



## El Camino College Financial Aid Office

El Camino College (ECC) - 16007 Crenshaw Blvd. ☎ Torrance, CA 90506 ☎1-310-660-3493 [www.elcamino.edu](http://www.elcamino.edu)  
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# California Dream Act

### What is the California Dream Act?

The California Dream Act became law through the passage of two assembly bills - AB130 and AB131. They allow students who meet AB540 criteria to become eligible to apply for state funded financial aid.

### What are the criteria for AB540?

1. You must have attended a CA high school for at least 3 years.
2. You must have graduated or attained the equivalent (passing the GED or CA HS Proficiency exam).
3. You must have filed for legal immigration status or will file as soon as possible. It is a legal requirement that you file an affidavit with ECC Admissions and Records swearing that this is true before the start of the semester to be classified as an AB540 student for that term.

\*If you meet these criteria be sure to see the ECC Admissions and Records Office as soon as possible if you haven't already filed a "CA Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request".

### Are all AB540 students undocumented immigrants?

No. Citizens and permanent residents who would otherwise be classified as residents of other states who meet AB540 criteria can qualify as California residents for tuition purposes and any financial aid benefits.

### I meet the AB540 criteria. What financial aid programs can I apply for?

Beginning in **January 1, 2013** you may qualify for a **Fee Waiver** (Special Application for AB540 Students Under the California Dream Act) that will pay for your classes if you meet all other criteria.

Beginning with the **2013-14 school year**, you may also qualify for a **Cal Grant**.

At this time you aren't eligible for any **federal financial aid**.

### How do I apply for these programs?

There are two ways to apply for a **Fee Waiver** if you are **undocumented**. If you qualify for the Fee Waiver either way it means your enrollment fees will be paid for the winter 2013, spring 2013, and summer 2013 terms. You'll need to reapply for the 2013-14 school year.

The California Dream Act Application is available now online at the CA Dream Act web site. If you complete the California Dream Act Application, then you must print the Dream Application Confirmation Page and provide a copy to ECC Financial Aid office along with the Special Application for AB540 Students Under the California Dream Act

The Special Application for AB540 Students Under the California Dream Act Application is available online at our **Forms** page (see Dream Act AB540 Special Application). You must submit the application to the Financial Aid office in person along with any required documentation.

AB540 students who have a **Social Security Number** and **meet the citizenship requirements** can submit a **FAFSA or a standard Fee Waiver Application**. You must be a U.S. Citizen, permanent resident or on a special visa such as parolee. The **FAFSA is better** as you'll be considered for **more financial aid programs including the Cal Grant in 2013-14**.

To apply for the **Cal Grant**, complete a 2013-14 California Dream Act Application. It will be available after January 1, 2013. This will be used for Fee Waiver consideration for the 2013-14 school year as well. **YOU MUST** print the Dream Act Confirmation Page.

**Remember: Documented or undocumented, you must submit a "CA Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request" to ECC Admissions & Records before the start of a term to have your residency classified for eligibility for any programs including reduced tuition.**

Visit the CSAC California Dream Act website for more information.