

# DREAMERS CONFERENCE 24

## AB 540 Presentation

Presented by Rod Santos

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# WHAT IS AB 540?

- CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY BILL 540 passed in 2003
- Allows eligible non-US citizens to pay California resident tuition
- Since 2003, there have been 3 expansions to the policy, allowing more students to qualify.
  - AB 2000 (2014), SB 68 (2017), SB 1141 (2023).
- Allows students to qualify for California Dream Act (CADAA) state financial aid.

# WHY IS IT A BIG DEAL TO BE A CA RESIDENT? (CCC)

## CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

<b>RESIDENT</b> \$46 per unit Full-time unit load = 12 units	<b>RESIDENT</b> Total: \$552 per semester  <b>\$1,104 PER YEAR</b>	<b>Difference:</b> <b>~\$7500</b> <b>PER YEAR</b>
<b>NON-RESIDENT</b> \$358 per unit Full-time unit load = 12 units	<b>NON-RESIDENT</b> Total: \$4296 per semester  <b>\$8,592 PER YEAR</b>	

# WHY IS IT A BIG DEAL TO BE A CA RESIDENT? (CSU)

## CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY (CAL STATE)

### RESIDENT

Varies, usually ~\$7,000-8,000 per year  
(highest is Cal Poly San Luis Obispo \$11,955 per year)

### NON-RESIDENT

Varies, usually \$7,000-8,000 per year  
AND add \$396 per unit  
~\$11,752-\$12,752 per year

Difference:  
~\$4752  
PER YEAR

# WHY IS IT A BIG DEAL TO BE A CA RESIDENT? (UC)

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (UC)

**RESIDENT**  
**\$19,236 PER YEAR**

**NON-RESIDENT**  
**\$53,436 PER YEAR**

**Difference:**  
**\$34,200**  
**PER YEAR**

# DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CA RES vs. NON-RES TUITION

<b>RESIDENT (PER YEAR)</b>	<b>CCCs: \$1,104 / year</b>	<b>CSU: \$7,000-\$8,000 (varies) / year</b>	<b>UC: \$19,236 / year</b>
<b>NON-RESIDENT (PER YEAR)</b>	<b>CCCs: \$8,592 / year</b>	<b>CSU: \$11,752-\$12,752 (varies) / year</b>	<b>UC: \$53,436 / year</b>
<b>DIFFERENCE RES VS. NON-RES</b>	<b>CCCs: ~\$7,500</b>	<b>CSU: ~\$4,752</b>	<b>UC: \$34,200</b>

# HOW DO YOU PAY CA RESIDENT TUITION?

- If you are any status except US CITIZEN, you will be asked to provide immigration documents to community college, CSU, and UC. Pending statuses are OK!
- Why? State requirement – must be in an eligible immigration status to to be considered resident for at least one year prior to term starting.
- You may also be asked to provide additional documents.
- YOUR DOCUMENTS ARE NOT SENT TO ANY FEDERAL AGENCY, kept confidential at the college/university.
- AB 540 is your back up plan (undocumented or other statuses)

# FINANCIAL AID AND AB 540?

- [FAFSA](#): US Citizen, Permanent Resident, Asylum, Refugee, T visa

OR

- [California Dream Act \(CADAA\)](#): Any other status, including undocumented
  - TO QUALIFY, MUST BE AB 540 ELIGIBLE.



# WHERE DO I FIND THE AB 540 APPLICATION / AFFIDAVIT?

- [California Dream Act \(CADAA\)](#)
- CCC/DVC/LMC: under “Student Forms” tile in [InSite](#)
- Not sure? Contact your Admissions & Records Office at the community college
- UC/CSU: Student portal or contact Registrar’s Office

# OVERVIEW OF AB 540 APPLICATION

- Complete the AB 540 form online (in most cases).
- Submit answers to 4 questions on the form.
- Send an official copy of your high school transcript to your college or university...with a confirmed graduation date!

