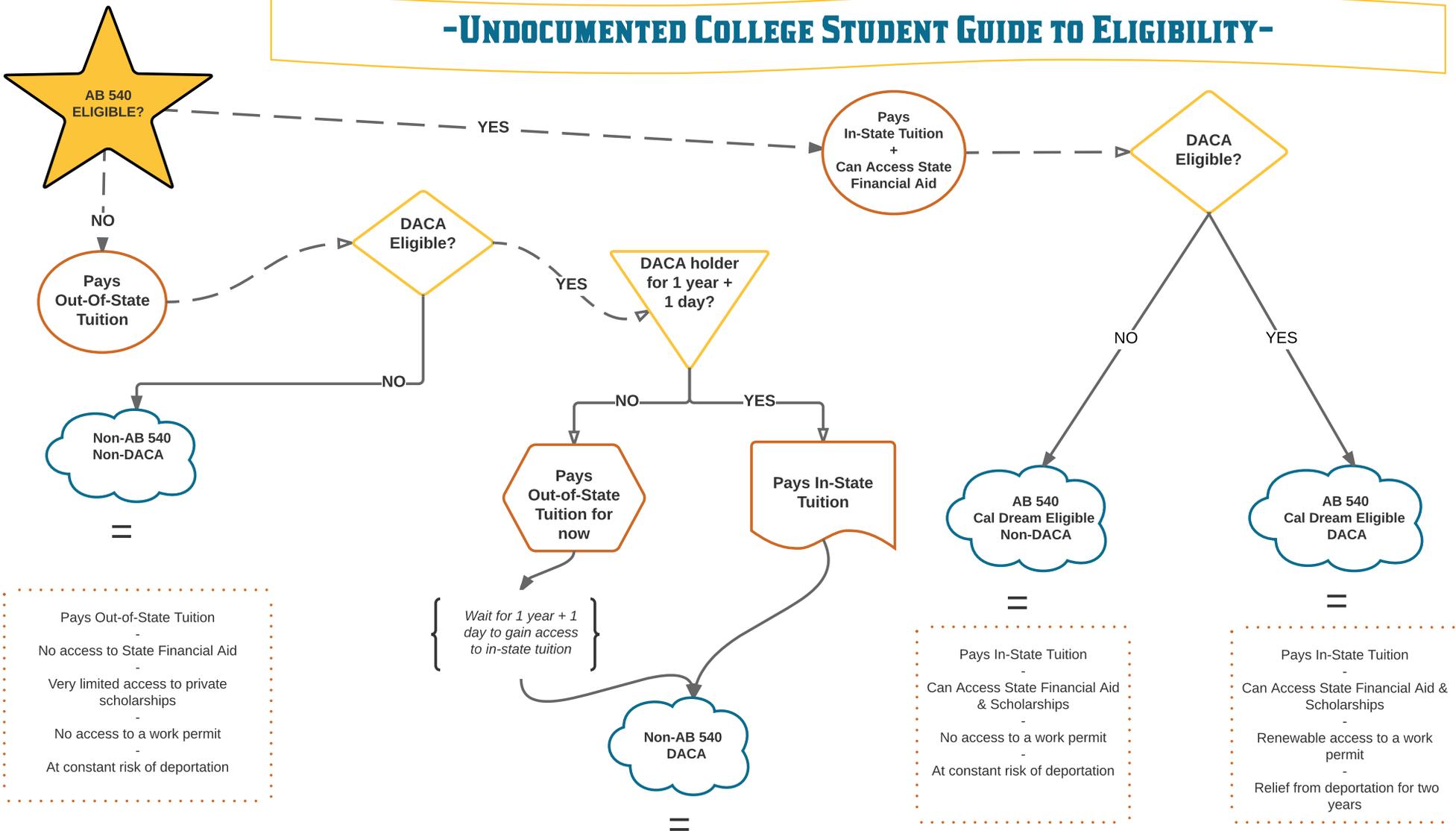


-UNDOCUMENTED COLLEGE STUDENT GUIDE TO ELIGIBILITY-



Though these are each difficult scenarios in their own way, they represent the true and harsh realities that undocumented students confront in trying to access higher education. Regardless of which category you fall under, remember that there are students who have come before you and successfully paved a path to and through college, so never stop believing in yourself.

In the words of Nelson Mandela, "It always seems impossible until it's done."

LEGEND:

- ***AB 540** = Assembly Bill 540
- ***Cal Dream** = the California Dream Act (AB 130 + AB 131)
- ***DACA** = Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals



IN THEIR WORDS: PROFILES OF UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS ACROSS THE FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY SPECTRUM

	DACA		NON DACA ELIGIBLE
AB 540	 <p>Denize San Francisco State University B.A. in Sociology Graduated May 2015</p> <p>Denize started her higher education journey at a community college, before the DACA program existed. Despite being AB-540 eligible, Denize still had to work two jobs while being a student to alleviate tuition costs.</p> <p>"I think being a DACA student has opened many doors for me in my field of work, allowed me to obtain a driver's license and also use my story to help others out. Sometimes it may be difficult to see that I am lucky because though I only have DACA and didn't receive the CA Dream Act, I finished college. Some people don't qualify for AB540 or DACA, and I can't imagine how much more difficult it is for them. There is never an obstacle that you can't triumph over. You are not alone. It doesn't matter how long it takes you, but that you get there!"</p>	AB 540	 <p>Merlene San Francisco State University Major: Business Administration Expected graduation May 2016</p> <p>Merlene is one of many students who do not qualify for the federal DACA program.</p> <p>"Having AB 540 helps me to pay in-state tuition, and it is helping me to continue with my career goals. However, being a non- DACA student closes the opportunity to obtain an internship/job. If I do not have a work permit by the time I graduate and pass my CPA exam, I would still not be considered a CPA.</p> <p>If you are DACA eligible, take advantage of this great opportunity to set your goals high and pursue them. If you are non-DACA, you are not alone. I am here, and I can tell you that if I can do it, you can do it! The only aspect that makes a difference in achieving what you want is self-determination. Do not give up!"</p>
	DACA		NON DACA ELIGIBLE
NON AB 540 ELIGIBLE	 <p>Melissa UC Berkeley Major: Anthropology & Ethnic Studies Expected graduation Fall 2016</p> <p>Melissa graduated from City College SF and transferred to UC Berkeley. Being ineligible for AB-540 has deeply affected her journey through higher education.</p> <p>"I would advise to begin at a Community College, because one can learn so much and get lots of support in a small, local academic setting. Get to know at least one good adviser/professor who truly understands your situation and is willing to help you succeed.</p> <p>Finally, don't worry about how long it takes to get to where you want to be. We need to treat all undocumented students, regardless of age, how long they've lived in the us, DACA status, or any other "qualification", equally."</p>	NON AB 540 ELIGIBLE	 <p>Valeria Contra Costa Community College Major: Mechanical Engineering Transfers in Fall 2016</p> <p>Valeria found out she was a non AB540 student when she graduated from high school. Paying out of state tuition would be very costly, so she decided to enroll in a community college.</p> <p>"Being eligible for neither AB 540 nor DACA has definitely affected me negatively since I've had to find creative ways to get internships or jobs on campus. I would advise other students like me to ask questions, share their story and ask for help."</p>