



**UNDOCUMENTED
GRAD STUDENT
HANDBOOK**

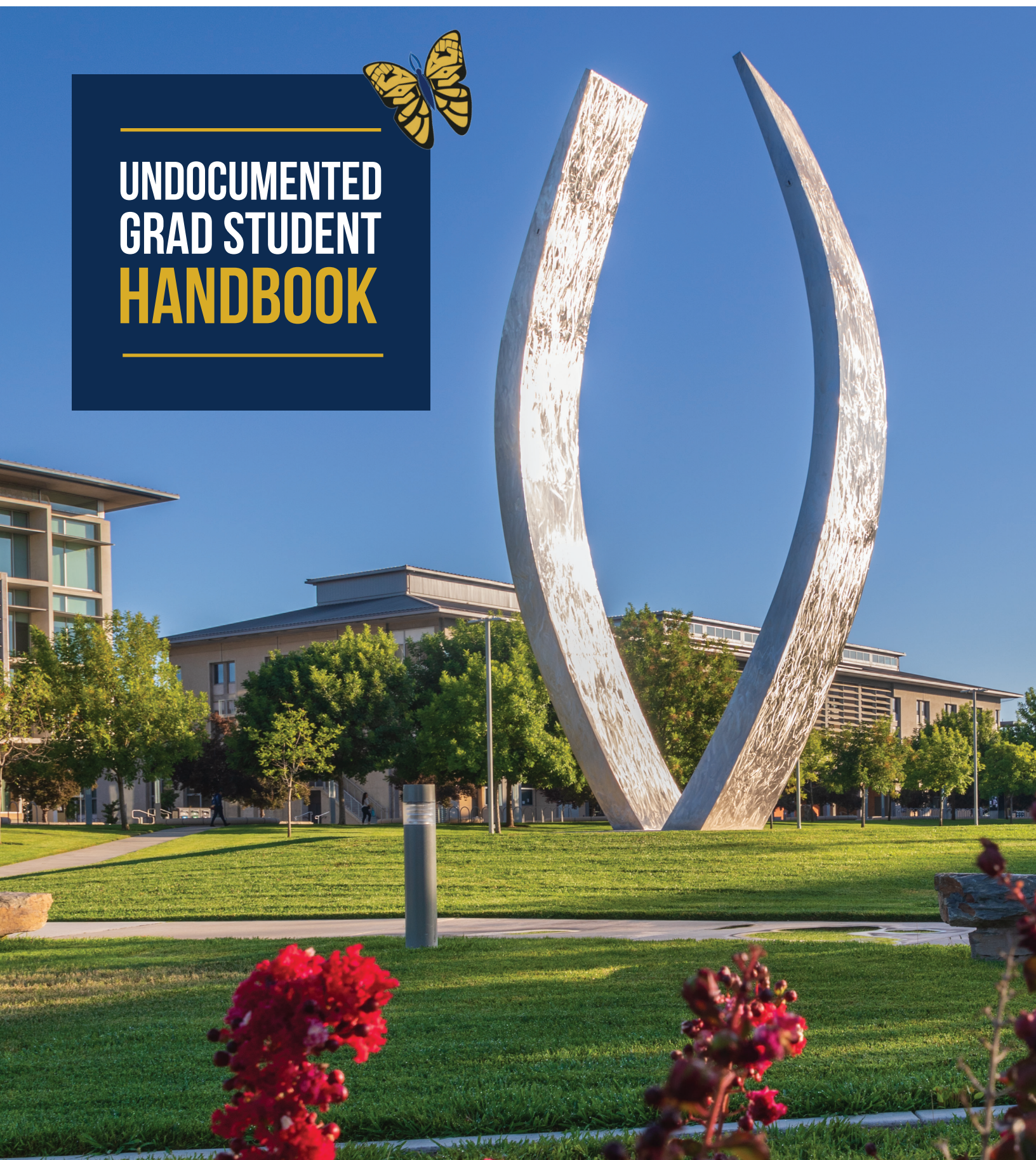


Table of Contents

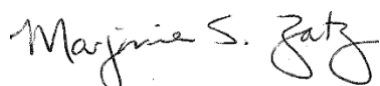
| | |
|--|-----------|
| <i>Preface</i> | 4 |
| <i>University of California Diversity Statement</i> | 4 |
| <i>University of California, Merced Diversity Statement</i> | 5 |
| <i>University of California Nondiscrimination Statement</i> | 6 |
| <i>University of California, Merced Nondiscrimination Statement</i> | 7 |
| <i>University of California Office of General Counsel Admission Process</i> | 7 |
| <i>Terms & Definitions</i> | 8 |
| <i>Frequently Asked Questions</i> | 10 |
| <i>Step 1: Know Your Immigration Status, Rights and Laws that Protect You</i> | 13 |
| Understanding Residency — University of California | 13 |
| AB 540: California Nonresident Tuition Exemption | 13 |
| Some Key Immigration Statuses | 14 |
| Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)..... | 14 |
| Temporary Protected Status (TPS)..... | 15 |
| Prospective F-1 Students..... | 15 |
| Deferred Enforced Departure (DED)..... | 16 |
| Licenses | 16 |
| SB 1159 Professional Licenses..... | 16 |
| AB 60 Driver's Licenses..... | 16 |
| Educational Rights and Privacy | 17 |
| Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)..... | 17 |
| AB 21 Public Postsecondary Education: Access to Higher Education for Every Student..... | 17 |
| SB 183 Equity in Higher Education Act..... | 17 |
| ACLU Links | 17 |
| <i>Step 2: Connect with Graduate Division & Your Graduate Program</i> | 19 |
| Resources within Your Graduate Program | 19 |
| Graduate Group Chairs, Graduate Advisor and Other Faculty..... | 19 |
| Graduate Program Staff..... | 19 |
| Departmental Website Resources for Undocumented Graduate Students..... | 19 |
| Graduate Division Resources | 19 |
| <i>Step 3: Working with Legal Services</i> | 20 |
| On Campus | 20 |
| Legal Resources..... | 20 |
| Off Campus | 20 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Asian Americans Advancing Justice — Asian Law Caucus | 20 |
| Asian Americans Advancing Justice LA (AAAJ-Los Angeles) | 20 |
| California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC) | 21 |
| California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation | 21 |
| Central American Resource Center (CARECEN)..... | 21 |
| Central Valley Immigration Integration Collaborative | 21 |
| Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) | 21 |
| East Bay Community Law Center | 22 |
| Education and Leadership Foundation..... | 22 |
| Immigration Institute of the Bay Area..... | 22 |
| Public Council’s Immigrants’ Rights Project | 22 |
| Los Angeles County Bar Association Immigration Legal Assistance Project | 22 |
| National Immigration Law Center | 23 |
| Services Immigration Rights and Education Network | 23 |
| United Farm Workers Foundation..... | 23 |
| Step 4: Finance Your Graduate Education | 24 |
| Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)..... | 24 |
| CA Dream Act Application | 24 |
| Undocumented Funding Opportunities — Scholarships, Fellowships, and Assistantships | 25 |
| Other Financial Aid Options for Undocumented Graduate Students in California | 25 |
| UC Merced Financial Resources for Special Circumstances | 25 |
| Step 5: Achieve Academic Success | 27 |
| Academic Graduate Degrees Offered..... | 27 |
| Degree Application Forms and Guidelines..... | 27 |
| Date and Deadlines | 28 |
| Enrollment and Status Forms | 28 |
| Policies and Procedures..... | 29 |
| Qualifying and Advancement Forms | 30 |
| Application for the Advancement to Candidacy | 30 |
| Step 6: Engage with UC Merced Campus Resources | 31 |
| Key Contacts..... | 31 |
| Family Accommodations and Resources for Graduate Students..... | 32 |
| Family and Medical Leave | 32 |
| Leave Requests..... | 32 |
| Policies and Information..... | 32 |
| Child Care..... | 33 |
| Lactation Accommodations | 33 |
| Quick Links:..... | 33 |
| Lactation Consultants | 34 |
| Crisis Resources | 34 |
| STEP 7: Developing Network and Professional Opportunities..... | 36 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Disclosing Status | 37 |
| Independent Contracting | 37 |
| Other Resources | 38 |
| <i>STEP 8: Balance Life Outside of School.....</i> | 39 |
| Commuter and Transportation | 39 |
| CatTracks | 39 |
| Commuter Options | 39 |
| Out-of-State Students with DACA or AB 540 | 39 |
| Undocumented Youth-led Organizations | 39 |
| Central Valley..... | 39 |
| Northern California..... | 40 |
| Southern California..... | 40 |
| Statewide..... | 41 |
| Online | 42 |

Preface

The University of California, Merced strives to provide the best possible training and resources for all of our graduate students. We know that our undocumented students may have questions about the availability of programs and services, and we hope this handbook will address those concerns and provide relevant information. We would like to thank UC Los Angeles for creating the first Graduate and Professional Student Handbook and for allowing us to borrow heavily from their work. The UC Merced Graduate Dean's Advisory Council on Diversity led efforts to develop this handbook. Our thanks to the dedicated efforts of this council — Taylor Fugere, Edgar Perez-Lopez, Maria Ramirez Loyola, Maria de Jesus Mora, Arabi Seshappan, Houa Vang, and Alauna Wheeler. Thanks also to Cassie Gunter, who led this endeavor, and to Eric Cannon, Jesus Cisneros, Brenda Ortiz, and the entire UC Merced Graduate Division, and to Alejandro Delgadillo, Associate Director for Educational Equity and Access of the Bright Success Center. If anyone has questions, please feel comfortable approaching any of us in the UC Merced Graduate Division. We are here for you!



