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DOCTOR

MECHANICAL

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GREEN CONSTRUCTION  
TEACHER  
DENTIST  
WRITER

# FUND YOUR FUTURE®

2013-2014



HOW  
TO PAY  
FOR  
COLLEGE

CAL GRANTS  
& SCHOLARSHIPS

CALIFORNIA DREAMERS  
MONEY  
FOR  
COLLEGE!

STUDENT  
LOANS  
BORROW WISELY



ECMC

# WELCOME TO FUND YOUR FUTURE®

## Dream it – and then step into your educated future

Welcome to the 2013-2014 Fund Your Future Workbook, which provides information about financial aid and the basic steps to access higher education. This workbook will help you continue your education by sharing financial aid options and basic steps to help you get into college. You'll learn how to review financial aid offers and manage your money. It's a whole new language; learn the terms, apply by the deadlines and go to college. Most financial aid is based on demonstrated financial need.

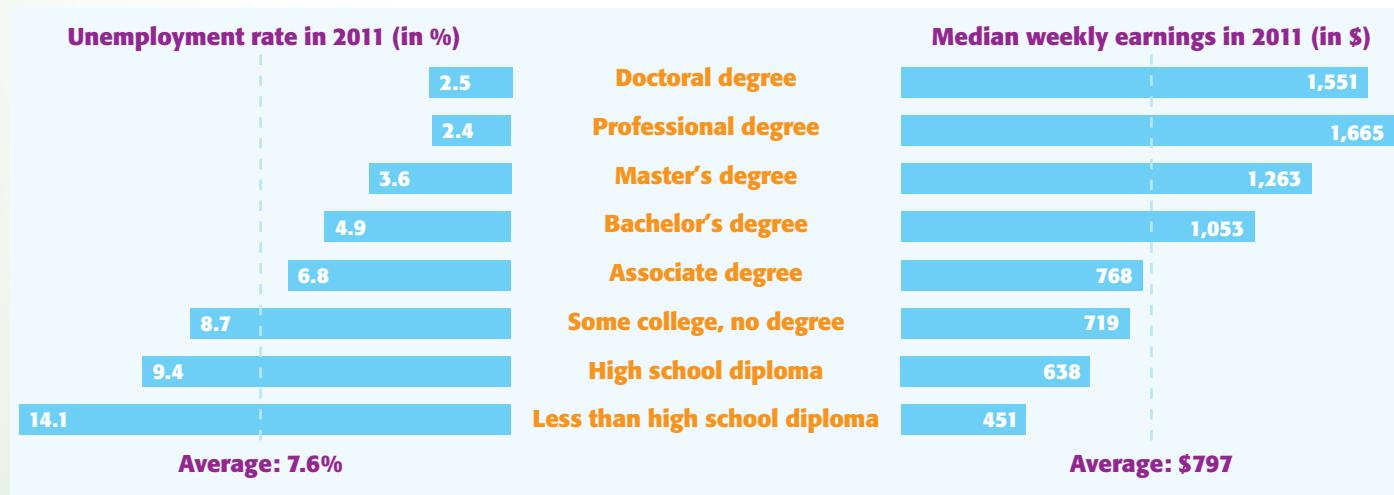
Be sure to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application and verified Grade Point Average (GPA). You may be surprised. Your dreams, your reality, your future – fund it now!

The term **college** in this workbook refers to any college, university, graduate or professional school, career college, technical or vocational program, or other educational institution beyond high school.



## LEARN MORE, EARN MORE

Not only can college graduates earn more during their lifetime than high school graduates, they'll also have a better chance of earning it in a career they enjoy.



## CONTENTS

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# QUALIFYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

## Top 10 things you **MUST** do to qualify for most federal and state student aid

- 1 Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application. You apply for most financial aid by completing the FAFSA. The easiest and fastest way is online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). For help or other FAFSA options, call 1-800-433-3243. The FAFSA asks for information about you, your family, your finances and your college plans.
- 2 Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident or other eligible noncitizen, or qualifying California Dream Act student.
- 3 For California Dream Act-eligible AB 540 students, complete the secure online California Dream Act Application at [www.caldreamact.org](http://www.caldreamact.org) or print a paper application to fill out and mail.
- 4 Demonstrate financial need (not required for unsubsidized federal Stafford loans, federal PLUS loans and some scholarships).
- 5 Have a high school diploma or its equivalent (GED), or complete a high school education in a state-approved home-school setting.
- 6 Be a resident of the state (for most state aid).
- 7 Enroll in an eligible degree or certificate program.
- 8 Maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP) as determined by your college. You can usually find SAP information on your school's website or in the course catalog.
- 9 Have a Social Security number (not required for the California Dream Act); visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).
- 10 Register with the U.S. Selective Service (males ages 18-25); visit [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov).

## TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

While most colleges expect you and your family to contribute financially toward your education, financial aid can help narrow the gap between your resources and the cost of college. The following types of financial aid are available from the federal government, states, colleges and private sources:

**Grants** are money you don't have to repay and are typically based on financial need. Check into California Cal Grants at [www.calgrants.org](http://www.calgrants.org) and learn about federal Pell Grants at [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov).

**Scholarships** are also free money for college and are usually based on your area of study or merit, such as good grades; high test scores; athletic, musical or other special abilities; leadership; community service; and sometimes financial need.

**Work-study or student employment programs** – federal and college – let you earn money through certain jobs on or off campus to help pay for your education.

**Loans** are borrowed money that you must pay back, usually with interest.

## FINANCIAL AID BASICS

Financial aid is available to manage the cost of attending college or training after high school. Think of it this way: First, take the cost to attend, then subtract the free money – grants and scholarships – and that will give you the "Net Cost" to attend college. Then, look for options to pay the net cost. Look for grant and scholarship money first; that money doesn't need to be repaid. If needed, consider loans; however, loans must be repaid with interest.

Cost for first year of college

GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Net Cost

Options to pay net costs:

- Work-study
  - Federal student loans
- Other options:
- Family contributions
  - Payment plan offered by college
  - Parent PLUS loan
  - Military or other service benefits
  - Private education loans

To learn more, go to [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov) and [www.calgrants.org](http://www.calgrants.org).

# FINANCIAL AID TIMELINE AND CHECKLIST

## FALL OF SENIOR YEAR

### Explore and Compare

- Talk to your high school counselor about your college plans and financial needs. Ask about scholarships offered by local organizations and businesses.
- Browse the Web for college and career planning tips (see page 17).
- Use cost calculators to help you determine the cost of education at a particular school. Schools are required to have these calculators available to you online.

### Prepare

- Focus on your grades and credits to graduate.
- Search online for scholarships (see page 17).
- Attend your school's fall financial aid workshops.
- Ask if your school will submit your verified Cal Grant GPA electronically, or if you'll need to submit it using the paper Cal Grant GPA Verification form, located at [www.calgrants.org](http://www.calgrants.org).

### Free Help

- Free financial aid is available; never pay for the FAFSA or to have it completed for you. Attend a Free Cash for College workshop in January or February for help completing the FAFSA or California Dream Act Application and other forms. For dates and locations, go to [www.californiacashforcollege.org](http://www.californiacashforcollege.org).

### Keep It Together

- Keep all of your FAFSA or California Dream Act and Cal Grant online account information in one place for easy access.

BEGINNING  
IN JANUARY

### Apply

- Submit your FAFSA or California Dream Act Application and verified Cal Grant GPA after **January 1** and before **March 2**. If your parents (or you) haven't yet completed a federal tax return, use estimates. Make updates or corrections later.
- After you submit a FAFSA, review your Student Aid Report (SAR) for eligibility.

### Deadlines

- Apply for a Cal Grant by the **March 2** deadline.
- Check with each college you're considering about other financial aid deadlines, and mark your calendar.