# HOW TO FILL OUT THE FORM: QUESTION 1 - IMMIGRATION

## 1.) Check One Box Only

- I have a current nonimmigrant visa (not including a T and U visa) as defined by federal law. *Nonimmigrants have been admitted to the U.S. on a temporary visa and include, but are not limited to, foreign students (holding F visas) and exchange visitors (holding J visas).* **CURRENT non-immigrant visa letters A to V, except T & U?**
- I have a current nonimmigrant T or U visa as defined by federal law. **Current T or U visa holder? (does not include pending application)**
- I do NOT have a current, nonimmigrant visa as defined by federal law. *This includes, among others, U.S. citizens, permanent residents, DACA recipients, and individuals without current or valid immigration status.* **Any OTHER status, including undocumented or pending status.**

# HOW TO FILL OUT THE FORM: QUESTION 2 - ATTENDANCE

	<b>Column A</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have 3 years of attendance at a California high school.	<b>ONLY ATTENDED HS (GRADE 9 TO 12) IN CALIFORNIA</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have 3 or more years of high school coursework and 3 years of attendance in California elementary schools, California secondary schools, or a combination of California elementary and secondary schools.	<b>ATTENDED HS &amp; EARLIER IN CALIFORNIA (K TO 12)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	I attended or attained credits at a combination of California high school, California adult school, and/or California Community College for the equivalent of (3) years or more.*	<b>LESS THAN 3 YEARS IN HS &amp; TOOK OTHER SCHOOL IN CA</b>

# HOW TO FILL OUT THE FORM: QUESTION 3 - DEGREE

	<b>Column B</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have graduated or will graduate (before the first term of enrollment at the CCC) with a California high school diploma or the equivalent (i.e., California-issued GED, CHSPE).
<input type="checkbox"/>	I completed or will complete (before the first term of enrollment at the CCC) an associate's degree from a California Community College.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I completed or will complete (before the first term of enrollment at the CCC) the minimum requirements at a California Community College for transfer to the California State University.

ALL OR MOST OF YOU WILL  
CHECK THIS BOX.

# HOW TO FILL OUT THE FORM: QUESTION 4 – SCHOOL INFO

Name of CA School	Type of School (high school, adult school, or community college.)	City	From (Month/Year)	To (Month/Year)	Number of Credits or Hours
*	*	*	*	*	*

Applicants must submit, as part of this form, official transcripts/attendance records that validate any of the information above as requested by the College, District, or University residence official.

\*  Attach File



Unofficial  
transcript OK

# HOW TO FILL OUT THE FORM: SUBMIT WITH SIGNATURE

## **AFFIDAVIT:**

By signing this document below, I hereby state that if I am a non-citizen without a current or valid immigration status, I have filed an application to legalize my immigration status or will file an application as soon as I am eligible to do so.

## **DECLARATION OF TRUE AND ACCURATE INFORMATION:**

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury that the information I have provided on this form is true and accurate. I understand that this information will be used to determine my eligibility for the California Nonresident Tuition Exemption. I further understand that if any of the above information is found to be false, I will be liable for payment of all nonresident tuition charges from which I was exempted and may be subject to disciplinary action by the College or University.

Full Name	* Rodolfo Santos	Last name	* Santos	Campus ID Number	* [REDACTED]	Email Address	* rsantos415@email.4cd.edu
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* (click to sign)	
Student Signature	Date

# NEXT STEPS

- If attending CCCs: submit your application at [CCCApply](#) (state-wide application)
- Check your college email for confirmation that your application was received / processed.
- Submit documents if requested...if not, you will be charged non-resident tuition.



# NEXT STEPS

- Complete [FAFSA](#) or [CADAA](#) (financial aid app).
- Submit AB 540 application (if needed).
- Make sure official FINAL transcript with graduation date is sent to college or university - after you graduate from high school!
- If you've been in CA for less than 3 years, talk to us! There are different ways to satisfy AB 540.

# RESOURCES

- [UNDOC4CD.ORG](#)
  - [Contra Costa College: Undocumented Student Program](#)
  - [Diablo Valley College: Dreamers Resources](#)
  - [Los Medanos College: Dreamers Resources](#)
- [IMMIGRANTS RISING](#)

# RESOURCES

- [CASH FOR COLLEGE WORKSHOP Wed MARCH 13, 2024](#)
  - Contra Costa College, Fireside Hall: 5:30-7:30pm
  - File your FAFSA or CADAA application



# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS?

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