



Pursuing Nursing: Q&A for Undocumented Students in California

Can I attend a nursing program in California without a Social Security Number (SSN)?

Yes, it is possible. In CA, legislation prevents medical degree programs such as nursing from denying a student who meets admission requirements based on their immigration status (see "What is CA Senate Bill (SB) 1139?"). Students under the following immigration categories are protected from discrimination when applying to nursing programs in California:

- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
- Temporary Protective Status (TPS)
- Undocumented individuals without employment authorization or SSN who DO HAVE an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN); this includes individuals with a pending asylum case, U-Visas, T-Visas, or other "in-between" statuses.
- Students with T or U visas

What is CA Senate Bill (SB) 1139?

CA Senate Bill (SB) 1139 (Lara, 2016) is a law that was signed which:

- Prohibits medical degree programs like nursing from denying admission to students based on their citizenship or immigration status. This includes:
 - A person without lawful immigration status and/or,
 - A person who is exempt from nonresident tuition (meets AB 540, AB 2000, or SB 68 requirements) and
 - Who meets the criteria for admission to a medical degree program at any public or private postsecondary educational institution that offers such a program.
- This bill has opened the doors for many students under the following immigration categories:
 - Undocumented individuals without employment authorization or SSN who have an ITIN
 - Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
 - Temporary Protective Status (TPS)

SB 1139 also grants access to existing state funding to invest in their education. It makes state loan repayment and scholarships available to undocumented individuals; students are encouraged to contact their financial aid office to learn about state and institutional aid eligibility.

As an undocumented student, can I get financial aid to cover enrollment fees for an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) or tuition for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) at a public institution?

Yes! Students who meet AB540, AB2000, **OR** SB68 requirements, submit a California Dream Act Application (CADAA) during the application timeline, **AND** meet GPA and income requirements, can qualify for Cal Grant tuition assistance at the CCC, CSU, or UC for undergraduate ADN and BSN programs. For more information about Cal Grant programs and application deadlines, visit <https://www.csac.ca.gov/undocumented-dreamer-students>.

For more information about AB 540, AB 2000, or SB 68 and eligibility, visit <https://www2.calstate.edu/attend/student-services/resources-for-undocumented-students/Pages/about-ab-540-and-the-california-dream-act.aspx>.

Please note that students do not qualify for Cal Grants at the graduate and professional level. However, campuses may use the CADDA or an in-house financial aid application to determine students' need for financial assistance. Students are encouraged to speak with a financial aid representative at their prospective school at least a year before applying to school to learn about their process.

Students planning to attend a private institution are encouraged to speak with the financial aid office at their future campus to receive information on the school's process regarding state and institutional aid. We encourage students to initiate these conversations at least a year in advance.