## SPRING/ SUMMER

### Evaluate and Compare

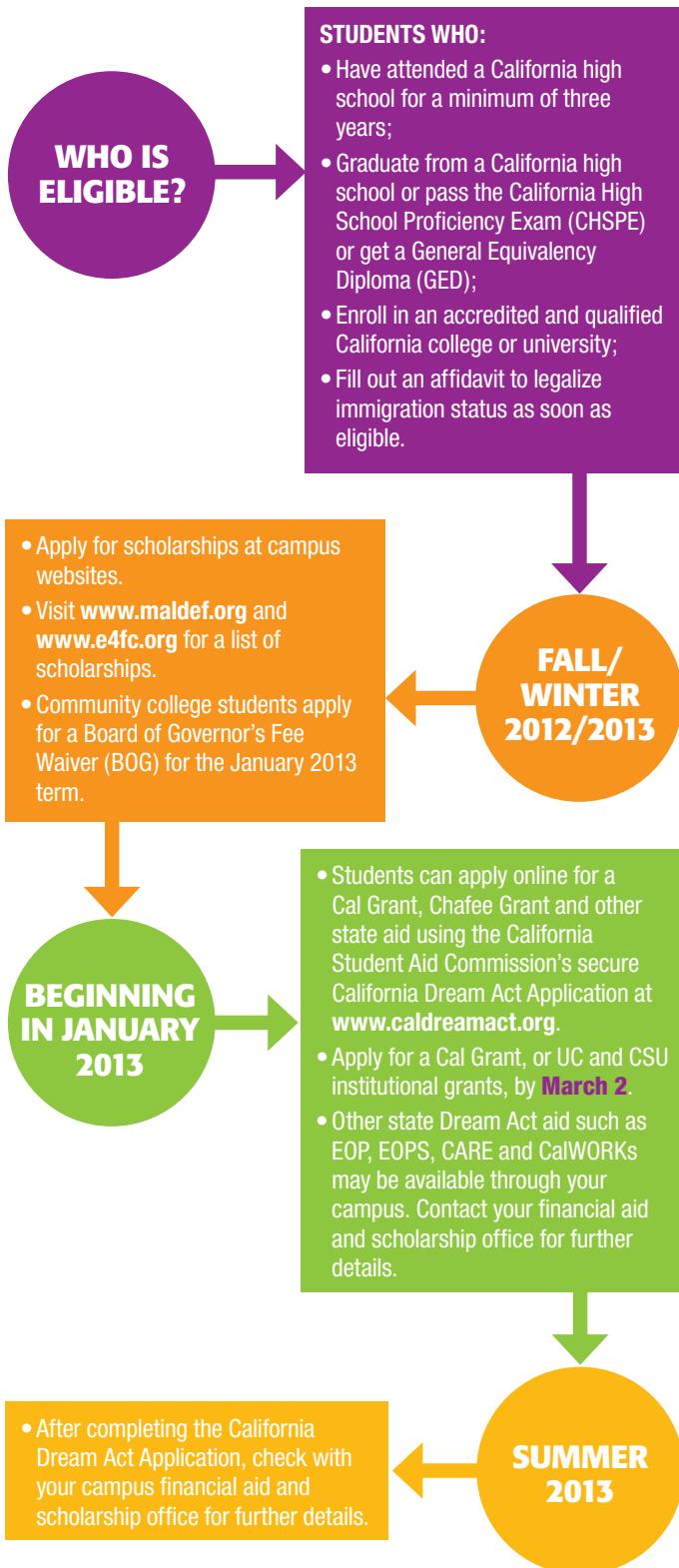
- Watch and respond to college acceptance letters and financial aid offers.
- Review financial aid offers carefully; ask questions. Use the "Compare Your Aid Awards" tool at [www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org).
- Consider grants, scholarships, work-study and other aid you don't have to repay before accepting a student loan.
- If needed, borrow only what you need, and check out low-interest federal student loans at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov).



# CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT FINANCIAL AID



The California Dream Act of 2011 allows certain students who meet the requirements below to apply for and receive state financial aid at California public and private colleges and private scholarships administered by California public colleges.



## Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

The recent federal DACA does not prevent students from applying for California Dream Act financial aid. California students who have applied for or received approval for Deferred Action should complete the California Dream Act Application, not the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Learn more at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov), [www.e4fc.org](http://www.e4fc.org) or [www.weownthedream.org](http://www.weownthedream.org).

Persons who receive a "Work Only" Social Security card as a result of filing for Deferred Action do not meet the federal financial aid requirements. If the student meets the AB 540 requirements, he or she should complete the California Dream Act Application and contact the financial aid office at the colleges he or she is considering to see if any other applications are required.

## AB 540 Eligibility

AB 540 students may be:

- Students who are undocumented;
- U.S. citizens who are not California residents, including dependent students living in the state whose parents are not California residents and sometimes former California residents, or
- Students with a Nonimmigrant Visa status of T or U.

The California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request Form or "Affidavit" is how you officially become classified as an AB 540 student. See the link at [www.caldreamact.org](http://www.caldreamact.org).

