



What is AB 540 and how do I know if I qualify?

California Non-Resident Tuition Exemption

(The Law Passed by the Legislature in 2001 as “AB540”)

Any student, other than a nonimmigrant alien, who meets all of the following requirements, shall be exempt from paying nonresident tuition at the California Community Colleges, the California State University and the University of California (all public colleges and universities in California) if all of the following requirements have been met and an AB540 Affidavit is submitted.

Requirements:

- The student must have attended a high school (public or private) in California for three or more years.
- The student must have graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent prior to the start of the term (for example, passing the GED or California High School Proficiency exam).
- An alien student who is without lawful immigration status must file an affidavit with the college or university stating that he or she has filed an application to legalize his or her immigration status, or will file an application as soon as he or she is eligible to do so.
- Students who are non-immigrants [for example, those who hold F (student) visas, J or B (visitor) visas, etc.] are not eligible for this exemption.
- The student must file an exemption request including a signed affidavit with the college that indicates the student has met all applicable conditions described above. Student information obtained in this process is strictly confidential unless disclosure is required under law.
- Students eligible for this exemption who are transferring to another California public college or university must submit a new request (and documentation if required) to each college under consideration.
- Non-resident students meeting the criteria will be exempted from the payment of nonresident tuition, but they will not be classified as California residents. They continue to be "non-resident".
- Exemption is not available for persons who are absent from California, but who are taking distance education classes.

For more information on AB 540 or to complete the AB 540 application, you may visit the Admissions and Records webpage at

<http://www.rcc.edu/services/admissions/Pages/Residency.aspx>