Marjorie S. Zatz
Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education

University of California Diversity Statement

Regents Policy 4400: Policy on University of California Diversity Statement

Adopted September 20, 2007
Amended September 16, 2010

RECOMMENDED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BY THE ACADEMIC SENATE OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Adopted by the Assembly of the Academic Senate May 10, 2006 Endorsed by the President of
the University of California June 30, 2006

Adopted as Amended by the Assembly of the Academic Senate April 22, 2009

Endorsed as Amended by the President of the University of California August 17, 2010

The diversity of the people of California has been the source of innovative ideas and creative accomplishments throughout the state's history into the present. Diversity — a defining feature of California's past, present, and future — refers to the variety of personal experiences, values, and worldviews that arise from differences of culture and circumstance. Such differences

include race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, language, abilities/disabilities, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, and geographic region, and more.

Because the core mission of the University of California is to serve the interests of the State of California, it must seek to achieve diversity among its student bodies and among its employees. The State of California has a compelling interest in making sure that people from all backgrounds perceive that access to the University is possible for talented students, staff, and faculty from all groups. The knowledge that the University of California is open to qualified students from all groups, and thus serves all parts of the community equitably, helps sustain the social fabric of the State.

Diversity should also be integral to the University's achievement of excellence. Diversity can enhance the ability of the University to accomplish its academic mission. Diversity aims to broaden and deepen both the educational experience and the scholarly environment, as students and faculty learn to interact effectively with each other, preparing them to participate in an increasingly complex and pluralistic society. Ideas, and practices based on those ideas, can be made richer by the process of being born and nurtured in a diverse community. The pluralistic university can model a process of proposing and testing ideas through respectful, civil communication. Educational excellence that truly incorporates diversity thus can promote mutual respect and make possible the full, effective use of the talents and abilities of all to foster innovation and train future leadership.

Therefore, the University of California renews its commitment to the full realization of its historic promise to recognize and nurture merit, talent, and achievement by supporting diversity and equal opportunity in its education, services, and administration, as well as research and creative activity. The University particularly acknowledges the acute need to remove barriers to the recruitment, retention, and advancement of talented students, faculty, and staff from historically excluded populations who are currently underrepresented.

University of California, Merced Diversity Statement

Local indigenous people, including the Yokuts and Miwuk who understand the earth as a place for everyone, first inhabited the land where UC Merced is located. When we address diversity on this campus, we do so boldly, daring to look forward and backward, imagining diversity's demand for the 21st century and the importance of diversity in addressing past wrongs, reaffirming humanity, and ensuring a reconciliatory path of redress for the future. The most prominent path on our campus is called Scholars Lane. By day, you can see, hear and witness the embodiment of our diversity through campus community members making their way across campus framed by the slopes and peaks of the Sierra Nevada.

At UC Merced we steadfastly uphold the concepts expressed in the University of California Diversity Statement including, "the variety of personal experiences, values, and worldviews that arise from differences of culture and circumstance. Such differences include race, ethnicity,

gender, age, religion, language, abilities/disabilities, neurodiversity, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geographic region, and more.”

We affirm that a diverse campus furthers our mission to create, interpret, and disseminate knowledge and values. The manifold diversity of our community encourages each of us to reflect on intellectual and cultural orthodoxies, and thus stimulates the creativity at the heart of our academic mission as a research university. We take pride in serving a large population of first-generation college students, including the broad representation of background on our campus as a Hispanic (HSI), Minority (MSI) and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander (AANAPISI) serving institution. As a common goal, we will work together to ensure all members of our academic community reflect the multiplicity of identities in our region.

Our commitment to diversity will foster our ability to thrive in a complex world.

Approved March 15, 2019, by the Chancellor’s Advisory Council on Campus Climate, Culture and Inclusion (CCCI) at UC Merced.

University of California Nondiscrimination Statement

The University of California, in accordance with applicable Federal and State law and University policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy ¹, disability, age, medical condition (cancer-related), ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran or special disabled veteran. The University also prohibits sexual harassment. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access, and treatment in University programs and activities.

Inquiries regarding the University's student-related nondiscrimination policies may be directed to Eric Heng, Student Affairs Immediate Office at 510-987-0239.

¹Pregnancy includes pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth

*In September 2018, SB 183, the Equity in Higher Education Act authored by Ricardo Lara, became law. The purpose of the bill was to prohibit discrimination based on immigration status in admissions or employment. Prior to the passage of AB 183, the policy of the state of California is to afford all persons, regardless of their disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other specified characteristic, equal rights and opportunities in postsecondary educational institutions of the state. With the passage of the bill, these characteristics now expressly include immigration status. The bill also specifies that nothing in the Equity in Higher Education Act shall be construed to require a postsecondary educational institution to offer admission or student financial aid to a nonimmigrant alien, and that nothing in the act shall be construed to change a student’s eligibility for state financial aid.)

University of California, Merced Nondiscrimination Statement

The University of California, in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and University policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, medical condition (cancer-related), ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation or status as a Vietnam-era veteran or special disabled veteran. The University also prohibits sexual harassment. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access and treatment in University programs and activities.

Inquiries regarding the University's student related nondiscrimination policies may be directed to Student Conduct staff in the Office of Student Live.

University of California Office of General Counsel Admission Process

Academic decisions regarding individuals from countries affected by Presidential Executive Order 13769 of January 27, 2017 (Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Iran, Somalia, Libya, Yemen), <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/sites/default/files/guidance-on-academic-decisions.pdf>

Terms & Definitions

Undocumented: a foreign national who entered the United States illegally without the proper authorization and documents, or who entered the United States legally and has since violated the terms of his or her visa or overstayed the time limit.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA): a kind of administrative relief from deportation. The purpose of DACA is to protect eligible immigrant youth who came to the United States when they were children from deportation. DACA gives young undocumented immigrants: 1) protection from deportation, and 2) a work permit. The program expires after two years, subject to renewal.

DACAmented: refers to youth who are eligible, have applied and received the documentation under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

Assembly Bill 540 (AB 540): As part of the California Education Code, AB 540 allows certain students who have attended high school in California for 3 or more years and earned a high school diploma or its equivalent to be exempt from paying nonresident tuition at California public universities.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS): TPS was established by Congress in 1990 to provide immigration benefits to eligible individuals in the United States who are nationals of a country (or persons without nationality who last habitually resided in such country) that has been designated for protected status.

Deferred Enforced Departure (DED): Although DED is not a specific immigration status, individuals covered by DED are not subject to removal from the United States, usually for a designated period of time. Currently, only Liberians are covered by DED, though that will end on March 31, 2020. DED provides employment authorization and allows for travel outside of the United States with Advance Parole, an immigration document (Form I-512) issued by USCIS.

Employment Authorization Document (EAD): is a document issued by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to authorize an alien to work in the U.S. for a period of time, usually one year. It is also called a work permit. It takes the form of a card with the alien's name, photo, and work eligibility expiration date.

Legal U.S. Citizenship: obtained by individuals who were born in the United States; or by individuals who followed the U.S. citizenship naturalization process as stated by the U.S. Immigration Office.

Non-Citizen: a person who is not a U.S citizen or Permanent Legal Resident of the United States and does not hold a valid visa to be authorized to be in the United States.

Overstayed Visa: refers to an individual who entered the United States with proper documentation but stayed in the United States after their tourist, visitor, or student visa expired; thus his/her status is now "undocumented".

International Student: a student from a foreign country who holds a student visa for the purposes of pursuing a college education or advance degree in the United States. Undocumented students are not considered international students and do not have to meet international student admission criteria.

Residency Status: refers to in-state or out-of-state residency for tuition purposes.

