



Undocumented Students FAQ's

Inclusiveness has always been a strength of Southwestern College, and is an integral part of our campus culture.

1. I am an undocumented student/I have undocumented family members. Will I be detained for my undocumented immigration status?

Uncertainty over possible immigration policy changes has the potential to affect undocumented students. Please refer to this site for a variety of resources that can help you/your family.

[Undocumented students](#)

2. Should I apply to community college?

California Community Colleges are open to all students who meet the minimum requirements for admission, regardless of immigration status. [SWC Application](#)

3. Will SWC share my information with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or other federal agencies regarding my immigration status?

SWC will not release any personal identifiable student information, including any data related to immigration status, without judicial warrant, subpoena or court order, unless authorized by the student or required by law.

4. Should I apply for the California Dream Act?

The California Dream Act of 2011 became law through the passage of Assembly Bill AB 130 and AB 131. It allows AB540 students to apply for and receive several types of financial aid, including:

- Board of Governors' Fee Waiver (BOGFW)
- State financial aid, such as Cal Grants and Chafee Grants
- Assistance from EOPS or CARE
- Private and institutionally-funded scholarships

To apply click on this link http://www.csac.ca.gov/dream_act.asp. If you have specific questions please visit the Financial Aid Office located on the first floor of the Cesar Chavez Student Services Building, or email Claudia Gaitan at cgaitan@swccd.edu

5. What is AB 540?

On October 12, 2001, Governor Davis signed into law Assembly Bill 540, which adds a new section to the California Education Code. It creates a new exemption from payment of nonresident tuition for certain nonresident students who have attended high school in California and received a high school diploma or its equivalent. This law provides an exemption from paying non-resident fees, however, it does not give the student resident classification status for any other purpose. Students who receive this exemption would be required to establish residency for any state-funded program (EOPS, BOGW, and Financial Aid). Visit [AB 540](#)



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6. **Can the BOFW program provide funding to cover tuition?**

The Board of Governor's Fee Waiver (BOGFW) is a state funded program which is available to California Residents* who meet the specific income eligibility requirements. The program waives the current Enrollment Fee of \$46 per unit. Student Health fees, Student Center fees and parking fees may be reduced or waived under qualifying BOGFW standards (refer to information listed below). There are no minimum or maximum unit requirements for the program. To apply for BOG follow this link: [BOGFW](#)

7. **How do I qualify for the full-time Student Success Grant?**

The Student Success Grant provides funding that supports student persistence, retention and success. It helps strengthen the value of Cal Grant B awards for the most disadvantaged students. Deadline: The priority deadline date is March 2nd. To apply: Please refer to the "Cal Grant B" section to apply: [Cal Grant B](#)

8. **What is EOPS?**

Extended Opportunity Programs and Services is a state-funded, special assistance program for students who are socially, economically, and academically or language disadvantaged. EOPS assists students with counseling, money for books, emergency loans, priority registration, tutoring, and specialized support workshops. For more information call (619) 482-6456 or email eops@swccd.edu

9. **Will my certificates or degrees from Southwestern College be revoked if I lose my DACA status?**

No, all degrees earned remain yours, regardless of your immigration status.

10. **Are there any clubs or services on campus that can offer additional assistance?**

Yes, the IDEAS club at SWC (Improving Dreams, Equity, Access and Success) is a club for undocumented students. Please email the advisor, Leticia Diaz: ldiaz@swccd.edu for more information.

The IME-Becas Adelante Estudiante program serves AB540 Mexican-American or of Mexican origin students. The goal is to increase awareness of college resources and familiarize students with the culture of higher education. Students receive additional support through workshops and seminars revolving around topics such as exploring their identity of Mexican descent, social justice, diversity, leadership, and fostering healthy relationships. Students successfully completing this program earn a scholarship to finance their studies. Contact Omar Orihuela, Director of EOPS, CARE, CalWORKs and Foster Youth Programs at oorihuela@swccd.edu for more information.



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11. Is there a web page where I can continue to receive additional information about undocumented issues?

As a campus community we support all students. The college established a web page that is updated with resources. Visit [Undocumented students](#)

On-Campus Contacts Center

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|---------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|-------|
| Guadalupe R. Corona | gcorona@swccd.edu | <u>619.482.6544</u> | The Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion | 101E |
| Leticia Diaz | ldiaz@swccd.edu | <u>619.421.6700. ext. 5428</u> | Adelante Estudiante Program | S201B |
| Omar Orihuela | oorihuela@swccd.edu | <u>619.482.6360</u> | Extended Opportunities Program and Services | S201A |
| Claudia Gaitan | cgaitan@swccd.edu | <u>619.421.6700. ext.5267</u> | Office of Financial Aid | S104 |
| Malia Flood | mflood@swccd.edu | <u>619.482.6369</u> | Office of Student Services | S109A |
| Javier Madrigal | jmadrigal@swccd.edu | | IDEAS Club Co-Advisor | S204 |
| Nick Montez | nmontez@swccd.edu | <u>619.482.6306</u> | Admissions & Records | S101 |