## Important Information for AB 540 Students

Males ages 18-25 must register with Selective Service for Cal Grant and other state aid:

- An SSN is not needed to register.
- Selective Service does not share data.
- Download the form at [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov).
- Take form to U.S. Post Office or register on-site, sign and mail.

Students and parents residing in the United States who file U.S. tax returns:

- Students may be required to provide a copy of the U.S. tax return by their college/university if selected for verification.
- The IRS does not share data.

Your California Dream Act Application information is not shared with federal databases. California Dream Act student and parent information is protected by the same privacy and information security laws and safeguards as all other Cal Grant applicants.

# START WITH THE FAFSA OR CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT APPLICATION

Go online and complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid**, or **FAFSA**. The FAFSA is the universal application for most financial aid for higher education. The federal government, states and colleges use the results to determine how much financial aid you may qualify to receive.



Undocumented students should complete the California Dream Act Application at [www.caldreamact.org](http://www.caldreamact.org).

## GET FREE HELP

### Students can get help applying for financial aid

**In Person:** Ask your school for help, attend your school's financial aid event or a free California Cash for College workshop in January or February. Cash for College workshops offer help in other languages. Students can get help applying for California Dream Act aid. For dates, locations and a list of what to bring, go to [www.californiacashforcollege.org](http://www.californiacashforcollege.org).

**Online:** At [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov), find help for questions or click on the Live Help button located inside each page.

**Phone:** Call the U.S. Department of Education at 1-800-433-3243 (TTY 1-800-730-8913) Monday through Friday (up to 9 p.m. Pacific time) or during its extended hours on Saturdays and Sundays.



### HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS MAY QUALIFY FOR \$1,000

High school seniors who attend a Cash for College workshop and apply for a Cal Grant by the **March 2** deadline could qualify for an extra \$1,000 scholarship.



<http://www.facebook.com/Cash.for.College.California>

## HOW DO YOU APPLY?

A quick way to compare offers and determine your net costs is to subtract all your grant, scholarship and other free aid from your cost of attendance. Keep in mind that colleges have different ways of awarding financial aid as well as different costs of attendance.



### COLLECT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

#### Social Security number

- You'll need it to apply for most federal and state aid (not needed for California Dream Act Application). If you don't have one, go to [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) or call the Social Security office at 1-800-772-1213.

#### Your driver's license number

- If you have one.

#### Your alien registration number

- If you are not a U.S. citizen (not needed for California Dream Act Application).

### DO I NEED TO PROVIDE PARENT FINANCIAL INFORMATION?

- Learn more at [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov).

- If you are an **independent** student, you will report your own information.
- If you're married, your spouse's information will be reported as well.

- If you are a **dependent** student, you will report your and your parent's information.

The FAFSA and California Dream Act Applications ask for information about you, your family, your finances and your college plans.

# COMPLETE THE FAFSA ONLINE

TAKE ACTION →

- Complete the 2013-2014 FAFSA to apply for aid for the 2013-2014 school year. (For schools with year-round admissions and rolling starts, contact the financial aid office to find out which FAFSA to submit.)

- Schedule an hour. The FAFSA should take less than an hour if you have your completed FAFSA on the Web Worksheet in front of you.

- Read all the instructions, work through each step and review your answers carefully. Careless errors can delay processing, which could mean missed deadlines and dollars.

- Be sure your name matches your name as it appears on your Social Security card. Using a nickname will delay processing. If you've changed your name, update your records with the Social Security Administration at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov). (Also notify Social Security if you've become a U.S. citizen.)

## DON'T HAVE A COMPUTER?

Look into using one at your school or library. You can save your FAFSA for up to 45 days at a time, so you don't have to complete it in one sitting.



- Don't mail or date your paper FAFSA before January 1. It will be returned to you unprocessed and you'll need to submit it again.

- Photocopies or faxes of the FAFSA are not accepted.

- Don't send any tax forms, letters of explanation or other materials with your FAFSA – they'll be shredded. If you or your family have unusual circumstances you feel should be considered, complete the FAFSA as best you can. Then contact the financial aid office of each college you're considering.

- If you provide an email address, you'll get an instant confirmation that your FAFSA was received; which you should save.

- If you don't already have a Federal Student Aid PIN (personal identification number), you'll receive one when you're completing the FAFSA. (If you're a dependent student, your parent will need to get a PIN.) To get a PIN before starting the FAFSA, go to [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov). You can even select your own PIN. It can be used to e-sign your FAFSA or master promissory note.

