

## AB 540 Nonresident Tuition Exemption

Under AB 540, certain nonresident students are eligible to receive an exemption from nonresident tuition. In 2007–08, AB 540-eligible students paid approximately \$6,636 in UC fees and not the additional \$19,068 tuition charged to nonresidents.

### Who is eligible for the tuition exemption?

Students who meet both of the following criteria are eligible for the AB 540 nonresident tuition exemption:

- Attended a high school in California for three or more years, *and*
- Graduated from a California high school, received a High School Equivalency Certificate issued by the California State GED Office or received a Certificate of Proficiency resulting from the California High School Proficiency Examination. Note that, beginning in 2006, graduation from a California public high school requires that students pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE).

In addition, students who meet these criteria but do not have legal immigration status must certify that they are taking steps to legalize their immigration status or will do so as soon as they are eligible.

Nonimmigrant students are not eligible for this exemption. Nonimmigrants, as defined by federal immigration law, may hold visas in one of the following categories: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, TN, TD, V, TROV and NATO.

### Does the applicant's high school enrollment have to be at the same California school for three consecutive years?

No. The three years need not be consecutive nor completed at a single California school. For example, if a student attended ninth grade at a California middle or high school, left the state to attend 10th grade and returned to a second qualified California high school to complete 11th and 12th grades, that student would meet the requirement of three years of high school attendance in California.

### Is ninth grade included in the definition of high school if it is attended at a middle school?

Yes. For purposes of eligibility for the AB 540 nonresident tuition exemption, enrollment in the ninth grade, whether at a middle or a high school, counts toward the California high school attendance criterion.

### Does it matter how long ago a student graduated from high school?

No, the date of graduation does not affect a student's eligibility for the AB 540 nonresident tuition exemption.

### For how long is a student eligible to receive this exemption?

There is no cap on the number of years a student can receive this exemption. Eligibility continues as long as the student meets the criteria or until the University no longer offers this exemption.

### Does this policy affect a student's eligibility to receive financial aid?

No. Eligibility for the AB 540 nonresident tuition exemption does not affect the eligibility standards or requirements for any form of student financial aid. However, if the exemption is granted, it could affect the amount, and possibly the type, of financial aid the student might receive. Specifically, students who qualify for the tuition exemption may have a reduction in financial aid otherwise designated to cover their tuition. Please note: Undocumented students are not currently eligible for federal or state financial aid (including UC aid) under federal law. This does not change if the student qualifies for an AB 540 nonresident tuition exemption.

## How does a student apply for the exemption?

The University of California will accept a properly completed California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request or the University of California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Application and Affidavit, both of which are available at campus registrar's offices or websites. Students should complete and submit the form as soon as they are accepted for admission. Once a student has been determined to be eligible, that student need not reapply for the exemption as long as he or she is continuously enrolled at a single UC campus.

## If a student received this exemption while attending a California State University (CSU) or a California Community College (CCC) campus, does he or she need to apply for the exemption at UC?

Yes. Information about specific student eligibility for this exemption is not shared among the California public higher education systems. A prior CSU or CCC student needs to apply again once he or she is enrolled at UC. Moreover, UC determines eligibility for this exemption independently of prior determinations made by other California higher education systems.

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