



## UNDOCUMENTED & IMMIGRANT STUDENT SERVICES

### About the Dreamers Program

The Dreamers Support Services Office provides programs and services to help empower undocumented and immigrant students to achieve their academic and personal pursuits and become active members of our community.

We serve as a resource for students, staff, and community members on topics like access to higher education, advocacy and educational materials, campus-based and community services, relevant current events, engagement activities, legal aid referrals, legislative updates, and more!

### Our Students, Their Status

Immigration is complex, and it's not always clear who is included when referring to Dreamers. The following list of immigration experiences are some of the statuses referred to as Dreamers.

- Undocumented** e.g., out-of-status, with pending status, or having never had any lawful immigration status
- Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR; Green Card holder)**
- Granted Refugee or Asylee** status
- Have **Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ)** classification
- Have **DACA, TPS, or VAWA** protection
- Hold a **T Visa, U Visa, or any other expired visa**
- Bi-national resident** (regularly moves between the U.S. and Mexico for school, work, or to care for a family member)
- AB 540 Students:** non-CA resident students (U.S. citizens & non-citizens)
- Any of the above applies, including being a U.S. citizen, and one or more person in the immediate family or household has a different immigration status (**mixed-status**)



### Dreamers Support Office Contact Information

- Phone:** 619-388-7970
- Email:** [miradreamers@sdccd.edu](mailto:miradreamers@sdccd.edu)
- Online:** [sdmiramar.edu/services/dreamers](http://sdmiramar.edu/services/dreamers)
- Location:** Student Services Building, third floor, K-304
- Hours:** Mon – Thurs, 10 am – 2 pm
- Appointments:** [bit.ly/dreamerappt](https://bit.ly/dreamerappt)
- Instagram:** [@sdmiramardreamers](https://www.instagram.com/sdmiramardreamers)

### Dreamers Support Program Services



**1-on-1 Support:** Individualized support sessions for students, college employees, and community members. Appointments are available in-person, virtually, or over the phone.



**AB-540 & Tuition Exemptions:** Assembly Bill 540 is a state law that grants in-state tuition to some students who are not classified as CA residents based on certain eligibility requirements.



**CA Dream Act (Financial Aid):** Discover which financial aid resources are available based on one's immigration status and learn about programs like the Dreamers Service Incentive Grant.



**Career & Entrepreneurship:** Explore employment resources and income generating opportunities available to the undocumented and immigrant communities like getting your Undocu-Hustle on as an entrepreneur—no work authorization required!



**Events & Workshops:** Student engagement activities that are open to all students and program workshops that are tailored to undocumented and immigrant students like Dream Act 101, Undocu-Hustle, Know Your Rights, and more.



**FREE Legal Aid & DACA Renewal Assistance:** Learn more about legal services provided by our partners at the Higher Education Legal Services (*some filing fees covered!*), relevant immigration-related legislation including the current status of DACA, and other immigration relief and aid.



**Health & Wellness:** Undocumented and immigrant students face unique wellness pressures. Our staff is here to create an affirming space for immigrant communities and refer individuals to appropriate services when needed.



**Scholarships:** Learn about grant and scholarship opportunities available to students regardless of their immigration status and find creative ways to help pay for college.



**Undocu-Transfer:** For students on a transfer pathway, we have developed a list of Undocu-Friendly Universities, which have robust undocumented and immigrant student resources to ensure your success post-transfer.



**Undocu-Ally Training:** Professional development opportunities for employees and resources to help educators become strong allies to undocumented and immigrant communities.

### One-on-One Support

The Dreamers support staff, the **Dream Team**, offers individualized support sessions to current and future undocumented and immigrant students, college employees, and community members.

To schedule an appointment, scan the QR code on the right or visit our support page:

[sdmiramar.edu/services/dreamers/support](http://sdmiramar.edu/services/dreamers/support)



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## Apply for In-State Tuition

### Enrollment Fees (Tuition)

This section outlines **enrollment fees** at Miramar College—how much it costs to take classes—and the impact your immigration status has on the cost of enrollment. The regular enrollment fee is \$46 per unit. We sometimes call this "**in-state tuition**."

It is possible for undocumented and immigrant students to pay the lesser in-state tuition fee only if they are eligible for an exemption from paying non-resident tuition under AB 540. The **non-resident tuition fee** is \$331 per unit. This fee is in addition to the regular enrollment fee and must be paid by students who are not residents of California for tuition purposes and individuals who are undocumented but who do not qualify for a non-resident tuition exemption (AB 540).

#### \$46 per unit

This is how much you will pay for one (1) credit if you are a student who is a CA resident or if you qualify for a non-resident tuition exemption under AB 540.

#### \$377 per unit

This is how much you will pay for one (1) credit if you are a student who is **not** a CA resident or if you do **not** qualify for a non-resident tuition exemption under AB 540.

**Note:** the above enrollment fees are accurate as of November 2023. To view a complete and up-to-date fee schedule visit [sdmiramar.edu/services/financial-aid/tuition\\_and\\_fees](https://sdmiramar.edu/services/financial-aid/tuition_and_fees).

Students should consider their total cost of living while attending college including housing, food, transportation, textbooks and other educational materials, etc. This is called your **Cost of Education**; to learn more about your cost of education at Miramar College visit [sdmiramar.edu/services/financial-aid/cost](https://sdmiramar.edu/services/financial-aid/cost).

