An Overview of the CSU Admission Process, Campus Resources and California DREAM Act

*Reaching The Dream Together: Helping AB 540 and Undocumented Students* Cal State Fullerton
Friday, September 28, 2012
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Overview

- Assembly Bill 540 Requirements & Eligibility
- Assembly Bills 130 & 131: California DREAM Act
- CSU Admission Application Process
- Required Affidavit for AB 540 Students
- Financial Aid
- Additional Resources
Requirements & Eligibility

ASSEMBLY BILL 540
Assembly Bill 540 Requirements

- Attended a high school in California for three or more years
- Graduated from a CA high school or attained the equivalent of a high school diploma, (Passed the GED or CA High School Proficiency Exam)
- Register or be currently enrolled in one of the three state institutions of higher learning
- File an affidavit with the college or university stating that he or she has applied to legalize his or her legal status or will do so as soon as he or she is eligible to do so
- All information provided by student will be kept confidential by the college or university
Assembly Bill 540 Eligibility

Any student, except a person in non-immigrant status, who meets the specific requirements shall be exempt from paying nonresident tuition at all public colleges and universities in California.

- Any student means U.S. citizen, legal resident and undocumented person.
  
  An undocumented person is a non-citizen who entered the U.S. without legal immigration status or who stayed after the period he/she was authorized to be in the U.S.

- Non-immigrant status means visa holders [e.g., tourist (B visa) or student (F or J visa)]
California DREAM Act

ASSEMBLY BILLS 130 & 131
The California DREAM Act of 2011 allows students who meet AB540 criteria to apply for and receive certain state and institutional financial assistance programs.
Assembly Bill 130 (scholarships)

AB130 allows students who qualify under AB540 to apply for non-state funded scholarships. This law took effect on January 1, 2012. For more information on scholarships available to students visit the CSU campus financial aid office website.

The list of financial aid offices can be viewed at www.calstate.edu/sas/fa_campus_url.shtml
AB131 (grants)

AB 131 allows students who qualify under the AB540 to apply for and receive state-funded financial aid such as institutional grants, community college fee waivers, Cal Grant and Chafee Grant. This law takes effect on January 1, 2013.

Eligible AB540 students at CSU campuses who complete the Dream Application will be considered for funding in Winter/Spring 2013.
CSU Admission Application Process

- Encouraged to apply for admission during the priority filing period (Oct. 1- Nov 30)
- The SSN area should be left blank on the Admission Application
- The Residency questions should be answered according to their personal residency situation
  - If an undocumented student is charged non-resident tuition but the student knows they meet the AB 540 guidelines, please have the student contact the campus and turn in a California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request Form otherwise known as an AB 540 Affidavit
CSU Admission Application Process

AB-540 Students are now eligible for the Admission Application Fee Waiver.

Section A
To Be Completed by All Applicants

Are you a California resident?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No
Are you a U.S. citizen?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

If you are not a California resident, you are not eligible for a fee waiver, unless you meet the criteria in Section II on the reverse side of this form.

If you are not a U.S. citizen, you must complete Sections I and II on the reverse side of this form.

Incomplete responses will delay processing and may be cause for denial of this request.
CSU Admission Application Process

AB-540 Students are now eligible for the Admission Application Fee Waiver.

II. California Residency Exemption
Check all that apply:
- I have or will have attended high school in California for three or more years.
- I have or will have graduated from a California high school or have attained a High School Equivalency Certificate issued by the California State GED Office or a Certificate of Proficiency, resulting from the California High School Proficiency.
- I am without legal immigration status and will fill out an affidavit stating that I have filed or will file an application to legalize my immigration status as soon as I am eligible to do so.

CERTIFICATION—To be read and signed by all individuals completing this form.
I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of California that the information provided by me on this form is true, complete, and accurate.

Signature
Date
04/05/2012
REQUIRED AFFIDAVIT FOR AB 540 STUDENTS
Required Affidavit for AB 540 Students

The affidavit is required by the college where the student will be attending.

The affidavit states that the student will adjust their status, as soon as they are eligible to do so.

Students are not required to submit a new affidavit when there is continuous enrollment.

The information on the affidavit is kept confidential, as required by law. Immigration has no access to student information.
FINANCIAL AID
Types of Gift Aid (Federal-FAFSA)
- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
- Iraq & Afghanistan Service Grant
Types of Gift Aid (State-FAFSA or DREAM)

- Cal Grants (A & B)
- Chafee Grant
- CSU - State University Grant (SUG)
- CSU - Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)
- Community Colleges – Board of Governor’s Grant (BOGG)
- UC – University Grant
Types of Self-Help Aid (Federal-FAFSA)

- Federal Work-Study (FWS)
- Federal Perkins Loan
- Federal Direct Loans
- PLUS (parent) Loan
How to Apply for Financial Aid

1. Student/family file the FAFSA
   - FAFSA.gov available beginning January 1
   - Student and parent can sign the form electronically with a federal “PIN”
   - Student and parent can use IRS data retrieval tool
How to Apply for Financial Aid

If the student is NOT eligible for the FAFSA, but is eligible for DREAM

- Student/family file the DREAM application
  - Dream application available beginning January 1
  - Student and parent can sign the form electronically with a “PIN”
How to Apply for Financial Aid

Students filing a FAFSA or DREAM should also file for Cal Grant.

File a Cal Grant GPA Verification Form

- High School can submit the GPA electronically on behalf of the student OR the parent(s)/student can file a paper form with CSAC

March 2nd is the priority deadline for submitting a FAFSA, DREAM, and Cal Grant Application.
NEW: DREAM Application

Students without lawful immigration status, who qualify for an AB540 nonresident tuition exemption:


2. Some campuses may also have a separate institutional scholarship application that must be filed in addition to the DREAM and FAFSA applications.

The Admission application fee waiver is also being extended to students without lawful immigration status, who will qualify for an AB540 nonresident tuition exemption & meet the income guidelines.
Financial Resources Review

- U.S. citizens and legal residents may be eligible for federal financial aid
- Undocumented students are not eligible for federal financial aid
  - If a student filed an application with U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services, the student may already be eligible for resident fee status and also to receive federal financial aid. Students should speak to their attorney
- Scholarship Information
  - Mexican American Legal Defense & Education Fund Scholarship List available at www.maldef.org
  - Hispanic Scholarship Fund www.Latinocollegedollars.org
  - Smart Student Guide to Financial Aid at www.finaid.org. Click link to “Other Types of Aid”
  - Check with a CSU campus representative(s) to identify local resources
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
Additional Resources

- CSU Long Beach AB540 On-line Resource Guide
  - http://www.csulb.edu/ogcr/

- CSU Fullerton AB540 On-line Resource Guide
  - http://www.fullerton.edu/ab540/

- Cal Poly Pomona AB540 On-line Resource Guide
  - http://dsa.csupomona.edu/ab540/
Additional Resources

- FAFSA: http://www.fafsa.gov/
- Cal Grants: http://www.calgrants.org/
- Department of Education - Student guide: http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/
- CSU campus websites: http://calstate.edu/sas/fa_campus_url.shtml
- CA Colleges and Career planning: http://www.californiacolleges.edu/
QUESTIONS!
Thank you!