unrelated to the DACA program)

There is also the EOP (extended opportunities program and services) that can provide additional financial help.

Here is the resource link:

<https://www2.calstate.edu/attend/student-services/eop>

March 2nd is the due date for financial aid.
(senior year of high school 2nd semester, college 2nd semester)

HOW TO GET FINANCIAL AID FOR UC'S?



What you need to do:

If you think you meet the requirements for an AB540 nonresident tuition exemption, here's how to make sure you're considered for financial aid.

It is highly recommended for the student to contact the Dream Resource Center at their desired campus to get additional information and resources.



Official UC Website:

<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/tuition-financial-aid/types-of-aid/who-can-get-financial-aid/ca-dream-act.html>

1. Submit your application for admission to UC. When you fill out the application for undergraduate admission, you're automatically considered for a number of UC scholarships.

- Application website:
<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply-now.html>

2. File a California Dream Act Application between October 1, 2020, and March 2, 2021. When you do this, you'll need to confirm that you've registered for Selective Service (if you're a male under the age of 26). If you have a valid Social Security number, you can register online. If not, you'll need to register in-person at any U.S. Post office.

- Learn more about filling out the California Dream Act Application
» <https://dream.csac.ca.gov>

4. Once you've been accepted to a UC campus, submit a Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) at your intended campus.

- <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-freshman/after-you-apply/>

5. After the campus receives your SIR, you'll need to submit a Statement of Legal Residence (SLR) to the campus residence deputy.

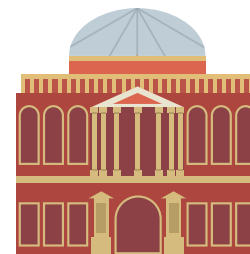
6. If you then receive a nonresident classification, complete the AB 540 nonresident tuition exemption forms, which you can get at your campus registrar's office.

If you're an undocumented student and not eligible for an AB540 nonresident tuition exemption, you will be ineligible for all federal, state, and institutional aid. Private loans and scholarships are the only financial aid options.

3. Make sure your GPA has been submitted for a Cal Grant (in addition to the California Dream Act Application). California's community colleges and most California high schools automatically submit students' GPAs for Cal Grants. Check with your school to make sure; if they don't automatically submit your GPA, download the Cal Grant GPA Verification Form and have your school submit it to the California Student Aid Commission.

- Cal Grant GPA Verification Form: <https://www.csac.ca.gov/pod/cal-grant-gpa-information>
- If you're considered a California resident for admissions purposes, you may be eligible for our application fee waiver and you'll be considered for admission using the 3.0 minimum GPA (rather than the 3.4 GPA for nonresident applicants).

HOW TO GET FINANCIAL AID FOR PRIVATES AND SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION



The financial application process vary from school to school. It is advised that you reach out to the school you want to attend for specific information on your financial aid opportunities.

(Generally)

Undocumented undergraduate students may qualify for financial aid. Applicants who identify as undocumented should submit the following documents to begin their financial aid application.

California residents are also asked to complete the CSAC Dream Grant application requirements. Once your documents are received, the financial aid office may request additional information before determining your eligibility for aid.

- **(CSS Profile):** an online form that college students can use to apply for non-federal financial aid.
- **Tax Return** (your parents'/guardians' tax return)
- **Third Party Letter Confirming Undocumented Status**

Scholarships for Undergraduate Undocumented Students in California:

Some private institution award scholarships and provide other forms of aid to undocumented students. The best place to start searching for scholarships is through a high school counselor who can connect students with organizations that provide access to resources geared towards undocumented students. These groups may also direct users to general scholarships that do not have a citizenship or residency requirement to qualify.

Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF):

This civil rights organization has fought for the rights of the Latino community since 1968 and provides several scholarships for students who want to take up the cause.

- <http://www.maldef.org/Leadership/scholarships/index.html>

Educators for Fair Consideration (E4FC):

Their goals are to fill the resource gaps for undocumented students, and to help them reach their educational, professional, and personal goals. E4FC provides frequently updated lists of scholarships for undocumented students at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

- <http://www.e4fc.org/scholarsprogram/scholarsoverview.html>

TheDream.US: Partnering with more than 75 colleges and universities around the country, TheDream.US works to promote access to higher education for DACA recipients and students with Temporary Protected Status by providing scholarships and other support services. Schools in the states that offer in-state tuition to undocumented students may also have scholarships available. Though undocumented students are typically unable to submit the FAFSA, they should contact schools' financial aid offices before applying to determine how much aid they can receive.

- <http://www.thedream.us/scholarships/>

Additional Scholarships

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hchjwJ2l62-ki1sgeeHKcf-jOkCwFLcz0r9ofl_Hq0U/edit?usp=sharing

HOW TO COVER THE COST OF BOOKS FOR COLLEGE?

