



UNDOCU-TRANSFER APPLICATION GUIDE



How To Use This Guide

This guide was created as a resource for undocumented applicants to the University of California (UC) system and California State University (CSU) system. In the following sections, we address common issues such as residency and citizenship questions in the order in which you will encounter them on your applications. The information in this guide was sourced from UC and CSU websites and is current as of June 2025.

For additional application assistance,
please contact the Transfer Center:

Phone: 714-992-7086

Email: transfer@fullcoll.edu

For undocumented student support,
please contact our Fullerton College
Undocumented Students Liaison:

Julio Reyes Cabezas (he/him)

Email: jreyescabezas@fullcoll.edu



Key Legislation Impacting Undocumented Students

As a preface to the following document, we have provided a few terms that are used throughout the Undocu-Transfer Application Guide. These terms are sourced from the Undocumented Students Support E-Handbook.⁽¹⁾

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) (2012): Became an immigration option for undocumented immigrants who came to the United States before the age of 16. Although DACA does not provide a pathway to lawful permanent residence, it does provide a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation, work authorization, and the ability to apply for a social security number. DACA recipients are granted temporary administrative relief from deportation. Individuals who were granted DACA are considered to be lawfully present.

AB 540 (2001): Allows certain non-resident students who complete at least three years of full-time attendance or the equivalent at a CA high school, adult school, or California Community College (credit & noncredit) and degree requirements to receive reduced in-state tuition at public colleges and universities.

California Dream Act (2011): Allows qualifying AB 540 students to access state and institutional funds to finance their college/university education.

Key Legislation Impacting Undocumented Students References

⁽¹⁾ Hernandez, M., Browne, G., Vázquez, A.C., Ramirez, J., & Moreno, B. (2025). Undocumented Students Support E-Handbook. <https://undocustudentsupport.org/chapters/background-and-setting-up-the-stage/cc-undocumented-student-services-over-the-years/>

Application Guide for the California State University (CSU)

01 | Create an Account

To apply to any of the California State University (CSU) campuses, create an account on the Cal State Apply webpage.⁽²⁾

02 | Extended Profile

Question 3 is about international applicants and states “Do you have or will you require an F1 Visa (student) or J1 Visa (exchange) to study at the California State University (CSU)?” The CSU Help Center states that “If you are not an international applicant and will not require a visa at the time of enrollment, select No.”⁽³⁾

Additionally, you will be asked “What U.S. State/Possession do you regard as your permanent home?” The CSU Help Center clarifies to “select the US state/possession you consider your permanent home.”⁽³⁾

Please note, this does not ask about legal residency status. Select the state where you reside and which you consider your home.

03 | Add Programs

Once you complete your responses for the Extended Profile, you will be asked to select the campus(es) and major(s) you are applying to.

Afterwards, you will be taken to the application homepage. Here you will see four quadrants. The “Personal Information” quadrant is where you will be asked about citizenship, residency, and a social security number.⁽²⁾



04 | Personal Information Quadrant

U.S. Citizenship

In the Citizenship/Residency Information Section, you will be asked to “select the value that best describes your U.S. Citizenship.”⁽²⁾

Select “None” if you are “an individual who has no US citizenship or visa (immigrant or nonimmigrant) status”.⁽⁴⁾

Residency

This section asks you about which US state you regard as your permanent home, “regardless of your legal capacity to establish residency”.⁽⁴⁾

If you meet the California State University Nonresident Tuition Exemption (commonly known as AB540), you may be exempt from paying nonresident tuition.⁽⁴⁾

You will be asked if you have, “lived in California continuously since birth?” You can select “no” and then be sure to indicate the date your present stay began.

Refer to the New Student Page to learn more about how incoming students can apply for California residency for tuition purposes.⁽⁵⁾

Please note that “Once you submit your application, you cannot edit this section.”⁽²⁾

Social Security Number

In the “Other Information” section, you will be asked about your Social Security Number (SSN), if applicable.⁽²⁾

If you do not have a SSN, select the “No” option. Then you will be asked to acknowledge that you do not have a Social Security Number. Make sure you check this box.⁽²⁾

The campus(es) you are applying to will assign you a temporary number.

Please note that “Once you submit your application, you cannot edit this section.”⁽²⁾

AB 540 Form: Submitting the California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request

If you qualify for AB 540, you must submit the California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request (AB 540 form) to the Admissions office at the CSU campus you will be attending.⁽⁶⁾

This form will only need to be submitted once so long as you maintain continuous enrollment at that same institution.

