



We Are Already Here: Undocumented Experiences in Graduate School

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Overview

- Policy
- Funding
- Support

Undocumented

- Undocumented individuals are non-citizens living in the United States without authorization from the federal government in the form of valid immigration status.
 - Either entered without inspection or
 - Entered with a visa or other status, and overstayed the duration of their status



Policy

AB540

- Assembly Bill 540 known as AB540 was signed into law in October 12, 2001
- It is a California law which allows a qualifying student, who otherwise may not be eligible for in-state tuition become eligible to pay those fees at a UC, CSU or CA Community College.
 - U.S. citizens/residents are also eligible for AB540
- Out of state graduate students can establish residency through the AB540 affidavit
- AB540 affidavit is needed with or without DACA in order for in-state tuition

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

- Was an executive order established by the Obama presidency on June 15, 2012
- Individuals who were granted DACA are authorized by The Department of Homeland Security to be lawfully present in the United States for two years at a time.
 - Provided individuals with a work permit
 - Valid driver's license (depending on their State's policies)
 - Social security number
 - Temporary protection from deportation
- Rescinded by the Trump presidency on September 5, 2017



Funding

TAships & GSRships

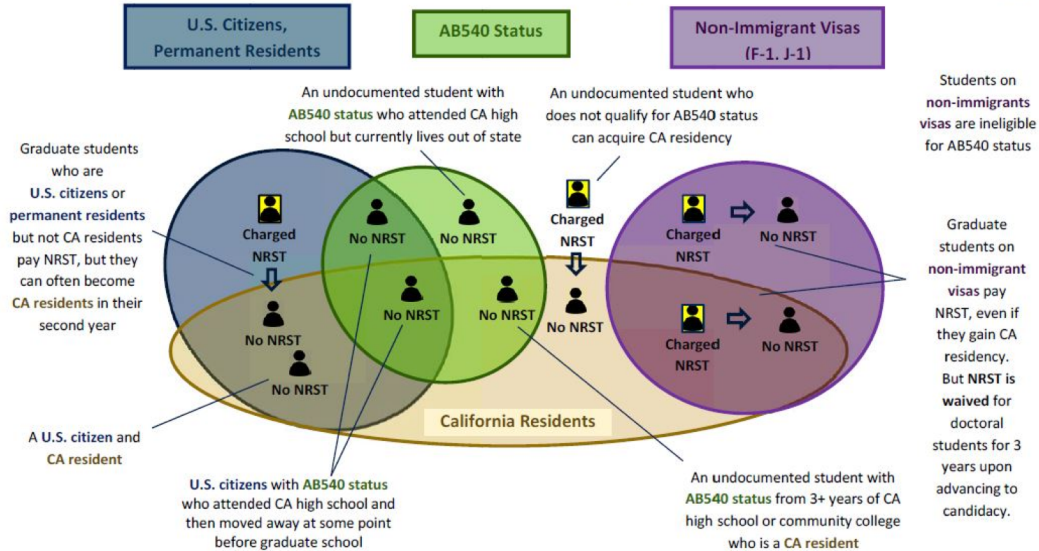
- Folks with work authorization are eligible for TAships and GSRships
 - Traditional method of funding
 - **Not all students have access to this method**

No DACA, What Now?

- There are students at the university who are not eligible to be granted work authorization
 - How are they getting funded?
- Becoming aware of the forms of aid that are provided to students
 - Departments working together with graduate studies and the AB540 & Undocumented Student Center.

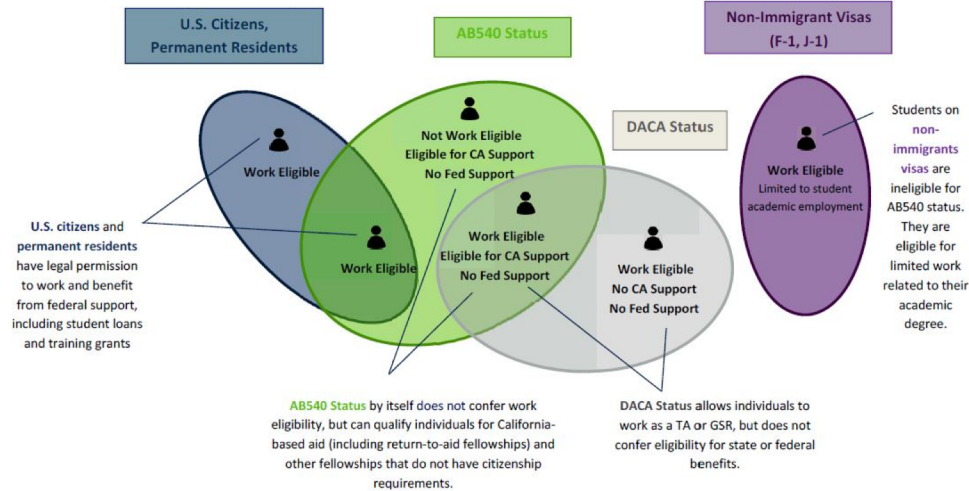
Citizenship, residency, AB 540 status, visa type, and academic status determine NRST

California residents who are U.S. citizens and AB540 students (regardless of citizenship) are not charged NRST. Non-resident U.S. citizens can become California (CA) residents in their second year of graduate study. Students on non-immigrant visas are charged NRST. Students on non-immigrant visas (F-1, J-1, etc.) are charged NRST, except for three years following advancement to doctoral candidacy.



Work eligibility and financial support for undocumented students, AB 540 status, and non-immigrant visas

U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents are “Work Eligible” and eligible for federal support (e.g. FAFSA financial aid). Undocumented students with DACA approval are “Work Eligible” but may not be eligible for other federal support. Only U.S. citizens or permanent residents, F-1 or J-1 visa holders, or AB540 status students are eligible for UC Davis fellowships.





Support

Ways you can Support

- Check-in
 - It is okay to not have all of the answers
- Listening
 - Help Problem solve
 - No judgement
 - Ask open ended questions
- Be aware of the different resources available to students
 - Counseling services
 - Food pantry
 - Legal services
 - Support groups
- Help Build Networks
 - Campus connections
 - Peer connections
 - Affinity groups

AB540 & Undocumented Student Center

- Built on student activism
 - The center empowers and “strives to empower undocumented students, their families and members of the community in being informed leaders and active participants in our communities.”
- An extensive amount of resources
 - Legal services (legal fellow from UC Davis Law School)
 - Lending library
 - Funding opportunities
 - Allyship trainings for peers and educators
- The center is a safe and brave space for ALL students on campus
- Please visit undocumented.ucdavis.edu if you would like to know more

Undocumented Graduate Student Union (UGSU)

- Created to empower and support undocumented graduate students at UC Davis
- Community Building and Holistics supportive space.
- Offer support for both Graduate and Undergraduate students
 - Mentorship program
 - Graduate school applications
 - Tutoring
 - Collaboration with AB540 & Undocumented Student Center



THANK YOU