**AB 540 STUDENTS**  
Complete the California Dream Act Application.

- E-sign your FAFSA using your Federal Student Aid PIN and provide an email address to receive an estimate of your EFC instantly. Your application will be processed faster, usually within three to five business days.

- Keep a copy of your FAFSA for your records. Also keep copies of the financial records you used to complete the FAFSA. Your college may ask to see them.

- Use your PIN to check on the status of your FAFSA, correct or print your Student Aid Report or view your federal financial aid records at [www.nslds.ed.gov](http://www.nslds.ed.gov). Don't give your PIN to anyone – not even to someone who works in a financial aid office, or who is helping you fill out the FAFSA.



If you'd like additional colleges to receive your FAFSA information, go to [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) (or call 1-800-433-3243). If you have to delete a college before adding a new one, be sure the first college has already received your information.

# CAL GRANTS ARE FREE MONEY – APPLY BY MARCH 2

## Two forms, two steps

- 1 Submit your FAFSA or California Dream Act Application between January 1 and the Cal Grant deadline of **March 2**.
- 2 Submit your verified Cal Grant GPA (or GED, SAT or ACT score) to the California Student Aid Commission by **March 2**. Ask your school if it will submit your Cal Grant GPA electronically or if you'll need to submit the paper Cal Grant GPA Verification form. If you need to submit your GPA, check with your counselor or find the form online at [www.calgrants.org](http://www.calgrants.org). You must give it to a school official for verification before mailing it – the paper verification form cannot be submitted online.

If you missed the **March 2** deadline and plan to attend a California Community College in the fall, you have a second deadline of **September 2**. However, Cal Grant awards for those who apply by **September 2** are limited, so apply by **March 2** if you can.

## The Cal Grant guarantee

If you're a high school senior, graduate from a California high school, meet the eligibility requirements and apply by **March 2**, you're guaranteed to receive a Cal Grant.

You don't have to figure out which Cal Grant applies to you. Your eligibility is based on your FAFSA or California Dream Act Application responses, verified Cal Grant GPA, the California colleges you list on your FAFSA and whether you're a recent high school graduate.

## CAL GRANTS AT A GLANCE

Cal Grant:	You can receive up to:
<b>Cal Grant A</b> 3.0 high school GPA required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$12,192 at University of California</li><li>• \$5,970 at California State University</li><li>• \$9,084 at qualifying independent California colleges</li><li>• If you attend a California Community College, your grant is held in reserve until transfer</li></ul>
<b>Cal Grant B</b> 2.0 high school GPA required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$1,473 living allowance for your first year, plus tuition and fee award beyond first year in the same amounts as Cal Grant A</li></ul>
<b>Cal Grant C</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$547 for books, tools and equipment for a technical or career education</li><li>• \$2,462 for tuition (if not attending a California Community College)</li></ul>
<b>Cal Grant Transfer Entitlement Award</b> 2.4 community college GPA required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Same as Cal Grant A or Cal Grant B</li></ul>

Your Cal Grant follows you to whichever eligible California school you choose. You can get up to \$12,192 for college or up to \$3,009 a year for career training. And you don't have to pay it back. Find out more at [www.calgrants.org](http://www.calgrants.org). Cal Grant offers are subject to state budget requirements.

TO BE  
ELIGIBLE  
YOU MUST

Are you attending a  
qualified institution?  
Check it out at  
[www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov)

- submit the FAFSA or California Dream Act Application and your verified Cal Grant GPA by the deadline;
- be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, California Dream Act student or other eligible noncitizen (your parents don't need to be);
- be a California resident;
- meet any minimum GPA requirements;
- have a Social Security number (not needed for California Dream Act);
- attend a qualifying California college;
- be pursuing an undergraduate associate or bachelor's degree, or an occupational training program;
- not have a bachelor's or professional degree (except for the Cal Grant Extended Awards for a teaching credential program);
- have financial need based on your college costs and your EFC;
- have family income and assets below the established maximum levels;
- be in a program leading to an undergraduate degree or certificate;
- be enrolled at least half time;
- register with U.S. Selective Service (males ages 18-25); and
- not owe a refund on a state or federal grant, or be in default on a student loan.



more information,  
at [www.calgrants.org](http://www.calgrants.org)  
[www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov).

