

Frequently Asked Questions from Undocumented Students

About the Undergraduate Admissions Application

1. Can an applicant skip questions on UC's application for undergraduate admission if the applicant is unsure how to answer?

All students, including undocumented applicants, must provide a response to the following questions in order to have their application processed:

- Applicant level at time of enrollment (freshman, junior transfer, etc.)
- Full legal name
- Country of citizenship: The response option "No Selection" is considered a response and is the recommended choice for undocumented applicants. The "No Selection" response will avoid the applicant being asked other questions about permanent residency and visa status that are not applicable to undocumented applicants. "No Selection" will also prevent future follow-up for a missing Social Security number.
- Academic history (record of schools, courses and grades)
- Personal statement
- Electronic signature

The online application will prompt immediately if any of these items are incomplete and will prevent further progress until a response is made.

2. How should an undocumented student respond to the question about an applicant's Social Security number?

All applicants are required to disclose their Social Security number if they have one. If an applicant does not have a Social Security number, he/she may skip that item.

3. What about other questions in the application? If a student fails to answer them, will the application for admission still be considered?

The university seeks to obtain complete information from all applicants. Although the application will be processed without responses to other questions, undocumented applicants should respond when possible.

4. How does an undocumented student establish bona fide California residency for admissions purposes?

Being classified as a bona fide California resident for admissions purposes allows the applicant to be considered for admission using a lower minimum GPA than is applied to nonresidents.

To determine if the applicant will be considered a bona fide California resident for admissions purposes, the applicant should respond to the following questions:

- When did you move to California?
- If you are under 18, does your parent or legal guardian live in California?
- Is the school that you currently attend (or most recently attended) in California?
- Have you attended a California high school for three or more years?
- Is your parent, legal guardian or spouse a UC employee at a location outside California (e.g., Washington, D.C.; Los Alamos, New Mexico; London; Mexico City; other)?

An applicant is considered a bona fide California resident for admissions purposes if the student indicated in response to the first question above that he/she has lived in California for at least 12 months, or answers “yes” to any one of the remaining questions listed above.

5. How does an undocumented applicant/student establish California residency for UC tuition and fee purposes?

Under current law, undocumented applicants/students cannot establish California residency for UC tuition and fee purposes regardless of their eligibility for bona fide California residency for admissions purposes. However, any UC student who:

- is not in possession of a non-immigrant visa to the United States, and
- has attended a California high school for at least three years, and
- has graduated from a California high school, and
- signs an affidavit agreeing to seeking legal status as soon as she or he is able to do so

may be eligible for a nonresident supplemental tuition exemption (commonly known as an AB 540 tuition exemption after the authorizing California law). This exemption enables eligible students to enroll at UC without paying UC’s nonresident supplemental tuition. Applications to determine eligibility for AB 540 tuition exemption status must be submitted after a student has been admitted to UC.