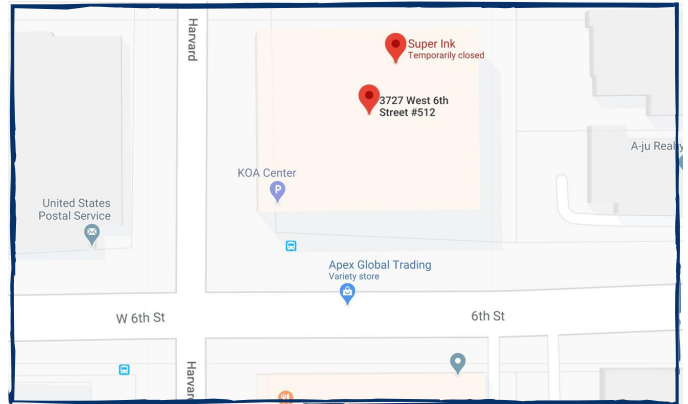
Textbooks tend to be required and expensive in a college/university setting, but fear not, here is a list of tips and alternatives from purchasing textbooks:



- **Ask your professors** if they can have a copy of the book on reserve in the library (98% of the time the professor will say yes). Libraries will have policies and guidelines on how often and how long you can borrow books.
- **Search for the PDF online:** Sometimes you can find the book you need as a free PDF online or at a significantly cheaper priced E-book (just be sure it is the desired or acceptable edition of the book).
- **Ask a classmate** if they would be willing to lend you the book or if they want to split the cost of the book and share it for the semester/quarter.
- **The EOPS** (extended opportunities program and services) may give textbook vouchers to qualified students.
- **Helpful websites: Your school's bookstore will have**
 - slugbooks.com (compares prices and gives the cheapest option)
 - Library genesis: website that you can get textbooks for free
 - chegg.com (get discounts when you use school student email)



Financial Resource Guide For Undocumented Students



3727 W 6th Street Suite 512, Los Angeles, CA 90020

We believe in education for all, including undocumented students. This resource guide is created to help undocumented students navigate through institutions of higher education and provide information regarding financial support. This guide aims to cover important terminology and financial resources for: community college, California State Universities, University of California, and private universities.



Target Audience:

Undocumented individuals who want to pursue a college education.



Additional Notes:

The guide will also be made available through AHRI's Instagram, @ahriforjustice. Important resources will also be made available on their social media platforms.



Languages Spoken:

English
Korean
Spanish



Hours of Operation:

M-F: 8am-5pm

Please contact us at
info@ah-ri.org
+1 (323) 565-1101

For legal services, contact
legalservices@ah-ri.org



Community input:

Due to the nature of laws constantly changing and the rise of new resources, we encourage you to share additional resources with us. This will ensure undocumented students are up to date with every resource available.

Share resources with us here: AHRI.StudentResources@gmail.com

REFERENCES

- **AB540 Form:**
 - http://ab540.com/uploads/ca_nonresident_tuition_exemption_request_form.pdf
- **Best Colleges:**
 - <https://www.bestcolleges.com/resources/undocumented-students-guide/>
- **California Community College:**
 - <https://tinyurl.com/y236ungx>
- **California Community College:**
 - <https://www.cccapply.org/en/money/california-college-promise-grant>
 - <https://www.cccco.edu/Students/Support-Services/Special-population/Undocumented-Students>
- **California Dream Act:**
 - <https://dream.csac.ca.gov>
- **Cal State Financial Aid Website:**
 - <https://www2.calstate.edu/attend/student-services/resources-for-undocumented-students>
- **Cal Grants GPA Electronic Submission Form:**
 - https://www.csac.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/g4_gpa.pdf?1590114412
- **Cal Grant Dream Application:**
 - <https://dream.csac.ca.gov>
- **Cal Grant Eligibility Website:**
 - https://www.csac.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/g-30_2020_cal_grant_comparison.pdf
- **Cal State EOP Form/Information Link:**
 - <https://www2.calstate.edu/attend/student-services/eop>
- **TheDream.US:**
 - <http://www.thedream.us/scholarships/>
- **Educators for Fair Consideration (E4FC):**
 - <http://www.e4fc.org/scholarsprogram/scholarsoverview.html>
 - https://my.academyart.edu/content/dam/assets/pdf/undoc_stud_overview.pdf
- **Immigrants Rising SB68 information:**
 - https://immigrantsrising.org/wp-content/uploads/Immigrants-Rising_SB-68-Quick-Guide.pdf
- **Los Angeles City College**
 - <https://www.lacitycollege.edu/Resources/EOPS-CARE-CAFYES/EOPS-FAQ>
- **Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF):**
 - <http://www.maldef.org/leadership/scholarships/index.html>
- **Prepscholar Community College Information:**
 - <https://blog.prepscholar.com/how-to-apply-for-community-college>
- **University of California Admissions:**
 - universityofcalifornia.eduhttps://undoc.universityofcalifornia.edu/applying-to-uc.html