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TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION

MIXED STATUS HOUSEHOLDS: HOW TO APPLY FOR IN-STATE TUITION & FINANCIAL AID IN CA

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Are you a U.S. citizen, legal permanent resident (LPR) or eligible non-citizen, but your parent(s) are undocumented?

If you and your parents live in California, find out what's necessary to be eligible to pay resident fees and receive federal and state financial aid at a CCC, CSU or UC. Follow the steps below. Be proactive. Advocate for yourself.

1. Paying Resident Fees at a CCC, CSU or UC

Residency for Tuition Purposes in CCCs, CSUs, and UCs can be **based on the residency of the parent when the student is under a specific age**. This is also true when the college or university determines that students are financially dependent on their parent(s).

However, students who are citizens, legal permanent residents, or eligible non-citizens but whose parents are undocumented **should be classified as residents in most instances if their parents meet all other residency requirements for tuition purposes**. This is a complicated process and not all students are accurately classified.

If you are classified as a non-resident but believe that you meet the [residency requirements for tuition purposes in CA](#), **contact the residency officer at your campus**. If you are unable to resolve it at that level, contact the Chancellor's Office of the CCC, CSU, or the President's Office of the UC regarding their policy on residency for students who are U.S. citizens with undocumented parents.[1]

If you cannot be classified as a resident, **check to see if you meet the** [eligibility for AB 540/SB 68](#) and submit the nonresident tuition exemption form (AB 540 affidavit), along with any required proof (transcripts).

Being classified as a resident for tuition purposes or AB 540/SB 68 student is key to paying resident fees and being able to receive state-based financial aid.

2. Submitting the FAFSA Application

Students who are citizens, legal permanent residents, or eligible non-citizens, but whose parent(s) is/ are undocumented are eligible to submit the FAFSA application and receive federal financial aid.

Student should apply at fafsa.ed.gov but must pay attention to these specific details if their parents are undocumented:

- Student should obtain their own FSA ID.
- Parents should include their information, if required
- Parents should be sure to use 000's for the Social Security Number (SSN) if they do not have a valid SSN. They should not use an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN). The application will request confirmation if you use zeros. Say yes.
- Student should sign the FAFSA with their FSA ID.
- Parents should "Print signature page" to sign the FAFSA because they cannot obtain an FSA ID.[2]
- Students should save one copy of the signature page and mail the other to FAFSA. It can take up to six weeks to process, so send it early!
- Student should check on www.fafsa.ed.gov to confirm that the parent signature has been received. The student's FAFSA application cannot be processed until the parent signature is successfully added.

Under FERPA protections, all information on the FAFSA should only be used for educational purposes

3. Receiving Federal and State Financial Aid at a CCC, CSU or UC

Students who filled out the FAFSA but were admitted as non-residents usually do not see CA state financial aid in their original financial aid award—only federal financial aid. Once approval of their residency classification or AB 540 status is approved, students must contact the Financial Aid department to ensure that all state financial aid for which they are eligible is added to their financial aid award. Check out our [Types of CA State Financial Aid](#) for more details.

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1 [Stipulated Statement of the Law (2006), Students Advocating for Higher Education vs. CSU Case PK-06- 506755 2](#) or [UC Residence Policy and Guidelines (2020)](#)

2 Undocumented individuals cannot obtain a FSA ID because their signature needs to be validated by the Social Security Administration and Department of Homeland Security