Federal Education Right to Privacy Act (FERPA): protects the privacy of students' educational records regardless of immigration status.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can undocumented students apply for admission to UC Merced?

UC Merced welcomes all students regardless of immigration status, including undocumented, DACAmented and AB 540 students. There are many graduate and undergraduate students with unauthorized immigration status enrolled at UC Merced. All students interested in graduate education at UC Merced are strongly encouraged to apply, regardless of immigration status.

Can undocumented students receive in-state tuition rates?

Yes, with an approved AB 540 application, which is available online:

<https://undoc.ucmerced.edu/resources/office-financial-aid-uc-merced>.

Should undocumented students apply as domestic or international?

Undocumented students should apply as domestic applicants. There is an option under “Citizenship Status” to select “Unclassified.”

Can out-of-state undocumented students attend graduate school at UC Merced?

In-state and out-of-state students are welcome to apply to graduate school at UC Merced. Specific support is offered to students through the Office for Services for Undocumented Students and the Graduate Division office.

Are application fee waivers available to undocumented students?

Fee waivers are available for any domestic applicant who meets the eligibility criteria.

Does applying for graduate school put me at risk for legal action (deportation)?

Applying to graduate school at UC Merced with unauthorized immigration status should not place applicants at risk for legal action. UC Merced is committed to the safety of all undocumented, DACAmented and AB 540 students. Students’ immigration status is not shared with outside agencies, such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student records at educational institutions, including elementary and secondary schools and colleges/universities.

Will I be eligible for financial aid (e.g., scholarships, fellowships, assistantships)?

Graduate scholarships and fellowships are available for AB 540 students. DACA recipients are eligible for work opportunities, including Teaching Assistantships and Graduate Student Researcher positions. These opportunities are graduate program specific; check with the program to which you are applying. Funding for other undocumented students may be available from external resources.

What funding options are available for undocumented students?

Typically, our undocumented students are funded similarly to any other graduate student. Most Ph.D. students are awarded Teaching Assistantships and/or Graduate Student Researcher

positions. You may need to request consideration for DACA status (<https://undoc.ucmerced.edu/legislation-policies>) in order to obtain work authorization.

There are also fellowship opportunities available for undocumented students; visit our Internal Fellowships page (<http://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/funding/internal>) for more information. The fellowships are coded with a "1" after the title if they are open to AB 540 students.

The Rose R. Ruiz fellowship (<http://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/node/136>) is a particularly good opportunity to explore, as AB 540 students are given priority for the award.

Will my application or admissions process be different because I am undocumented?

Your immigration status will impact the graduate application process specifically as it relates to financial aid. Undocumented, DACAmented, and AB 540 students do not have access to federal financial aid. Students are encouraged to seek extramural support, such as those sources listed elsewhere in this handbook.

Who can I talk to about being undocumented and applying for graduate school?

The Graduate Division has staff members who are prepared to guide students through the graduate application process (grad@ucmerced.edu).

What resources/support are available to me as an undocumented graduate student at UC Merced?

There are a number of resources available to students with unauthorized status. Students are advised to connect with the Office for Services for Undocumented Students (<https://undoc.ucmerced.edu/>).

As a graduate student, are there any services that will be available to my family members?

The Office for Services for Undocumented Students provides immigration legal services to family members of graduate students. For additional details, contact the Office for Services for Undocumented Students. (<https://undoc.ucmerced.edu/>).

Are undocumented graduate students allowed to transfer into programs at UC Merced?

UC Merced welcomes transfer student from all institutional types, public or private. Students may contact the Graduate Division (grad@ucmerced.edu) office to obtain program requirements.

Is there a difference between funding for undocumented master's degree and Ph.D. students?

There is more funding available in general for Ph.D. students, but this is not affected by immigration status.

Is the hiring and appointing process for DACAmented students different?

Students with DACA are hired and appointed using the same process as other graduate students.

Can I continue to work if my Employment Authorization Document (EAD) expires?

Students are not eligible to work without a valid EAD. Students cannot obtain a new graduate student researcher (GSR) or teaching assistant (TA) appointment without a valid EAD.

When should I apply to renew DACA to keep my EAD current?

Students are advised to renew their DACA within 365 prior to its expiration. For more information, please contact the Office for Services for Undocumented Students for support.

What happens if my EAD expires in the middle of my TA and GSR appointment?

If your EAD expires in the middle of the semester, the university may be forced to end your appointment. You should contact your faculty advisor, school dean, and the Graduate Division immediately if this occurs. Although there are significant financial repercussions, including rescindment of the tuition remission and discontinuation of salary payments, the university will still try to support you whenever possible.

If I have DACA or Temporary Protective Status, can I be sponsored by an employer?

If you would like to find out about your individual case, we encourage you to schedule a consultation with an immigration attorney who specializes in employment petitions. US Citizenship and Immigration Services, "I Am an Employer: How Do I Sponsor an Employee for U.S. Permanent Resident Status?," see <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/E2en.pdf>.

How can I travel out of the country for research (if applicable)?

No, since September 2017, DACA students are no longer eligible for what was formerly known as Advance Parole.

What if I don't have DACA, AB 540, TPS, or Deferred Enforced Departure status?

UC Merced is committed to welcoming and supporting students as members of the university community, regardless of immigration status. Though you do not have access to all the opportunities and resources in this handbook, there are still resources available to you. Please seek support from the Office for Services for Undocumented Students.

Who can I contact for more information?

Office for Services for Undocumented Students
Phone: 209-228-4625, Email: ucdoc@ucmerced.edu

Graduate Division
Student Services Building, Room 310
Phone: 209-228-4625, Email: graddiv@ucmerced.edu

Step 1: Know Your Immigration Status, Rights and Laws that Protect You

Knowing the specifics about your immigration status and the polices related to it gives you agency to leverage academic and professional opportunities at UC Merced.

Understanding Residency — University of California

<https://www.ucop.edu/residency/residency-requirements.html>

AB 540: California Nonresident Tuition Exemption

California Assembly Bill 540 (AB 540) was signed into law in October 2001 and provides that students meeting all the following requirements will qualify to pay in-state tuition:

- Attend a California high school for three or more years;
- Graduate from a California high school or receive the equivalent general education diploma (GED);
- Register or be currently enrolled in a California Community College (CCC); California State University (CSU), or the University of California (UC); and
- Sign a statement with the college or university stating that he or she will apply for legal residency as soon as he or she is eligible to do so.

Additional addendums to AB 540:

- AB 2000: clarifies that a student who secures three years of high school credit or has a total of three or more years of attendance in a California elementary school, middle school, or high school, or a combination of those schools, is eligible for AB 540 and thus is allowed to pay in-state tuition at California community colleges and universities and is eligible for benefits under the California DREAM Act
- AB 68: is an expansion of AB 540 & AB 2000, which allows students who have obtained an associate's degree from a California community college or fulfilled the minimum transfer requirements established for the UC and the CSU to be eligible for AB 540 and thus allowed to pay in-state tuition at California universities and is eligible for benefits under the California DREAM Act

The exemption covers nonresident tuition and the nonresident differential in the Education Fee.

Eligibility for the 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 impact the amount and, possibly type, of financial aid the student might receive.

Non-immigrant students are not eligible for this exemption. Non-immigrants, as defined by federal immigration law, may hold one a variety of visa statuses.

If you need any further information about tuition exemption (AB 540), visit https://registrar.ucmerced.edu/sites/registrar.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/ab540_info.pdf. You may also contact the Office of the Registrar at registrar@ucmerced.edu or 209-228-2734.

Submitting an AB 540 application does not mean automatic qualification. A Statement of Legal Residence must also be submitted. Follow these steps to apply for AB 540.

Submit your Statement of Intent to Register (SIR).

1. After submitting your Statement of Intent to Register (SIR), wait 48 hours then complete your Statement of Legal Residence (SLR) that will appear on your checklist in your student portal.
2. You will then be able to submit an AB 540 application, https://registrar.ucmerced.edu/sites/registrar.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/new_uc_ab_540_affidavit_2018_final_merced.pdf and proof of eligibility.
3. After you have submitted your AB 540 application and proof of eligibility, it will generally take about two weeks for your status to be updated.

Some Key Immigration Statuses

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

On June 15, 2012, the Secretary of Homeland Security announced that certain individuals who came to the United States as children and meet several guidelines may request consideration of deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal. They are also eligible for work authorization. Deferred action is the use of prosecutorial discretion to defer removal action against an individual for a certain period. Deferred action does not provide lawful status.

