



California Dream Act of 2011 Frequently Asked Questions

Context: AB 131, the "California Dream Act II" was signed by the Governor on October 7, 2011.

Starting on January 1, 2013, the California Dream Act extends Cal Grant A & B Entitlement awards, Cal Grant C awards, institutional grants, and community college fee waivers to students that meet the AB540 criteria.

What is AB540?

AB 540, passed in 2001, allows students meeting all of the following criteria to pay the same tuition and fees as resident students at California public colleges and universities.

AB 540 students must:

- Have attended a California high school for a minimum of three years,
- Graduate from a California high school or pass the California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE) or get a General Equivalency Diploma (GED, also called General Educational Development test),
- Enroll in an accredited California institution of higher education,
- 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.

What will AB 130 do?

AB 130 allows AB540 students to apply for scholarships funded from private sources, such as gifts, alumni contributions, and endowments given to the college. AB 130 takes effect on January 1, 2012.

What will AB 131 do?

AB 131 allows all students who qualify for AB 540 nonresident tuition exemptions, including those who are undocumented, to apply for state administered financial aid, university grants and community college fee waivers. This new law will take effect on January 1, 2013.

With respect to winter and spring 2013 semesters, students may qualify for the Board of Governors fee waiver only. The fee waiver waives the \$46 per unit enrollment fee.

Students who meet the AB 540 requirements and qualify for the Board of Governors fee waiver may also qualify for EOPS (Extended Opportunity Programs and Services), CARE (Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education) and community college CalWorks (California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids) programs. Check with your local community college for additional information.

Cal Grants will not be available until the 2013-2014 school year. Please note that to get a Cal Grant, students must meet all other Cal Grant eligibility criteria.

Los Angeles Community College District

Los Angeles City College - East Los Angeles College - Los Angeles Harbor College - Los Angeles Mission College - Pierce College
Los Angeles Southwest College - Los Angeles Trade-Tech College - Los Angeles Valley College - West Los Angeles College

Will expanding aid to undocumented students result in less aid for documented students?

Cal Grants received by undocumented students will not reduce the number or amount of Cal Grant awards available for other students.

How will undocumented students apply for Cal Grants and Board of Governors (BOG) Fee Waiver at LACCD?

To apply for the BOG Fee Waiver for the winter and spring 2013 semesters, students should complete the CA Dream App 2012-2013 at www.caldreamact.org Paper BOG applications are also available at other colleges.

Students will qualify to apply for the Cal Grant Program for the 2013-2014 school year using the CA Dream App 2013-2014 which will be available on January 1, 2013 at www.caldreamact.org

Does AB 131 affect all undocumented students?

No. AB 131 affects only students who are exempt from paying nonresident tuition under AB 540. To qualify, students must have attended a California high school for at least three years and graduated from a California high school. In addition, undocumented students must attest that they have filed an application to legalize their immigration status, or will file an application as soon as they are eligible to do so.

I am a foster youth, and I don't have a Social Security number or any paperwork about my biological parents. Can I get any financial aid for college?

You may qualify for:

- Chafee Foster Youth aid
- AB 540 in-state tuition assistance
- AB 130 private scholarship aid offered through California public colleges and universities
- California Dream Act Cal Grants or institutional grants (starting in fall 2013)
- Board of Governors fee waiver at California community colleges

I am currently in college. I am AB 540. What kind of aid can I receive?

You may be eligible:

- NOW: AB 540 In-state tuition assistance
- NOW: AB 130 private scholarships (see your intended college or university for applications and deadlines)
- Winter and spring 2013 semesters: Board of Governors fee waiver (BOG fee waiver). Check your local community college for application.
- Fall 2013 semester: If you are attending a California community college and plan to transfer to a 4-year institution in the fall 2013 or later, you may qualify for a Community College Transfer Entitlement Cal Grant (Apply between Jan 1, 2013 and March 2, 2013 for the 2013-2014 CA Dream Application).
- Fall 2013 semester: If you are enrolled or expect to enroll in a career technical program at your college, you may qualify for a Cal Grant C (Apply between January 1, 2013 and March 2, 2013 for the 2013-2014 CA Dream Application).

To inquire about the California Dream Act of 2011, you may contact the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) at 1-888-224-7268 or email to caldreamact@csac.ca.gov or visit www.caldreamact.org

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