

SUPPORTING UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS THROUGH THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS FAQ

SJSU UndocuSpartan Student Resource Center

PROTECTING STUDENT INFORMATION

SJSU does not release immigration information to any agency or department without the student's consent. Any information about a student's immigration status that is gathered during the admissions process is only utilized to determine in-state tuition eligibility.

OVERVIEW: MAKING COLLEGE AFFORDABLE

There are a number of laws and policies in the state of California that protect an undocumented person right's to access in-state tuition and financial aid resources at a public institution of higher ed. **Most undocumented students can qualify for in-state tuition by demonstrating time living in California.**

In-state Tuition Policies that support students who are undocumented				
Pathways	Who May Qualify	Form(s) to Submit	Deadline	Fin. Aid?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AB 540, ● AB 2000, ● SB 68 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● U.S. Citizens, ● Permanent Residents ● Undocumented Students ● DACA/ TPS ● T & U Visa Holders 	<p><u>Non- Resident Tuition Exemption Form</u> (aka AB 540 affidavit)</p>	<p>SJSU has an internal deadline for Fall'21 (9/20) although the Chancellor's office will approve an appeal up until the last day of the semester. We encourage students to fill out the waiver and submit it as soon as they have their final transcripts.</p> <p>Transfer students will also need to submit this form even if they submitted one at their community college.</p>	✓
<p>CA Residency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● US Citizens, ● Permanent Residents ● DACA / TPS Holders 	<p><u>CSU Residence Questionnaire</u></p>	<p>Fall Admissions - September 20</p> <p>For more information on deadlines and requirements, go to: California Residency SJSU Admissions</p>	✗

Submitting residency documents (including non-resident tuition exemption):

Students can fill out the forms via [DocuSign](#) and submit them electronically to the Office of the Registrar at: records-regist@sjsu.edu. Other ways to submit are in person at the Student Services Center or by mail. For questions about the residency requirements, students can contact Sophie Lanh by email at sophie.lanh@sjsu.edu

Please note that students will also need to submit official transcripts to demonstrate AB540/ AB 2000/ SB 68 eligibility.

What is the difference between the Non-Resident Tuition Exemption and CA Residency?

CA Residency requires that the student, or the parent of a minor (under 19), has had physical presence in California under legal status for at least one year and one day AND that the student or parent/ guardian plan to reside in CA indefinitely. This applies to DACA and TPS holders.

The Non-Resident Tuition Exemption is a fee waiver that allows qualifying non-CA Residents to pay in-state tuition. It does not grant CA Residency.

Does qualifying for CA Residency or AB 540 change the immigration status of an undocumented student?

NO. A student's immigration status does not change if the student qualifies for in-state tuition.

Should an undocumented student who has DACA or TPS apply for CA Residency or should they apply for AB 540/ AB 2000/ SB 68?

The USRC encourages students who are undocumented apply the in-state tuition process that provides them with access to the most resources. If an undocumented student will like to receive financial aid they will need to qualify for AB540, AB2000, or SB68 (AKA the non resident tuition exemption).

Where can a student get support filling out the form?

The student can contact the Office of the Registrar or, if they are undocumented, they can also reach out to the UndocuSpartan Student Resource Center.

If the student does not qualify for in-state tuition, what resources do they have available?

While there is a small, but significant, number of undocumented students that do not qualify for in-state tuition and financial aid, there are some resources available to them that include outside scholarships, certain paid fellowships, and networks that can support their academic and professional growth. We encourage students to reach out to the USRC to learn more about their options and the resources available to them.

What if the student is being asked to submit the Residency Questionnaire, but the student qualifies for the CA Non-Resident Tuition Exemption?

The student may reach out to the Office of the Registrar to clarify residency status.

FINANCIAL AID FOR STUDENTS THAT ARE UNDOCUMENTED

There are various forms of aid and scholarship available to undocumented students, regardless of DACA status. California offers state and university aid to qualifying students through the California Dream Act Application (CADAA). The types of aid includes:

- Cal Grant
- Chafee Grant
- Middle Class Scholarship
- State University Grants
- EOP
- CSU Scholarships
- CA Dream Loans

Who qualifies for the CADAA? Undergraduate AND Graduate undocumented students in California who meet the requirements for the CA Non-Resident Tuition Exemption (AB 540, AB 2000, SB 68).