Frequently Asked Questions regarding DACA, <http://www.dhs.gov/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals#2>

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Guidelines, <http://www.dhs.gov/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals>

US Citizenship and Immigration Services, "Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)," <https://www.uscis.gov/archive/consideration-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca>

US Citizenship and Immigration Services, "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals: Response to January 2018 Preliminary Injunction," <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-response-january-2018-preliminary-injunction>

On November 12, 2019, the Supreme Court of the United States heard oral arguments in the case of Department of Homeland Security v. Regents of the University of California,

consolidated with *Trump v. NAACP* and *McAleenan v. Vidal*, to decide whether Department of Homeland Security (DHS) can lawfully rescind the DACA policy. The decision is expected to be taken by June of 2020.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

TPS was established by Congress in 1990 to provide immigration benefits to eligible individuals in the United States who are nationals of a country (or persons without nationality who last habitually resided in such country) that has been designated for protected status. When a country loses the TPS designation, nationals revert back to their previous status.

The Secretary of Homeland Security may designate a country for TPS because of ongoing armed conflict (such as civil war), an environmental disaster (such as earthquake or hurricane), epidemic, or other extraordinary temporary conditions.

During a designated period, individuals who are TPS beneficiaries or who are found preliminarily eligible for TPS upon initial review of their cases (*prima facie* eligible) 1) are not removable from the United States, 2) can obtain an employment authorization document (EAD), and 3) may be granted travel authorization.

Once granted TPS, individuals cannot be detained by the DHS based on their immigration status in the United States.

TPS is a temporary benefit that does not lead to lawful permanent resident status nor provide any other immigration status. Registration for TPS does not prevent you from 1) applying for non-immigrant status, 2) filing for adjustment of status based on an immigrant petition, or 3) applying for any other immigration benefit or protection for which you may be eligible.

US Citizenship and Immigration Services, "Temporary Protected Status,"
<https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status>

Prospective F-1 Students

If a visa is required for you to reside and study in the United States, you are an international student applicant. If you are U.S. citizen, legal permanent resident, refugee or asylee, you are considered a domestic applicant.

If you are interested in applying to the UC Merced as a transfer student (transferring from another college or university within the U.S.) or as a graduate student (a student pursuing a master's or doctorate degree) but have not yet applied, you are considered a prospective student. Every international student admitted to UC Merced full-time for a graduate degree is eligible for the F-1 student visa. Most UC Merced international students hold this F-1 student visa non-immigrant status.

To obtain more information or apply to UC Merced, visit the Admissions website for International Students, <http://admissions.ucmerced.edu/international>.

[Prospective graduate students seeking a master's or doctorate can visit the Graduate Division website for admission information.](#)

For more information about the cost of attendance, visit <http://iss.ucmerced.edu/students/prospective/finances>.

For information on how to apply for your student visa following admission to UC Merced, visit <https://iss.ucmerced.edu/how-apply-visa>

Frequently Asked Question can be found at, <https://iss.ucmerced.edu/faq-accordion>.

Following admission to UC Merced, students will request the Form I-20 Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant F-1 Students from the UC Merced Office of International Affairs (OIA). Students will use the Form I-20 to apply for an F-1 student visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate. For further instruction, visit OIA's web page for Newly Admitted Students, <https://iss.ucmerced.edu/students/newlyadmitted>.

As a student at UC Merced, the International Students and Scholars Office within OIA will be your main resource for visa and immigration matters.

Deferred Enforced Departure (DED)

Although DED is not a specific immigration status, individuals covered by DED are not subject to removal from the United States, usually for a designated period of time. Currently, only Liberians are covered by DED, though that will end on March 31, 2020. DED provides employment authorization and allows for travel outside of the United States with Advance Parole, an immigration document (Form I-512) issued by USCIS.

US Citizenship and Immigration Services, DED Granted Country — Liberia, <https://www.uscis.gov/>

Licenses

SB 1159 Professional Licenses

SB 1159 (January 2016), authored by Ricardo Lara, is a California law that allows undocumented immigrants to apply for professional licenses, https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB1159

AB 60 Driver's Licenses

AB 60 (January 2015), authored by Luis Alejo, allows qualifying undocumented individuals to apply for California driver's licenses. See State of California Department of Motor Vehicles, <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/ab60/index>.

Educational Rights and Privacy

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

FERPA is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. Generally, schools must have written permission from a parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education records. U.S. Department of Education, <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>

AB 21 Public Postsecondary Education: Access to Higher Education for Every Student

AB 21, authored by Ash Kalra, is a state law requiring the CSUs and California community colleges, and asks the UC, to establish various policies and procedures to foster a campus environment that is safe and welcoming for all members of the community, regardless of immigration status.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB21

University of California, "Frequently Asked Questions for University Employees about Possible Federal Immigration Enforcement Actions on University Property,"

<https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/content/frequently-asked-questions-federal-immigration-enforcement-actions>.

UCLA Office of the Chancellor, "Implementation of AB 21, Access to Higher Education for Every Student,"

<https://chancellor.ucla.edu/messages/implementation-ab-21-access-higher-education-every-student/>.

SB 183 Equity in Higher Education Act

SB 183, authored by Ricardo Lara, is a California law that explicitly states that discrimination based on immigration status is prohibited. According to the California Legislative Information website, the Equity in Higher Education Act states that it is "the policy of the State of California to afford all persons, regardless of their disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other specified characteristic, equal rights and opportunities in postsecondary educational institutions of the state." This bill expressly references immigration status as a protected characteristic. However, the bill also specifies that postsecondary educational institutions are not required to offer admission or student financial aid to non-immigrant aliens, and the bill does not affect student eligibility for state financial aid.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB183

ACLU Links

For nearly a century, the ACLU of Northern California has been at the heart of many of the major — and sometimes controversial — struggles for civil liberties in our state. The ACLU of Northern California is one of the largest ACLU affiliates in the nation with more than 100,000 members.

The ACLU of Northern California makes sure that Constitutional rights — to free speech, to privacy, to due process — don't just exist on paper, but also in practice. The ACLU is the first line of defense against threats to civil liberties and works to ensure these freedoms are guaranteed to every person in this country.

Legal Help: <https://www.aclunc.org/our-work/get-help>

For more information on work done by ACLU, visit <https://www.aclunc.org/our-work>.

Step 2: Connect with Graduate Division & Your Graduate Program

There are individuals on campus who are knowledgeable about resources for undocumented graduate students and are trained to support students and address their various needs.

Resources within Your Graduate Program

Graduate Group Chairs, Graduate Advisor and Other Faculty

For students experiencing an academic problem, your graduate advisor, graduate group chair, and other faculty are your first resources.

Graduate Program Staff

Graduate program staff within your school are good resources because they know the programs and may have valuable insight into the issue at hand. They also know how students should proceed with an issue and can put students in touch with the appropriate people.

Departmental Website Resources for Undocumented Graduate Students

- Office for Services for Undocumented Students, <https://undoc.ucmerced.edu>
- Government and Community Relations, <https://gcr.ucmerced.edu>

Graduate Division Resources

Graduate Dean and Staff Directory, <https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/directory>

Marjorie Zatz, Vice Provost, Dean of Graduate Education, and Professor,
mzatz@ucmerced.edu

Maria Nishanian, Academic Counselor, mnishanian@ucmerced.edu

Admissions and Academic Services,
Current Graduate Students: gradservices@ucmerced.edu
Incoming Graduate Students: gradadmissions@ucmerced.edu

Financial Support & Services, gradfunding@ucmerced.edu

Graduate Resource Center, gradresources@ucmerced.edu

Step 3: Working with Legal Services

On Campus

Legal Resources

UC Merced Office for Services for Undocumented Students has formed a partnership with the UC Immigrant Legal Services Center, <https://law.ucdavis.edu/ucimm/>, to provide free legal resources for undocumented UC Merced students and their immediate family members. Through this partnership, students can schedule consultations with a UC Immigrant Legal Services Center attorney or legal fellow at the UC Merced campus.

- These services are **free**.
- Funding is available for legal fees (i.e., DACA renewal filing fee) through Emergency Funds Request, <https://undoc.ucmerced.edu/EmergencyFunds>.
 - Available for current UC Merced undergraduate and graduate students.
 - Available for immediate family members (parents, siblings, spouses and children) of currently enrolled UC Merced students.