Application Guide for the California State University (CSU) References

⁽²⁾ The California State University. (n.d.). Cal State Apply. Retrieved February 3, 2025 from calstate.edu/apply

⁽³⁾ The California State University. (n.d.). Updating my Profiles. Retrieved February 6, 2025 from https://help.liaisonedu.com/Cal_State_Apply_Applicant_Help_Center/Starting_Your_Cal_State_Apply_Application/Creating_and_Managing_Your_Cal_State_Account/Updating_My_Profiles

⁽⁴⁾ The California State University. (n.d.). Citizenship/Residency Information. Retrieved February 3, 2025 from https://help.liaisonedu.com/Cal_State_Apply_Applicant_Help_Center/Filling_Out_Your_Cal_State_Apply_Application/Cal_State_Apply_Personal_Information/4_Citizenship%2F%2FResidency_Information

⁽⁵⁾ The California State University. (n.d.). New Student. Retrieved February 10, 2025 from <https://www.calstate.edu/apply/california-residency-for-tuition-purposes/Pages/new-students.aspx>

⁽⁶⁾ The California State University. (n.d.). Residency Forms. Retrieved February 11, 2025 from <https://www.calstate.edu/apply/california-residency-for-tuition-purposes/Pages/forms.aspx>

Application Guide for the University of California (UC)

01 | Create an Account

To apply to any of the undergraduate University of California (UC) campuses create an account on the UC Apply webpage here.⁽⁷⁾

02 | Your Application Level

As you are creating your account, you will be asked to indicate your “Your application level.” Select “Transfer.”

You should then select “Junior-Level transfer” if you will complete at least 60 UC transferable units prior to transfer. Make sure to meet with a counselor to ensure you will have the units required to be considered a junior-level transfer.⁽⁷⁾

After this, you will be taken to the homepage of your application. The “About you” section is where you will be asked about citizenship, residency, and a social security number.⁽⁷⁾

Statement from the UC:

Students who are themselves undocumented or who have undocumented or mixed-documentation families are welcome at UC and are encouraged to apply.⁽⁸⁾

03 | “About You” Section

Citizenship and Residency

Here you will be asked, “What is your country of citizenship?” Clicking on the information icon, you should see a message that indicates instructions for undocumented students.

See Figure 1:



Using those guidelines, undocumented students including those with DACA should select the option that reads, “No Selection.”

Social Security Number

In this same area, you will also be asked, “Do you have a U.S. Social Security number or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)?”

If you qualify for DACA, select “Yes,” and report your assigned SSN. (DACA part not cited)

If you do not have a valid SSN, but you do have an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), select “Yes,” and report the ITIN in place of an SSN on the application.

Make sure that the SSN or ITIN you provide match the same information entered on the California Dream Act Application (CADAA).

If you do not have a valid SSN nor an ITIN, select “No”.

03 | “About You” Section (Continued)

California Residency

The questions asked in this section are used to determine if you are a California resident for admission purposes.

There are a few criteria that can be met to be considered a California High School Graduate, click on the information icon to view additional details.

UC has different admission criteria for California and non-California residents. Please note, this section does not ask about legal residency status.

Statement of Legal Residence

The University of California requires applicants to complete a Statement of Legal Residence (SLR) to be evaluated for a Residency Classification for UC tuition purposes.

A link in this section redirects you to guidelines for how undocumented students should fill out the Statement of Legal Residence

Undocumented Students should follow these guidelines:⁽⁹⁾

You will be asked: “Would you like to be evaluated for California residency for tuition purposes?” Select “Yes”.

Respond to the question about your own physical presence in California and about attendance at a California high school.

If you were born before 1/1/2001:

You will be asked if you have established California as your permanent home for the past 366 days or more. Select “Yes”.

If you were born after 12/31/2000:

You will be asked if you have established California as your permanent home for the past 366 days or more. Select “Yes”.

You will be asked about your Parent(s) physical presence in CA and U.S. citizenship status. Select “Unknown”.

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” in the Special Circumstance, Nonresident Supplemental Tuition Exemptions, and Tuition Waivers section.



AB 540 Form: Submitting the California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request

If you receive a nonresident classification, the campus residence deputy may provide you with additional forms to complete. These forms help determine your eligibility for the AB 540 nonresident tuition exemption. Be prepared to provide official California school transcripts, proof of high school graduation, and non-credit hours.