This includes students who are undocumented with no social security number, those with DACA, TPS, T Visa, or U Visa.

If the student missed the March 2nd deadline for the California Dream Act should they still apply?

Absolutely. Although there is no guarantee that they will receive any aid for the Academic Year, we encourage students to submit their CADAA in the case that there is university aid available. A CADAA on file could also help students access resources or scholarships that would require information about a student's EFC.

Are there scholarships available to students who do not have a Social Security number?

Yes. There are many scholarships available internally and externally that do not require an SSN . Below are some resources that students can tap into to access available scholarships.

- [Scholarships | Financial Aid and Scholarship Office](#)
- [SJSU Ernesto Galarza Scholarship](#)
- [MALDEF](#): List of scholarships for Latino immigrant students, organized by major, school, gender and location.
- [Immigrants Rising](#) List of scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students that do not have a SSN#.
- [dreamersroadmap.com/scholarships/](#) Scholarship App for undocumented students
- [My Undocumented Life](#)
- [SVCF Scholarships](#)

Is there a point of contact on campus that can assist a student with their financial aid application?

Yes. Lucy Serrato-Lager (lucy.serrato@sjsu.edu) is the Financial Aid and Scholarship Office liaison for the USRC and is available to meet with students to help them solve any issues that they have in regards to their CADAA.

The student submitted the CADAA but has not been awarded through SJSU. What can they do?

If SJSU does not have their CADAA, students should contact the CA Student Aid Commission (CSAC) to inquire about the status of their application. There could be internal errors with the application that CSAC can address. Learn more about common issues and how to reach out to the CSAC here:

[CADAA Common Issues](#)

[Resources for California Dream Act Application - California Student Aid Commission](#)

If the student needs additional time to process the CADAA and/or the CA Non-Resident Tuition Exemption Form, they can contact financial aid (Lucy Serrato-Lager) to request a payment deferral. This will prevent them from getting dropped from classes and it will give them more time to have their applications/ forms processed.

RESOURCES FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS AT SJSU

While a students' immigration status can create barriers to access opportunities and resources , undocumented students and allies from across the country have developed practices and in some

cases, solutions, to address some of the barriers that students encounter. The USRC offers resources and services to help undocumented students access opportunities and resources that are not available to them in traditional spaces within higher education. USRC services and resources include:

- 1:1 Personal and Academic Support
- Free Immigration Legal Support Services for students and their direct family
- DACA fee assistance
- Workshops and resources that speak to the undocumented students experience
 - Academics and Educational Opportunities
 - Life After College (Employment and graduate school)
 - Financial Aid/ Scholarships
 - Immigration Policy updates
 - Know Your Rights
 - Wellness and Community building
 - Student Empowerment and Advocacy
 - Immigration and Intersectional Identities

A student's immigration status is not stagnant!

Despite there not being a federal solution to people's immigration status, many students and / or their families may be able to find an alternative pathway towards immigration relief. At SJSU students and their immediate family members can access **FREE immigration legal services** to get legal advice on issues/ topics related to immigration. Students can schedule an appointment with an immigration attorney from [Immigrant Legal Defense \(ILD\)](#), a nonprofit agency dedicated to providing free immigration legal services, as soon as they have accepted their intent to enroll. Sign up information can be found on our website sjsu.edu/undocuspartan/.

ILD can provide consultations and case representation in most immigration cases. Services include (but are not limited to):

- Immigration Relief Eligibility Screenings
 - Detained and non-detained deportation (court) defense
 - Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA)
 - Advance Parole
 - Temporary Protective Status (TPS) or Deferred Enforced Departure (DED)
 - Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)
 - Family petitions
 - U & T visas
 - VAWA petitions
 - Refugee/Asylum
 - Applications for Lawful Permanent Resident Status
 - Citizenship
- [Free Immigration Legal Services FAQ](#)

We also offer DACA Grants for enrolled students. [Access the FAQ HERE](#)

CONNECTING STUDENT TO THE USRC

We are open virtually during the summer to meet with continuing and incoming students.

Contact us: Phone: (408) 924-2762 Email: undocuspartan@sjsu.edu



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