Scheduling a Consultation

Available dates for in-person meetings will be announced by UC Merced Office for Services for Undocumented Students throughout the semester. Students must schedule an appointment to meet with the attorney or legal fellow. <https://undoc.ucmerced.edu/form/legal-services>

Merced Community Resource

If you require immediate legal assistance, you may reach out to our community contact in Merced. DACA Renewals are provided free of charge for UC Merced students; however, you are responsible for the filing fee. <https://undoc.ucmerced.edu/form/legal-services>

Off Campus

Asian Americans Advancing Justice — Asian Law Caucus

The Asian Americans Advancing Justice — Asian Law Caucus serves low-income Asian Pacific American communities. Advancing Justice — ALC focuses on issues such as immigration and immigrants' rights, housing rights, criminal justice reform. They provide free legal advice and services, primarily in the area of deportation. They specialize in deportation cases involving criminal convictions. For San Francisco residents, they also provide advice and services in the areas of adjustment of status (becoming a permanent resident) and naturalization (becoming a citizen). <https://www.advancingjustice-alc.org>

Asian Americans Advancing Justice LA (AAAJ-Los Angeles)

The Immigration Project at AAAJ-Los Angeles assists immigrants nationally and locally who are seeking help with immigration relief, such as adjustment of status, representation in immigration court, and other forms of family-based immigration assistance. The Immigration Project hosts free or low-cost in-house and off-site workshops and information sessions in Los Angeles and Orange counties to assist undocumented immigrants. Immigration consultations

are also available in person or over the phone by appointment only. The Asian Language Legal Intake Project (ALLIP) provides toll-free hotlines in Cambodian (Khmer), Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese), Filipino (Tagalog), Korean, Thai, and Vietnamese. The intake staff also provide help in English and other languages. Callers receive resources, counseling, or referral to an AAJ-LA attorney or another legal aid organization. Their hotlines prioritize assistance to low-income people in the following areas of law: family, immigration, consumer, public benefits, employment, housing, and civil rights. <https://advancingjustice-la.org/>

DACA Resources, <https://advancingjustice-la.org/daca#Flyer>

California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC)

CIPC advances inclusive policies that build a prosperous future for all Californians, using policy analysis, advocacy, and capacity building. They have offices in San Diego, Los Angeles, Sacramento, and Oakland. <https://caimmigrant.org/>

California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation

The California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (CRLAF) is a statewide non-profit civil legal aid organization providing free legal services and policy advocacy for California's most marginalized communities: the unrepresented, the unorganized and the undocumented. They offer free removal defense representation to a limited number of immigrants with ties to their removal defense service region. They also provide direct assistance with applying for citizenship, VAWA, T visas, U visas, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, family-based immigration relief, and relief for unaccompanied minors (asylum and SIJS). <https://www.crlaf.org>

Central American Resource Center (CARECEN)

CARECEN is committed to providing high-quality, affordable immigration legal services. They do not charge for consultations for most cases and do not charge any fees for DACA and naturalization consultations.

DACA Resources, <https://carecenla.nationbuilder.com/tags/daca>

Legal Services, http://www.carecen-la.org/legal_services

Central Valley Immigration Integration Collaborative

The Central Valley Immigration Integration Collaborative (CVIIC) provides various immigration programs such as legal services workshops, detention and removal defense, and know your rights workshops. At the legal services workshops, clients are screened for eligibility for existing forms of relief, including U Visas, asylum, etc. <https://cviic.org>

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)

For legal immigration services consultation, visit Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday, at 8 a.m. The consultation fee is \$40 per person. You

can also call the immigrant assistance hotline 24/7 for more information about their programs and services, 1-888-6CHIRLA (1-888-624-4752).

Community Resources, <https://www.chirla.org/resources>

Legal Services, <http://www.chirla.org/legal-immigration-services>

East Bay Community Law Center

East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) provides legal services to low-income communities. Their Immigration Program provides free legal services in areas such as DACA, public benefits eligibility, and deportation defense. <https://ebclc.org>

Education and Leadership Foundation

Located in Fresno, the Education and Leadership Foundation (ELF) is a community benefit organization that provides education and immigration services. In both areas they offer educational services for students, parents, and professionals. Their immigration services include DACA renewals, naturalization assistance, family petitions, other immigration remedies, and presentations. <https://www.education-leadership.org>

Immigration Institute of the Bay Area

The Immigration Institute of the Bay Area (IIBA) helps immigrants, refugees, and their families join and contribute to the community. IIBA provides high-quality immigration legal services, education, and civic engagement opportunities. <https://iibayarea.org>

Public Council's Immigrants' Rights Project

The Immigrants' Rights Project represents individuals seeking asylum based on past persecution or a well-founded fear of future persecution due to political opinion, race, religion, nationality, or membership in a particular social group. The organization also assists immigrants who have been abused by a US citizen or permanent resident as well as victims of trafficking and other crimes.

Call 213-385-2977 x600 or visit

http://www.publiccounsel.org/practice_areas/immigrant_rights.

Los Angeles County Bar Association Immigration Legal Assistance Project

The Immigration Legal Assistance Project provides, for a nominal fee, legal assistance and consultation on immigration law and can help prepare various immigration forms, including but not limited to the following:

- Adjustment of status
- Family petitions
- Conditional residency
- Naturalizations

<https://www.lacba.org/give-back/immigration-legal-assistance-project/information-and-help>

National Immigration Law Center

Established in 1979, the National Immigration Law Center is one of the leading organizations in the United States exclusively dedicated to defending and advancing the rights of low-income immigrants. <https://www.nilc.org/>

Services Immigration Rights and Education Network

Servicing the Central Valley and Bay Area, Services Immigration Rights and Education Network (SIREN) works to empower low-income immigrants and refugees through community education and organizing, leadership development, policy advocacy, civic engagement and legal services. They offer consultations for legal services such as DACA, deportation defense and legal advocacy, and family-based petitions. <http://www.siren-bayarea.org>

United Farm Workers Foundation

Established in 2006, the UFW provides services for citizenship, DACA, family petitions and U Visas. They also focus on educational outreach and organizing. <http://www.ufwfoundation.org>

Step 4: Finance Your Graduate Education

Obtaining graduate student financial support can be a complicated process. The amount and type of financial support available may vary from year to year depending on what specific graduate programs can offer and which sources students apply for. This section details sources of student financial support, funding research procedures, guidelines for anticipating the tough times, and resources to help in a financial emergency. Whether or not you think you are eligible, we encourage you to apply for financial aid each year.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the application that most students need to complete.

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

Eligibility

- Be a U.S. Citizen.
- Be in a degree seeking program.

Important Things to Remember

- Complete the FAFSA application every year.
- Complete the FAFSA application by March 2. If you miss this deadline you may miss out on free money.
- Include UC Merced's school code on your application (041271).
- Apply for the Cal Grant. Complete the Cal Grant GPA Verification Form by March 2.

CA Dream Act Application

The California Dream Act Application became available following the passage of two California Assembly Bills, AB 130 and 131. These bills became known as the CA Dream Act. The CA Dream Act makes certain that undocumented students are eligible for state and institutional aid. <https://dream.csac.ca.gov>

Eligibility

- You must not be eligible to file the FAFSA.
- You must be a California resident.
- You must be eligible for an AB 540 nonresident tuition exemption.

Important Things to Remember

- Complete the Dream application every year.
- Complete the Dream application by March 2. If you miss this deadline you may miss out on free money.
- Include UC Merced's school code on your application (041271).
- Apply for the Cal Grant. Complete the Cal Grant GPA Verification Form by March 2.

Undocumented Funding Opportunities — Scholarships, Fellowships, and Assistantships

List of graduate scholarships/fellowships that do not require proof of U.S. citizenship or legal permanent residency,

<https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/funding/fellowships/undocumented-funding>

Funding Eligibility for UC Graduate Students Who Meet AB 540 and/California

Printable version, <https://grad.ucla.edu/asis/stusup/ab540dacafundcriteria.pdf>

Other Financial Aid Options for Undocumented Graduate Students in California

Private Loans: Students have been able to obtain private loans; however, most banks will require a citizen or permanent resident to cosign the loan and assume full responsibility for it if the student defaults. Sallie Mae and Discover Bank have given loans to undocumented students.

Individual Fundraising: A popular crowdfunding website is

<https://www.gofundme.com/>.

Loan Repayment Program: The Health Professions Education Foundation, a statewide foundation, has loan repayment programs for health professionals and is open to DACA recipients. The program repays your commercial or government loans (from \$4,000 to \$105,000) in exchange for services in a medically underserved area in California.

Loan Repayments, Scholarships, and Grants, <https://oshpd.ca.gov/loans-scholarships-grants/>.

California DREAM Loan Program: The California DREAM Loan Program, authored by Senator Ricardo Lara, allows UC and CSU campuses to administer nonfederal loans to undocumented students who meet the California Dream Act application requirements. Students who demonstrate financial need can borrow up to \$2,000. Interest rates are fixed at the same rates as Federal Direct loans, with no fees. You must submit your DREAM application by the March 2 deadline at <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>.