Once the UC grants you the exemption, you will not need to reapply as long as:

- (a) Your visa status does not change, and
- (b) You are continuously enrolled in the program to which you have been admitted.

For additional information regarding this process, please view the UC webpage on AB 540 nonresident tuition exemption.⁽¹⁰⁾

Statement from the UC:

Immigration status will not be used outside the application process other than for legitimate educational interests, including the provision of a service or benefit relating to the student, such as health care, counseling, job placement or financial aid.⁽¹¹⁾



Application Guide for the University of California (UC) References

⁽⁷⁾University of California. (n.d.). UC Application. Retrieved February 12, 2025 from <https://apply.universityofcalifornia.edu/my-application/login>

⁽⁸⁾University of California Graduate, Undergraduate, and Equity Affairs. (2022). Statement of Legal Residence on the Application for Admission: Questions and Answers. Retrieved February 12, 2025 from https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/_files/documents/statement-of-legal-residence-on-application-q-and-a-august-2022.pdf

⁽⁹⁾University of California Graduate, Undergraduate, and Equity Affairs. (2024). Statement of Legal Residence (SLR) Instructions for Undocumented Students. Retrieved February 12, 2025 from https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/_files/documents/slr-instructions-for-undocumented-students.pdf

⁽¹⁰⁾University of California. (n.d.). AB 540 nonresident tuition exemption. Retrieved July 2, 2025 from <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/tuition-financial-aid/tuition-cost-of-attendance/ab-540-nonresident-tuition-exemption.html#:~:text=Under%20California%20law%20AB%20540,supplemental%20tuition%20charged%20to%20nonresidents>.

⁽¹¹⁾University of California. (n.d.). Applying to the UC. Retrieved February 18, 2025 from <https://undoc.universityofcalifornia.edu/applying-to-uc.html>



Frequently Asked Questions: Applying to the CSU and UC

Can I transfer as an undocumented student?

YES! There is no federal law that prohibits an undocumented person from attending a college or university. Each state has its own laws and policies which determine how undocumented students can qualify for in-state tuition and state financial aid. Keep reading below to learn more about qualifying for in-state tuition and state financial aid!

How do I qualify for a fee waiver when submitting my CSU or UC application?

AB 540 eligible students who meet the income criteria for a fee waiver to each system can apply to four UC campuses and four CSU campuses at no cost.

When filling out the CSU and UC application, all applicants are asked to report family income. All applicants are automatically considered for a fee waiver based on the family income reported. Those who meet the income criteria to qualify for a fee waiver can apply to four campuses (per system, ex: four UC campuses and four CSU campuses) at no cost.

Will I have to report my parents' immigration status on the applications?

When you apply to a UC campus, under the Statement of Legal Residence section, you may be asked the following questions:

"Is [your] Parent... a U.S. citizen?"

"Has [your] Parent... been physically present in CA for the last 3 years?"

Per the UC Guidelines, "you may choose not to answer these questions". These questions are used for the purpose of establishing residency for tuition purposes and have no bearing on your admissions decision.⁽¹²⁾

If applying to a CSU campus, you will not be asked this question.

How will I know if I qualify for in-state tuition at a California College or University?

In 2001, California authored/passed Assembly Bill (AB) 540. This law allowed students (including undocumented students) who met certain criteria to qualify for in-state tuition. In 2014, AB 2000 expanded the criteria to qualify for AB 540. Similarly, in 2018, SB 68 also expanded eligibility requirements.

Note: Non-credit students that complete hours to be eligible for AB540 may need to provide High School Transcripts, North Orange Continuing Education (NOCE) Transcripts, and any additional community college transcripts.

Take a closer look at AB 540 and expanded eligibility criteria.⁽¹³⁾

You may also use the Immigrants Rising In-State Tuition Tool, which is a confidential and trusted resource, to see if you qualify for AB 540 here.⁽¹⁴⁾

Please Note: If you meet the criteria to qualify for AB 540, you must submit the AB 540 form (formally called the "Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request form") to the campus you are currently attending or will be attending.

This form is typically submitted to the Admissions and Records office and only needs to be submitted once, if you maintain continuous enrollment at that institution.

Will I be eligible to apply for financial aid?

YES! AB 540 eligible students can apply for California based financial aid programs by completing the California Dream Act Application (CADAA). To learn more, visit the Fullerton College Financial Aid webpage.⁽¹⁵⁾

Is it true that if my total family income is less than \$100,000 a year and I qualify for financial aid, the UC system will cover my systemwide tuition and fees?

