
A DREAM Come True

This project has definitely lifted that weight off my shoulders. I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that I will attend college and nothing is going to stop me. I will always look back on this project when I am applying to college. This project has been beyond helpful. - Lauren T.

- **If you and your parents have social security numbers, you can skip this chapter because you'll fill out the FAFSA.**
- **If you have a social security number, but your parents are undocumented, you can also skip this chapter since you can still submit the FAFSA.**
- **If you don't have a social security number, this chapter is for you — please read on!**

CHAPTER UPDATE

As an undocumented student, you may feel overwhelmed by the additional challenges of making college happen without a social secu-

rity number. Stress from these challenges has become magnified since the original publication of this book, as dreamers' opportunities have been subject to significant and unpredictable change. To provide students with frequent updates with the most relevant, accurate information, we have placed more information supporting dreamers on our website: <https://www.thefinancelab.co/portal>.

Now, let's get started.

THE LAWS

Two governments affect each student's journey to college: the U.S. (or federal) government and the state government. Here are some key facts related to their laws:

- First, you *don't* have to be an American citizen to attend college in the United States.
- Without U.S. citizenship, you do not qualify for federal financial aid. However, you might be eligible for state financial aid and lower, in-state tuition prices.

Even though the laws in the U.S. don't prevent undocumented students from attending college, the decision to provide access is passed on to each college. For public colleges (think community colleges, Cal States, UCs) this means it's the decision of the state. The good news is that most colleges — especially those in California — don't require proof of citizenship or immigration status to apply.¹

It is also important to note that the CA Dream Act is **not related** to DACA. This is good news for dreamers living in California. Leading up to the CA Dream Act deadline of March 2, 2017, many news organizations reported concerns from the significant decrease in applications due to the uncertainties of Trump's policies. This news sparked activism on the part of many school and local officials, helping alleviate students' concerns and support them in filling out

1. However, you should double-check your school's guidelines for undocumented student applicants to be sure.

the application for financial aid. By the final 2017 deadline, more than 38,800 students eventually applied, compared to about 34,170 one year earlier.²

PROFESSIONAL ADVICE AND RESOURCES

When looking for additional help, pick up the phone and call the financial aid office or the undocumented student services office at any college! I called the Undocumented Student Service Offices at both UCLA and UCSC for help writing this chapter, and they were super helpful. If you're looking for help online, remember to investigate the credibility of each source you find. **DO NOT pay for advice or access to scholarships!** One great app that helps undocumented students find scholarships is called [DREAMer's RoadMap](#).

For additional help, here are some credible websites to help you find the guidance you may be looking for:

Government Resources

- CA Dream Act Info and link to Application:
http://www.csac.ca.gov/dream_act.asp
- CA Dream Act Instruction Guide, 2018–2019:
https://www.csac.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/dreamer_resources.pdf
- CA Dream Act Frequently Asked Questions:
https://www.sa.ucsb.edu/docs/default-source/dream-scholars-docs/cal_grant_dream_act_faqs.pdf?sfvrsn=2
- Q&A on Federal Student Aid for undocumented students:
<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/financial-aid-and-undocumented-students.pdf>

2. <http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-essential-education-updates-southern-california-dream-act-applications-up-1488578709-htmlstory.html>

California University Resources

- UC Dream Act Instructions: <http://admission.university-ofcalifornia.edu/paying-for-uc/whats-available/ca-dream-act/>
- UC Berkeley Undocumented Student Program:³ <http://undocu.berkeley.edu/>
- UCLA Undocumented Student Program: <http://www.usp.ucla.edu/>
- AB 540 scholarships at Cal Poly Pomona (from “Dreamers Ally Network”): <http://www.cpp.edu/~ab540/>
- USC’s El Centro Chicano: Resources for Undocumented Trojans: <https://elcentro.usc.edu/services/resources-for-undocumented-trojans/>

Community Resources

- Support for immigrant youth: <http://unitedwedream.org/>
- AB 540 support: <http://ab540.org/>
- Legal Support: <http://www.maldef.org/>
- Online community for first-generation college students: <http://www.imfirst.org/>
- Scholarship Search App (iPhone and Android) for undocumented students: <http://www.dreamersroadmap.com/>
- Scholarship Database for undocumented students: <http://www.e4fc.org/undergraduateresources.html>
- Comprehensive guide to California and national scholarships that don’t require proof of citizenship: http://e4fc.org/images/E4FC_Scholarships.pdf

3. To look at AB 540 scholarships, go to the “Grants & Funding” tab.

- General guidance for undocumented students: <https://big-future.collegeboard.org/get-started/for-undocumented-students>
- The DREAM.US scholarship: <http://www.thedream.us/>
- General information and resources for undocumented immigrants: <https://mydocumentedlife.org/>

THE STORIES OF CHRISTHIAN, FABIOLA, AND NEW

There are many encouraging stories of dreamers succeeding in college. The video — “UC Berkeley’s Undocumented Student Program: Your Campus, Your Community” — shares the stories of three students, Christian, Fabiola, and New, as they journey through college. Google it or type in the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L18atoZUbOw>

CHAPTER RECAP

1. It’s possible to receive financial support from the state of California and your university (but not the federal government) if you are undocumented.
2. In the changing political climate, please be sure to contact the undocumented student programs at different universities. They’re a great resource, especially if you’re a high school student with questions. You can usually get good information from them even if you’re applying to their school.

Out of respect for the privacy of dreamers, all of the following questions and assignments are optional.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. What are some challenges you’ve faced as an undocumented student? How did you overcome them? Who has

helped you along the way?

2. What future challenges might you face? What resources (including people) are available to help you overcome these challenges?
3. Who inspires you? Who do you wish to inspire?

DO NOW

8.a. Gather the information necessary to fill out the CA Dream Act Application.

8.b. Via phone or email, reach out to at least one college you're interested in to ask a question about dreamers and admissions.

8.c. Find at least three scholarships available to you as a dreamer.

Scholarship Name	Description and \$ Amount	Application Deadline