UC Admissions, “California Dream Loan Program,”

<http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/paying-for-uc/whats-available/dream-loan-program/index.html>

UC Merced Financial Resources for Special Circumstances

Emergency Funds Request, <https://undoc.ucmerced.edu/EmergencyFunds>

Office for Services for Undocumented Students at UC Merced provides support to students facing extenuating financial challenges.

These grants are for emergencies as outlined below.

There are two types of funds:

- **General Emergency Funds** are up to \$300 — designed to provide financial assistance to students with the following extenuating expenses: rent, medical services, books, groceries, and other emergency expenses as determined by the Associate Director of Educational Equity and Access.
- **Legal Fees Emergency Funds** are up to \$300 - \$495 — designed to provide financial assistance to students with the following extenuating expenses: DACA filing fees, other legal fees.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for either emergency grant(s) students must meet all of the following criteria:

- Must be undocumented.
- Must be a current UC Merced student enrolled in a minimum of 12 units.
- Must be a low-income as defined by financial aid guidelines.
- Must not be eligible for federal financial aid (Pell grant, federal loans, etc.).
- Note: Financial Aid packages will be considered for eligibility.

Requirements

Please fill out all required information listed below. In addition, completed applications **MUST** include appropriate receipts and proof of need (i.e., lease contract, statements, bills) and must be either dropped off to Kolligian Library, Room 222, OR scanned and email to adelgadillo@ucmerced.edu in order for the application to be processed. After your application is received, you will meet with Alejandro Delgadillo for a final decision. These grants are on a first-come-first-serve basis and will be available until funds are exhausted.

Availability

Approved emergency funds will be available to the student within two (2) business days. It is highly recommended that students enroll in the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) available through Student Business Services (SBS). Your emergency funds will be transferred via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to your designated bank account. **NOTE:** Emergency funds may be credited through Student Business Services (SBS). If there is any outstanding balance (i.e., library, fines, housing, etc.) on your student account, the emergency funds may be used to pay your outstanding balance. Exceptions are made for emergency funds to be used for payment of fees.

If you have any questions concerning emergency funds, please call 209-228-4625, visit us at Office for Services for Undocumented Students in Kolligian Library, Room 222, or email adelgadillo@ucmerced.edu.

Step 5: Achieve Academic Success

Academic Graduate Degrees Offered

- Applied Mathematics (M.S., Ph.D.)
- Bioengineering (M.S., Ph.D.)
- Chemistry and Chemical Biology (M.S., Ph.D.)
- Cognitive and Information Sciences (Ph.D.)
- Economics (M.A.*, Ph.D.)
- Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (M.S., Ph.D.)
- Environmental Systems (M.S., Ph.D.)
- Interdisciplinary Humanities (M.A., Ph.D.)
- Management of Complex Systems (M.S., Ph.D.)
- Master of Management Professional Degree (M.M.)
- Materials and Biomaterials Science Engineering (M.S., Ph.D.)
- Mechanical Engineering (M.S., Ph.D.)
- Physics (M.S., Ph.D.)
- Political Science (M.A.*, Ph.D.)
- Psychological Sciences (M.A.*, Ph.D.)
- Public Health (M.S.P.H.*, Ph.D.)
- Quantitative and Systems Biology (M.S., Ph.D.)
- Sociology (M.A.*, Ph.D.)

(Asterisk (*) Denotes M.S./M.A. offered only along the way to Ph.D.)

Degree Application Forms and Guidelines

Graduate Student Application,

https://mystudentrecord.ucmerced.edu/pls/PROD/bwskgrad.p_disp_grad_term

Request for Certification of Completion,

<https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/sites/graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/files/documents/requestforecrtofcompletion.pdf>

Thesis and Dissertation Guidelines,

https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/sites/graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/files/documents/PDFs/ucm_thesis_dissertation_manual.pdf

Final Report for the Master's Degree (Master's students only),

https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/sites/graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/finalreportmastersdegree-updated_0.pdf

Master's Checklist for Degree Completion (Master's students only),
https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/sites/graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/files/documents/checklist_masters_summer2016_edited.pdf

Report on Final Examination for the Ph.D. Degree (Ph.D. students only),
https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/sites/graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/files/documents/report_on_final_exam_phd.pdf

Ph.D. Checklist for Degree Completion (Ph.D. students only),
https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/sites/graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/checklist_phd_2019.edited.pdf

Date and Deadlines

Important Dates and Deadlines, <https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/current-students/calendar-and-deadlines>

Enrollment and Status Forms

Application for Readmission,
<https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/sites/graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/applicationforreadmission.pdf.pdf>

Change of Advisor Form,
<https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/sites/graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/changeofadvisor.pdf>

Change of Major/ Degree Form,
https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/sites/graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/new_changemajordegree2.pdf

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Form,
https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/sites/graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/new_changemajordegree2.pdf

Filing Fee Petition,
<https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/sites/graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/filingfee11.19.pdf>

Filing Fee FAQ,
<https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/sites/graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/files/documents/filingfeefaq-2.pdf>

General Petition,

<https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/sites/graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/files/documents/PDFs/generalpetition.pdf>

Graduate Taking Undergraduate Course Form,

http://registrar.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/gr_take_ug.pdf

In Absentia Registration,

https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/sites/graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/inabsentia_3_0.pdf

Intercampus Exchange Program,

<https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/sites/graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/ucintercampusexchangeform.pdf>

Notice of University Cancellation/Withdrawal,

http://registrar.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/university_cancel_withdraw.pdf

Petition for Reduced Fee, Part-Time,

https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/sites/graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/reducedfeeparttime_0.pdf

Educational Leave Program,

http://registrar.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/gr_pel.pdf

Policies and Procedures

Graduate Student Policies and Procedures Handbook,

https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/sites/graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/grad_handbook_2019_2020_uc_merced_published_0.pdf

Mentoring Guidelines,

https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/sites/graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/ucm_mentoring_guidelines-_gc_approved_9_23_14-2_1.pdf

Graduate Students' Rights and Responsibilities,

<https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/files/documents/PDFs/graduaterightsresponsibilities.pdf>

Research Compliance and Integrity, <https://rci.ucmerced.edu>

Intellectual Property Ownership,

<https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/students/policies-procedures/ip-ownership>

UC Merced Course Catalog, <http://catalog.ucmerced.edu/>

Qualifying and Advancement Forms

Application for Qualifying Examination (Ph.D. students only),

https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/sites/graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/application_for_qualifying_examination_0.pdf

Qualifying Examination Report (Ph.D. students only),

https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/sites/graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/qualifying_exam_report_0.pdf

Request for Reconstitution of Committee Membership,

https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/sites/graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/request_for_reconstitution.pdf

Application for the Advancement to Candidacy (Master's AND Ph.D. students), please request the link to the electronic form from your Graduate Program Coordinator.

Step 6: Engage with UC Merced Campus Resources

Key Contacts

Graduate Division Dean and Staff, <https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/directory>

Graduate Group Chairs, <https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/gradchairs>

School Dean and Graduate Services Staff

School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts,

<https://ssha.ucmerced.edu/node/223>

School of Engineering, <https://engineering.ucmerced.edu/about/staff>

School of Natural Sciences,

https://naturalsciences.ucmerced.edu/staff/staff_directory

Academic Resources

Office for Services for Undocumented Students, <https://undoc.ucmerced.edu/home>

Graduate Division, <https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu>

Graduate Resource Center, <https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/GRC>

Library, <http://library.ucmerced.edu>

Office of Research and Economic Development, <https://research.ucmerced.edu>

Health and Wellness

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), <https://counseling.ucmerced.edu>

Well Track, provides confidential self-guided tools and resources to help manage stress, anxiety and depression, <https://ucmerced.welltrack.com/>

Student Health Services, <https://health.ucmerced.edu>

Basic Needs Security, provides food, housing, and financial help,

<https://basicneeds.ucmerced.edu>

Joseph Edward Gallo Recreation and Wellness Center,

<https://recreation.ucmerced.edu/Gallo>

Facility Hours, <https://recreation.ucmerced.edu/Facility-Hours>

Health Promotion, encourages positive health behaviors, <https://heroes.ucmerced.edu/>

Student Services

Office for Services for Undocumented Students, <https://undoc.ucmerced.edu/home>

Center for Career and Professional Advancement, <https://hire.ucmerced.edu>

Dean of Students, <https://studentaffairs.ucmerced.edu/dean-students>

Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, <https://diversity.ucmerced.edu>