YES! AB 540 eligible students who meet the income criteria stated above can also qualify for the UC Blue and Gold program. To learn more, visit the UC Blue and Gold webpage.⁽¹⁶⁾

How will I find support for undocumented students at my college or university?

Fullerton College is proud to serve undocumented students and students in mixed status families through the Grads to Be Program! Learn more about the Grads to Be Program.⁽¹⁷⁾

Many CSU and UC campuses also have centers dedicated to supporting, guiding, and mentoring undocumented students. Use the interactive map to find which universities have campus centers for undocumented students.⁽¹⁸⁾

How do I know what classes I need to be eligible for transfer?

All universities have a minimum set of requirements that need to be completed to be eligible for transfer.

- Review UC transfer requirements⁽¹⁹⁾
- Review CSU transfer requirements⁽²⁰⁾

Make sure to meet with an academic counselor to ensure you complete the requirements for the universities you're interested in transferring to! Be sure to meet with a counselor at least once per semester.

- Schedule an appointment with a Counselor at the Grads to Be Program⁽²¹⁾
- Schedule an appointment with a Counselor at the Counseling Center⁽²²⁾
- Schedule an appointment with a Counselor at the Transfer Center⁽²³⁾

Where can I find transfer advantages to participate in?

Special transfer programs are created with community college students in mind and are intended to connect you with their campus, support programs, and academic departments.

Some of these programs may even grant you special advantages when you submit your transfer applications!

Check out special transfer advantages offered by various universities.⁽²⁴⁾

Frequently Asked Questions: Applying to the CSU and UC References

⁽¹²⁾University of California. (n.d.). Applying to the UC. Retrieved June 18, 2025 from <https://undoc.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply-ing-to-uc.html>

⁽¹³⁾Immigrants Rising. (n.d.). AB 540 Quick Guide. Retrieved June 18, 2025 from <https://immigrantsrising.org/resource/ab-540-quick-guide/>

⁽¹⁴⁾Immigrants Rising. (n.d.). California In-State Tuition Tool. Retrieved June 18, 2025 from <https://immigrantsrising.org/in-state-tuition-tool/>

⁽¹⁵⁾Fullerton College. (n.d.). California Dream Act Application (CADAA). Retrieved June 18, 2025 from <https://financialaid.fullcoll.edu/dream-act/>

⁽¹⁶⁾University of California. (n.d.). Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan. Retrieved June 18, 2025 from <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/tuition-financial-aid/types-of-aid/blue-and-gold-opportunity-plan.html>

⁽¹⁷⁾Fullerton College. (n.d.). Grads to Be Program. Retrieved June 18, 2025 from <https://grads2be.fullcoll.edu/>

⁽¹⁸⁾The Campaign for College Opportunity (n.d.). Undocumented Student Campus Resources. Retrieved June 18, 2025 from <https://collegecampaign.org/undocumented-student-campus-resources>

⁽¹⁹⁾University of California. (n.d.). Transfer Requirements. Retrieved June 18, 2025 from <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/transfer-requirements/>

⁽²⁰⁾The California State University. (n.d.). Transfer. Retrieved June 18, 2025 from <https://www.calstate.edu/apply/transfer>

⁽²¹⁾Fullerton College. (n.d.). Grads to Be Counseling Appointment. Retrieved June 18, 2025 from https://esars.fullcoll.edu/eSARS/G2B_Counseling/eSARS.asp

⁽²²⁾Fullerton College. (n.d.). Fullerton College Counseling Center Appointment Requests. Retrieved June 18, 2025 from <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=L3W0-CmKDK2XtfdChQWrOIdONXkERnhKsgs464B0V6ZUQkdCOE9HUKVKT1BOT1RYTU9QREFX-NVNBRS4u>

⁽²³⁾Fullerton College. (n.d.). Transfer Center Counseling Services. Retrieved June 18, 2025 from <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=L3W0-CmKDK2XtfdChQWrOFEB2ItQkmtEjKz9VSw7kEVUNzRJTElBV1VOOVQzUzhUMEICMFFDUkkxWSQIQCN0PWcu>

⁽²⁴⁾Fullerton College. (n.d.). Special Programs for Transfer Students. Retrieved June 18, 2025 from <https://transfer.fullcoll.edu/transfer-advantages/>