

# California Dream Act

## What is it AB540/2000? Who qualifies for AB540-AB131?

Assembly Bill (AB) 540 was passed in 2001 and (AB) 2000 in 2014 to allow certain undocumented and non-resident students in California to pay the lower resident tuition and fees at California's public colleges and universities.

In October 2011, AB131 was signed into law and allows students eligible for AB540 to also apply for state financial aid like the University of California Grants, State University Grants, Board of Governor's fee waiver and Cal Grants.

To qualify for California financial aid through AB131, non-resident students, including undocumented students, must qualify as AB540 (*determined by college Admissions & Records Office*). Students must complete the [California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Form](#) for residency status and eligibility.

- Have attended a California high school for 3 or more years (they do not need to be consecutive years) or have attended a combination of elementary, middle and/or high schools in CA for a total of 3 or more years.
- Have or will have a CA high school diploma or GED
- Register or be currently enrolled at an accredited institution of higher education in California
- In the case of students without legal immigration status, fill out an **affidavit** stating that they have filed or will file an application to legalize their immigration status as soon as they are eligible to do so
- Not hold a valid non-immigrant visa (F, J, H, L, A, B, E, etc.)
- Demonstrate financial need and meet all other program requirements

*Unfortunately, the following students are not eligible to file a California Dream Act Application or the FAFSA:*

*Non-immigrants are, as defined by federal law, admitted to the United States temporarily and granted one of the following visas: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, TN, TD, V, TROV, and NATO.*

# Federal Dream Act

## What is the Federal Dream Act?

In June of 2012, the Obama Administration announced **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA)** designed to temporarily suspend the deportation of young people residing unlawfully in the U.S. providing them with a two year temporary resident status and work permit with a social security number.

## Eligibility for DACA:

- Be between 15-30 years old (under 31 when change was announced on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012)
- Have arrived in the US before the age of 16
- Had continued presence in the US for at least 5 years (present when change was announced)
- Be currently in High School or have a High School Diploma/GED or be honorably discharged from US Military
- Have a clear Criminal Record

## Recent expansion of Deferred Action

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014, President Obama announced two important expansions of the DACA Program:

1. **Expansion of Deferred Action (DACA)** – expands age range of eligible applicants
2. **Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA)** – expands Deferred Action to parents of US Citizens

*NOTE: A Federal District Court in Texas issued an order that blocks this expansion from moving forward, it is currently ON HOLD.*

**For more info visit: <http://www.nilc.org>**