LGBTQ+ Initiatives, <http://lgbtq.ucmerced.edu>

Women's Programs, <https://womensprograms.ucmerced.edu/>

Student Accessibility Services, <https://disabilityservices.ucmerced.edu>

Office of the Ombuds, <https://ombuds.ucmerced.edu>

Student Organizations

Graduate Student Association (GSA), <https://gsa.ucmerced.edu>

Academic Student Employees Unit, United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 2865,
<https://uaw2865.org>

Other Campus Resources

Graduate Resource Center, <https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/GRC>

The Multicultural Center, <https://studentlife.ucmerced.edu/program-areas/social-justice-initiatives/multicultural-center>

Graduate Cultural Resource Center, <https://www.facebook.com/GCRC.UCM/>

Family Accommodations and Resources for Graduate Students

<https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/node/223>

Family and Medical Leave

<https://www.ucop.edu/faculty-diversity/policies-guidelines/family-friendly-practices-and-policies/family-friendly-policies-and-issues.html>

Leave Requests

- Graduate Student Researchers (GSR) and Academic Student Employees (ASE) Leave Request Form, <http://academicpersonnel.ucmerced.edu/forms>
- Direct all questions to your hiring school and/or to the Academic Personnel Office.
- Internal Fellowship awardees (Eugene Cota Robles, President's Dissertation, etc.) should contact the Graduate Division.
- Longer absences are available (up to one year) via the Education Leave Program, <http://catalog.ucmerced.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=483#ELP>

Policies and Information

University of California Office of the President Family Friendly Policies and Issues,
<http://ucop.edu/faculty-diversity/policies-guidelines/family-friendly-practices-and-policies/family-friendly-policies-and-issues.html>

Regulations, <http://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/index.html>

- Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), <http://www.dol.gov/dol/topic/benefits-leave/fmla.htm>
- California Family Rights Act (CFRA), <http://www.dfeh.ca.gov/resources/frequently-asked-questions/employment-faqs/pregnancy-disability-leave-faqs/pdl-cfra-fmla-guide/>
- Pregnancy Disability Law (PDL), <https://www.dfeh.ca.gov/resources/frequently-asked-questions/employment-faqs/pregnancy-disability-leave-faqs/>
- California School Partnership Act, <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/pf/pf/>

Child Care

Reimbursement

- TAs — Under the current ASE contract, childcare reimbursement has been extended to qualified dependents who are age 12 or under on July 1, 2015.
- GSRs — Childcare grants are funded by the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost as part of the agreement to provide equivalent reimbursement for childcare received by Teaching Assistants.
- Fellows — Childcare grants are provided equivalent to childcare reimbursements received by Teaching Assistants.

Care

UC Merced Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC), <https://ecec.ucmerced.edu/>

The ECEC provides quality program for parents of young children working at UC Merced and community members of Merced. The Center provides developmentally appropriate activities and environments for children from infant to Pre-Kindergarten (6 weeks – 5 years).

Subsidy for low-income UC Merced students and staff is a priority for the Center. Student families receive a minimum of 10% reduction on ECEC tuition.

Lactation Accommodations

<https://hr.ucmerced.edu/benefits/accommodations/lactation>

UC Policy: PPSM84: Accommodations for Nursing Mothers,
<https://policy.ucop.edu/doc/4000609/PPSM-84>

Access Request for UC Merced Lactation Rooms,
https://hr.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/access_request_for_lactation_rooms.pdf

Lactation Rooms,
https://hr.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/lactation_rooms_map.pdf

For questions about the Lactation Rooms, please contact Benefits in the Human Resources Office at 209-259-8806.

Quick Links:

- U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division,
<http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/whdfs73.pdf>

- California Breastfeeding Coalition, <http://www.californiabreastfeeding.org/>
- La Leche League, <http://www.llli.org/>
- 24/7 Breastfeeding Hotline, <http://www.lovingupport.org/>

Lactation Consultants

International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners, <http://iblce.org/>:

Crisis Resources

Sexual Violence Resources, <http://dsvp.ucmerced.edu/sexual-violence-resources>

Campus Advocacy, Resources and Education (CARE), <https://care.ucmerced.edu>

Valley Crisis Center, <http://www.valleycrisiscenter.org>

Counseling and Psychological Services, <http://counseling.ucmerced.edu/>

Discrimination Resources, <http://dsvp.ucmerced.edu/discrimination-help>

Office for the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination, <http://dsvp.ucmerced.edu>

Reporting a Bias Related Incident

While UC Merced prides itself on being a welcoming and inclusive community, there are times when incidents happen that hurt and/or endanger the members of our community.

If you have experienced any form of harassment, hate crime(s), micro/macroaggression(s), alienation, and/or bias based violence, you may submit an informal incident report to the Bias Incident Response Team (BIRST) team. This report can be anonymous in order to protect those who do not wish to be identified.

What is a hostile climate incident?

Any act of intolerance motivated wholly or in part by bias or prejudice against an individual's race, color, ethnicity, age, religion, size, disability, national origin, language, gender, veteran status, identity expression, sexual orientation or age — regardless of severity.

What should I do if I experience or witness a hostile climate incident?

Incident of BIAS Reporting Form, <https://birst.ucmerced.edu/report-incident>

Any incident that is believed to violate University policy or that may constitute a crime should be reported to the appropriate University official. Informal conflict resolution services, <https://conflict.ucmerced.edu/how-get-help> are available to assist in addressing concerns arising out of bias incidents.

Counseling and Psychological Services, <https://counseling.ucmerced.edu>

IF YOU HAVE A LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCY, CALL 911 OR GO TO YOUR NEAREST HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM.

Urgent Services

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) operates on an appointment basis but will make exceptions for crisis situations that require immediate student assessment and intervention. This service is only available Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. If you find yourself in crisis after hours, please use one of the following options:

- Call the CAPS After-Hours crisis line at 209-228-4266 and press 1 after the prompt to be connected to a ProtoCall clinician.
- Call Campus Police at 209-228-2677.
- Call the National Suicide Hotline at 800-273-8255.
- Text “Start” to 741-741 for the National Service Crisis Text Line (anonymous and confidential crisis counseling via text message).
- Call 911.
- Go to your nearest hospital emergency room.

National Lifelines

- Suicide Hotline, 888-506-5991
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 800-273-TALK (8255)
- National Service Crisis Text Line — Text 741-741 (anonymous and confidential crisis counseling via text message)

STEP 7: Developing Network and Professional Opportunities

Finding employment during school and after graduation can be particularly challenging for undocumented students, especially if you do not have DACA status. The following tips have been adapted from the UC Santa Barbara “Undocumented Students Career Guide.”

What counts as experience?

Experience can include any skill set (communication, problem-solving, customer service, etc.). It can also include the following:

- Internships
- Research
- Volunteering
- Academic Projects
- Personal Projects
- Part-Time Positions
- Leadership Roles

How do I gain experience?

The Center for Career and Professional Advancement can help you find information for local, national, and international experiential opportunities that you may take advantage of, regardless of your work authorization status.

Career specialists are trained to discuss your interests, skills, values, personality, and challenges to help you narrow down what types of experiential opportunities you are interested in. Talking with a career specialist will help you solidify your career goals and navigate any changes in those goals. You will need to set up your profile when you first log on. If you have any questions, call the Center for Career and Professional Advancement (209-228-7272).

If you have a work permit, search for opportunities on Handshake, <https://ucmerced.joinhandshake.com/> or look for on-campus jobs at <https://jobs.ucmerced.edu/>

Also remember to utilize your own networks:

- Friends
- Family
- Faculty at UC Merced and other institutions
- Mentors
- Alumni
- Current and previous coworkers and supervisors

Connect with people who have gone through similar experiences and navigated hiring processes with and without DACA by contacting the Undocumented Student Services Coordinator, attending UC Merced undocumented student alumni panels and events, and going

to population-specific conferences (e.g., UC National Summit on Undocumented Students or the UndocuGrad Conference). These conferences often provide student registration discounts/waivers, and you may be able to reduce registration costs by volunteering.

Disclosing Status

Do I have to disclose my status?

You are never required to disclose your status. To discuss strategies around disclosing status to employers and get support during this process, talk with a graduate career services counselor and the undocumented student services coordinator. Both are committed to supporting students during stressful and uncomfortable conversations.

If you currently have DACA status, you are legally authorized to work in the United States and can move through the traditional hiring process without needing to discuss your immigration status.

When do I disclose my status?

When answering questions on an application, UC Merced Graduate Division advises all students to provide information that is true and honest. Forging documents or committing document fraud could have lasting effects. If you have questions about an application, meet with a career counselor to discuss different strategies to speak with employers. If you feel comfortable, you could disclose early to an employer and ask for advice about how to fill out an application.

Once you have an offer for an internship or for a postgraduate position, you could raise the possibility of working as an independent contractor. As some employers may be unfamiliar with the process of hiring independent contractors, be sure to do your own research and consult with an employment lawyer if necessary.