### AB 540 and Non-Resident Tuition Exemptions

**Assembly Bill 540 (AB 540)** is a 2001 California law that allows eligible undocumented students access to "in-state tuition" at public colleges and universities in California and allows those students to apply for in-state financial aid (CA Dream Act).

**To be considered for in-state tuition under AB 540, you must meet criteria in three categories (status, attendance, and completion), and you must submit an exemption request called an AB 540 Affidavit.**

#### Status



#### Attendance



#### Completion



#### Affidavit



★ You **must** be AB 540 eligible to be considered for state-funded financial aid (CA Dream Act) and some other programs like the CA Promise Program and Extended Opportunities Programs and Services (EOPS).



## Status

To be eligible for a non-resident tuition waiver under AB 540, you must...

- Be a U.S. citizen but not a CA resident, **or**
- Be a Legal Permanent Resident (LPR; have a Green Card), **or**
- Be granted Refugee or Asylee status, **or**
- Have Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) classification, **or**
- Have DACA, TPS, or VAWA protection, **or**
- Hold a T- or U-Visa, **or**
- Be undocumented, be out-of-status, have pending status, or have no lawful immigration status



## Attendance

You must have completed three (3) or more years of full-time attendance (or the credit or hour equivalent; see below) at any combination of the following:

- California high school, **and/or**
- California adult school, **and/or**
- California Community College (noncredit or credit courses)

Type of School	1 Year Attendance	3 Year Attendance
High School	55 credits	165 credits
Adult School <b>or</b> Community Colleges (non-credit)	420 classroom hours	1260 classroom hours
Community Colleges (semester system)	24 semester credit units	72 semester credit units
Community Colleges (quarter system)	36 quarter credit units	108 quarter credit units

**Note:** the above table represents full-time attendance.



## Completion

You must have...

- Graduated from a California high school, **or**
- Earned a high school equivalency (GED, HiSet, or TASC) in California, **or**
- Attained an associate degree from a California Community College, **or**
- Fulfilled the minimum transfer requirements established for the University of California or the California State University for students transferring from a California Community College (this is uncommon; ask us if this applies to you)



## AB 540 Affidavit



You must submit an **AB 540 Affidavit and Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request** (AB 540 form) with proof of reported attendance to the Admissions and Records Office before you can be charged in-state tuition. You can submit your forms online, via email, or in-person (see worksheet in the next section).

# AB 540 Eligibility Worksheet

## Getting Started

It can take up to three (3) years for you to reach AB 540 eligibility. Use this worksheet to keep your calculations organized. You can use this section to determine if you are eligible for in-state tuition under AB 540; however, you should confirm your eligibility with a Residency Specialist in the Admissions and Records Office. This worksheet is intended to assist you in determining your eligibility and is **not** the official AB 540 form that you will submit.

## What You Need for This Activity

-  Your **current** immigration status
-  Unofficial academic transcripts **or** attendance records from the California High School(s), Adult School(s), and/or Community College(s) you attended

## Status





On the official **California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request** (AB 540 form) used by the college, you will need to declare which one of the following options applies to you.

### Check Only One (1):

- 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).*
- I have a current nonimmigrant visa as defined by federal law and have been granted T or U visa status.
- 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.*

## Attendance

To meet the three (3) year attendance requirement, use your unofficial academic transcripts or attendance records to determine how many hours or credits you have attained at any combination of the following:

-  Semesters attended in a California high school, **and/or**
-  Classroom hours completed in a California adult school, **and/or**
-  Non-credit classroom hours completed at a California Community College, **and/or**
-  Credits in semester and/or quarter units completed at a California Community College

School Name and Location	Type of School	Start Date	End Date	Credit/Hours

★ Only coursework taken **after 2001** may be used to meet the attendance requirements. Refer to the table in the *Apply for In-State Tuition* section of your Dreamers Guidebook for credit/hour equivalency requirements.

## Completion

Select all items that apply to you in the two boxes below. You need at least one (1) from each box to meet both the attendance and completion requirement.

### Box 1 (Attendance)

- I attended a California high school for three (3) years or more.
- I have (3) or more years of high school coursework and attend a combination of California elementary, secondary, and high school of three (3) years or more.
- I attended a combination of California high school, adult school, and community college for the equivalent of three (3) years or more.

### Box 2 (Completion)

- I graduated with a California high school diploma (or expect to graduate and use this exemption in the following year) or have the equivalent (i.e. California issued GED, CHSPE).
- I completed an associate's degree from a California Community College.
- I completed the minimum requirements at a California Community College for transfer to the California State University or the University of California.

## AB 540 Affidavit

The **California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request** (AB 540 form) includes an affidavit that you must sign to be considered for an exemption (to be charged the lesser "in-state tuition" fee).

An **affidavit** is defined as: "a sworn statement in writing made especially under oath or on affirmation before an authorized magistrate or officer." In this context, the "officer" is the college employee filing your exemption request.

The language used by the San Diego Community College District on the AB 540 form reads as follows:

### 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 the 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.

**You MUST sign this affidavit for your exemption to be considered.** Once completed and signed, submit your exemption request to the Admissions and Records Office (K-207) in person or by email to [miraadm@sdccd.edu](mailto:miraadm@sdccd.edu). Remember to include your full name and 10-digit student ID in your email.