AB 540 and AB 2000
California Nonresident Tuition Exemption

For Eligible California High School Graduates

GENERAL INFORMATION

Any student, other than one with a USCIS **nonimmigrant** visa status (see exception below for students who have been granted T or U visa status), who meets all of the following requirements, shall be exempt from paying nonresident tuition at the California Community Colleges, the University of California, and the California State University (all public colleges and universities in California).[1]

- Requirements:
  - The student must have:
    - attended a high school (public or private) in California for three or more years, or
    - attained credits earned in California from a California high school equivalent to three or more years of full-time high school course work **and** attended a combination of elementary, middle and/or high schools in California for a total of three or more years.[2] and
  - The student must have graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent prior to the start of the term (for example, passing the GED or California High School Proficiency exam) and
  - The student must file an affidavit with the college or university stating that he or she has filed an application to legalize his or her immigration status, or will file an application as soon as he or she is eligible to do so.
- Students who are nonimmigrants who are victims of trafficking, domestic violence, and other serious crimes who have been granted T or U visa status, under Title 8 of the United States Code, sections 1101(a)(15)(T) or (U) are eligible for this exemption.[3]
- Students who are nonimmigrants, other than those with T or U visa status as noted above, [for example, those who hold F (student) visas, B (visitor) visas, etc.] are not eligible for this exemption.
- The student must file an exemption request including a signed affidavit with the college that indicates the student has met all applicable conditions described above. Student information obtained in this process is strictly confidential unless disclosure is required under law.
- Students eligible for this exemption who are transferring to another California public college or university must submit a new request (and documentation if required) to each college under consideration.
- Nonresident students meeting the criteria will be exempted from the payment of nonresident tuition, but they will *not* be classified as California residents. They continue to be "nonresidents".
- The California Dream Act extends Cal Grant A and B Entitlement awards, Cal Grant C awards, Chaffee grants, and institutional financial aid to students that meet these criteria as well as the applicable criteria for eligibility for specific types of financial aid.
- AB540 does not provide federal student financial aid eligibility for undocumented students. These students remain ineligible for federal financial aid.

---

[1] This exemption to the requirement to pay the nonresident tuition fee is often referred to "AB 540" after the Assembly Bill which enacted the exemption. (Ed. Code, § 68130.5.)

[2] In 2014, Assembly Bill 2000 was enacted amending Education Code section 68130.5 to allow this additional flexibility in meeting the requirements for the exemption.

[3] In 2012, Assembly Bill 1899 was enacted into law exempting holders of T and U visas from paying nonresident tuition. (Ed. Code, § 68122.)

PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING THIS EXEMPTION FROM NONRESIDENT TUITION

California Community Colleges: Complete the form entitled California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request. Submit it to the Admissions Office at the community college where you are enrolled or intend to enroll. You may be required to submit additional documentation. Call the college Admissions Office if you have questions.

University of California: The University of California (UC) campuses each have their own nonresident tuition exemption application and affidavit forms. Requests are not to be submitted until you have been admitted to a UC campus and have filed both a Statement of Intent to Register and also a Statement of Legal Residence. For campus-specific instructions regarding documentation and deadline dates, contact the campus personnel knowledgeable about AB 540 and AB 2000 classifications:
http://undoc.universityofcalifornia.edu/campus-support.html

California State University: Complete the form on California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request. Contact the Office of Admission and Records at the CSU campus where you are enrolled or intend to enroll for instructions on submission, deadline information, and additional requirements. You will be required to submit final high school transcripts and appropriate records of high school graduation or the equivalent, if you have not done so already. Call the Office of Admissions and Records at the campus if you have questions.

California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request

For Eligible California High School Graduates

Note: This form is accepted by all California Community Colleges and all campuses in the California State University system; some University of California campuses will allow use of this form, but most require applicants to complete a campus-specific form to apply for AB 540 status.

Complete and sign this form to request an exemption from Nonresident Tuition. You must submit any documentation required by the College or University (for example, proof of high school attendance in California). Contact the California Community College, University of California, or California State University campus where you intend to enroll (or are enrolled) for instructions on required documentation, additional procedures and applicable deadlines.

ELIGIBILITY:

I, the undersigned, am applying for a California Nonresident Tuition Exemption for eligible California high school graduates at (specify the college or university)_____ and I declare the following:

Check YES or NO boxes:

☐ Yes ☐ No I have graduated from a California high school or have attained the equivalent thereof, such as a High School Equivalency Certificate, issued by the California State GED Office or a Certificate of Proficiency, resulting from the California High School Proficiency Examination.

☐ Yes ☐ No I have either:

- attended high school in California for three or more years, or
- attained credits earned in California from a California high school equivalent to three or more years of full-time high school course work **and** attended a combination of elementary, middle, and/or high schools in California for a total of three or more years.

Specify the most recent three years of elementary, middle, and/or high schools you attended in California:

School	City	State	Dates: From – Month/Year	To – Month/Year
		California		
		California		
		California		
		California		
		California		
		California		

Documentation of applicable school attendance and high school graduation (or its equivalent) is required by the University of California, The California State University and some California Community Colleges. Follow campus instructions.

Check the box that applies to you – check only one box:

☐ I am a nonimmigrant alien as defined by federal law and have been granted T or U visa status, under Title 8 of the United States Code, sections 1101(a)(15)(T) or (U).

OR

☐ I am NOT a nonimmigrant alien. [U.S. citizens, permanent residents, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) grantees, or aliens without lawful immigration status, among others, should check this box.]

OR

☐ I am a nonimmigrant alien as defined by federal law. [Nonimmigrant aliens have been admitted to the United States temporarily and include, but are not limited to, foreign students (persons holding F visas) and exchange visitors (persons holding J visas)]. Do not check this box if you have been granted T or U visa status (check first box above).

AFFIDAVIT:

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California 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 nonresident tuition exemption for eligible California high school graduates. I hereby declare that, if I am an alien without lawful 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. I further understand that if any of the above information is untrue, I will be liable for payment of all nonresident charges from which I was exempted and may be subject to disciplinary action by the College or University.

Print Full Name (as it appears on your campus student records)	Campus/Student Identification Number
Print Full Mailing Address (Number, Street, City, State, Zip Code)	Email Address (Optional) Phone Number (Optional)
Signature	Date

Rev. 1/15 **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO THE CAMPUS ADMISSIONS OFFICE**