Independent Contracting

According to the IRS, an independent contractor is self-employed and produces a specific type of work product in a determined amount of time. The employer has the right to determine the work product but not how it will be produced. Independent contractors typically do the same type of work for different clients, rather than working continually for a single employer.

When applying for employment, an independent contractor can use a Social Security Number or an Independent Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), which can be obtained regardless of immigration status. Some typical independent contractor jobs are tutoring, childcare, and construction.

To learn more about independent contracting, check out Immigrants Rising's resource, "Life after College: A Guide for Undocumented Students," <https://immigrantsrising.org/resource/life-after-college/>.

Starting Your Own Business

You can start your own Limited Liability Company (LLC) as a worker cooperative of people who are both workers and owners of the business. There are additional fees and taxes associated with an LLC. Immigrants Rising, “Life after College: A Guide for Undocumented Students,” <https://immigrantsrising.org/resource/life-after-college/>.

UC Merced Venture Lab

The UC Merced Venture Lab member program is geared towards helping new startups assess their market opportunity by assisting program participants develop their business model, identify potential customers, create route-to-market plans and more. This support is done with access to free legal advisors, business consultants, access to a wide array of mentors, established companies and other new ventures.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the UC Merced Venture Lab please visit <https://venturelab.ucmerced.edu/>.

UC Merced Small Business Development Center

The UC Merced Small Business Development Center (SBDC) promotes the development, growth and success of small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs throughout Merced and Mariposa Counties, thereby enhancing individual, family, community and regional prosperity. Whether you want to launch, grow, transition or innovate your business, the UC Merced SBDC can provide expert consulting, training, market research, access to capital and other tools at low to no cost assistance. <https://ucmercedsbdc.com/>.

Other Resources

Center for Career and Professional Advancement, <https://hire.ucmerced.edu/students/jobs-internships>

Handshake, a talent recruitment platform, <https://ucmerced.joinhandshake.com/>

Immigrants Rising, <https://immigrantsrising.org/resource/life-after-college/>

UC Merced Alumni Association, fosters and maintains links between our alumni and UC Merced, acting as a conduit for the exchange of ideas and information to aid in the advancement of the university. <https://alumni.ucmerced.edu/>

GRADD, an organization founded by undocumented graduate students which aims to address the needs of immigrant students interested in pursuing graduate education, <https://www.facebook.com/GRADD.org/>

STEP 8: Balance Life Outside of School

Commuter and Transportation

CatTracks

UC Merced CatTracks is a complimentary service that provides free, safe, and reliable campus transportation. Simply have your valid and legible CatCard ready to present to the CatTracks driver to board the bus. <http://cattracks.ucmerced.edu>

Commuter Options

- Zimride/ride matching at UC Merced, <https://taps.ucmerced.edu/alternative-transportation/ridematching>
- Zipcar, <https://taps.ucmerced.edu/alternative-transportation/zipcar>
- UC Merced Vanpool, <https://taps.ucmerced.edu/alternative-transportation/vanpool>
- UC Merced Carpool Matching Service, <https://taps.ucmerced.edu/alternative-transportation/carpool>
- Bicycling at UC Merced, <https://taps.ucmerced.edu/alternative-transportation/bicycle-program>
- Other forms of transportation (air, bus, taxi, train), <https://taps.ucmerced.edu/alternative-transportation/other/air>

Out-of-State Students with DACA or AB 540

- California Residency Requirement for New Driver's License (DL) and Identification Card (ID) Applicants, www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/dl/residency_requirement
- Identification Cards in California (to establish residency), <https://www.dmv.org/ca-california/id-cards.php>

Undocumented Youth-led Organizations

Central Valley

Services Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN)

Based in both the Central Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area, SIREN is a coalition of immigrant rights activists. Originally founded in 1987 to respond to the Immigration Reform and Control Act, SIREN's current mission is to empower low-income immigrants and refugees through community organizing, leadership development, and policy advocacy.

<http://www.siren-bayarea.org/>

Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative

Established in 2014, the Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative (CVIIC) was founded to ensure rights and protections of immigrants to the Central Valley. CVIIC provides workshops on legal protection, provides legal assistance, and aids in application assistance for enrollment in DACA, U Visas, and other forms of relief.

<https://cviic.org/>

Fresno Immigrant Youth in Action

Fresno Immigrant Youth in Action (FIYA) is a group for undocumented young adults to advocate for human rights through leadership summits, community organization, and sharing of art.

<https://www.facebook.com/wearefiya/>

Northern California

Asian Americans Advancing Justice

Asian Americans Advancing Justice (ASPIRE) is a San Francisco Bay Area-based organization led by Pan-Asian undocumented immigrants. Housed under the Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus, they provide a space for undocumented Asian and Pacific Islander immigrant youth community to discuss their issues and develop their leadership and advocacy skills for immigrants' rights.

<http://aspireforjustice.org/>

Southern California

Korean Resource Center

The Korean Resource Center (KRC) was founded in 1983 to empower low-income, immigrant, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and other communities of color in Southern California. Using a holistic approach, the KRC strives to empower the community by integrating services, education, culture, organizing, and coalition building to improve the life of the individual and the community.

<https://krcla.org/en>

KRC's Leaders of the New School (LNS) program gathers college-age youth across Orange County to develop them into effective leaders. LNS is a six-month paid internship program that connects students to various community organizations and civic engagement coordinators in order to develop and expand their understanding and skills in navigating local political spaces.

<https://krcla.org/en/a/leaders-new-school>

UPLIFT Los Angeles

UPLIFT is led by undocumented Asian and Pacific Islander (API) youth and based in Los Angeles. They provide a safe and progressive space for API immigrant

youth. They raise awareness about various immigrant and civil right issues in the API community, advocate for equality, and uplift the narratives of API undocumented youth in the immigrant rights movement. They build lasting relationships to empower and strengthen the next generation of leaders.

<http://www.upliftlosangeles.org/>

Orange County Immigrant Youth United

Orange County Immigrant Youth United (OCIYU), formerly known as the Orange County Dream Team, is led by undocumented immigrant youth and based in Orange County, California. OCIYU advocates for the rights of undocumented immigrants to live free from exploitation and persecution.

<https://www.ociyu.org/>

Statewide

California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance

The California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance (CIYJA) is a statewide alliance led by immigrant youth that focuses on placing immigrant youth in advocacy and policy delegations to ensure that pro-immigrant policies go beyond legalization to shed light on how the criminalization of immigrants varies based on identity.

<https://www.ciyja.org/>

Immigration Youth Coalition

The Immigration Youth Coalition (IYC) is led by undocumented and queer/trans youth and is based in California. Its mission is to mobilize youth, families, and the incarcerated to end the criminalization of immigrants and people of color.

<http://theiyc.org/>

United We Dream

United We Dream (UWD) is one of the largest youth-led communities in the country. UWD empowers people to develop their leadership, hone their organizing skills, and create campaigns to fight for justice and dignity for all people. <https://unitedwedream.org/>

UndocuBlack Network

The UndocuBlack Network (UBN) is a multigenerational network of currently and formerly undocumented people that fosters community, facilitates access to resources, and contributes to transforming the realities of black people, so they can thrive and live their fullest lives.

<http://undocublack.org/>

Community Resource: Immigrant Legal Resource Center

The Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) seeks to improve immigration law and policy, expand the capacity of legal service providers, and advance immigrant rights. The ILRC trains attorneys, paralegals, and community-based

advocates who work with immigrants around the country and work with the media, elected officials, and the public to shape effective and just immigration policy. The staff works with grassroots immigrant organizations to promote civic engagement and social change.

Know Your Rights and What Immigrant Families Should Do Now, <https://www.ilrc.org/know-your-rights-and-what-immigrant-families-should-do-now>

Family Preparedness Plan, <https://www.ilrc.org/family-preparedness-plan>

Immigrant Rising aims to empower undocumented young people to achieve educational and career goals through personal, institutional and policy transformation. They provide scholarships and fellowships as well as information about external opportunities to help students fund their education.

<https://immigrantsrising.org>

The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) aims to achieve a society that is inclusive of all immigrants. CHIRLA was originally founded to fight workplace exploitation of undocumented immigrants; now, it is working toward organizing immigrants to help change public opinion and policy regarding human rights.

<https://www.chirla.org/>

Online

DreamACTivist.org

The largest online network of Dreamers, DreamACTivist.org is a place for undocumented immigrants to coordinate in support of political campaigns (such as aiding the DREAM Act), and to organize public campaigns for blocking deportations of fellow immigrants. <https://dreamactivist.org/>