# CAL GRANTS: OPPORTUNITIES TO APPLY

CHECK FOR A CAL GRANT  
ELIGIBLE SCHOOL AT  
[WWW.CSAC.CA.GOV](http://WWW.CSAC.CA.GOV)

BEST PLACE  
TO START

HIGH  
SCHOOL  
SENIOR

## Apply as a high school senior by **March 2**

- Cal Grants are worth up to \$12,192 annually, depending on your school and attendance
- Use at a qualifying campus for up to 4 years
- Best option to maximize the Cal Grant
- All public and many private California institutions qualify. Check out where your Cal Grant can be used at [www.calgrants.org](http://www.calgrants.org)

### Transferring from a community college to a 4 year school

- As a California Community College Transfer student, as long as you are under the age of 28
- Apply by **March 2** in the year you plan to transfer

COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE  
TRANSFER  
STUDENT

### Cal Grant C – Career Technical Grant

- Complete FAFSA by **March 2**
- List Career Technical School on FAFSA
- Course of study must be occupation or career technical

CAREER  
TECHNICAL  
SCHOOL  
STUDENT



HIGH  
SCHOOL  
GRADUATE

## Apply after high school and within 1 year of high school graduation or GED

- Up to 4 years of Cal Grants of up to \$12,192
- Complete FAFSA or California Dream Act Application/submit high school GPA by **March 2**
- Go back to the high school you graduated from for your GPA



OTHER  
STUDENTS



## All other students can apply for Competitive Cal Grants

- If you are a California Community College student, apply for a Competitive Cal Grant by completing the FAFSA and Cal Grant GPA by **September 2** of each year. Your college will submit your GPA for you. You must submit a FAFSA.
- Students of any age can apply for competitive Cal Grants by the **March 2** Cal Grant deadline.

### Track Your Cal Grant 24/7

Open a WebGrants4Students Account to track your Cal Grant or California Chafee Grant. Visit [www.webgrants4students.org](http://www.webgrants4students.org) after you have submitted your FAFSA, California Dream Act Application or California Chafee Grant Application.



**Every year you attend college, submit your FAFSA or California Dream Act Application.**

## MORE FREE MONEY

### FILE A FAFSA TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THESE GRANTS

Type of Grants	Conditions for Eligibility
<b>Federal Pell Grant</b> Up to \$5,550 a year (2012-2013). Visit <a href="http://www.studentaid.ed.gov">www.studentaid.ed.gov</a> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your cost of attendance and expected family contribution</li> <li>Whether attending full or part time</li> <li>Must not already have a bachelor's degree*</li> </ul>
<b>Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)</b> From \$100 to \$4,000 a year (funds are limited). Visit <a href="http://www.studentaid.ed.gov">www.studentaid.ed.gov</a> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your cost of attendance and expected family contribution</li> <li>Priority given to Pell Grant recipients with the lowest expected family contributions</li> <li>Whether attending full or part time</li> </ul>
<b>Federal TEACH Grants</b> Up to \$4,000 a year. Visit <a href="http://www.studentaid.ed.gov">www.studentaid.ed.gov</a> or contact the financial aid office at the college or university you plan to attend.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be enrolled in, or plan to complete, coursework to begin a teaching career</li> <li>Maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25</li> <li>Sign agreement to serve as a paid full-time teacher in a high-need field serving low-income students</li> <li>Agree to teach at least four academic years within eight years of completing your program of study</li> <li>If you fail to complete your obligation, the grant converts to an unsubsidized Stafford loan you must repay with interest</li> </ul>
<b>California Chafee Grant</b> Up to \$5,000 a year for job training or college in addition to any other state or federal aid you receive. Visit <a href="http://www.chafee.csac.ca.gov">www.chafee.csac.ca.gov</a> ; call 1-888-224-7268; or contact your school, caseworker or Independent Living Coordinator.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You are or were in foster care between ages 16-18</li> <li>Stay in school and maintain good grades</li> <li>Be enrolled at least half time</li> <li>Requires a Chafee Grant Application (doesn't require a Social Security number)</li> </ul>
<b>Child Development Grants</b> \$1,000 a year (at a California Community College) or \$2,000 a year (at a four-year college); up to \$6,000 total. Visit <a href="http://www.csac.ca.gov">www.csac.ca.gov</a> ; choose "Financial Aid Programs" or call 1-888-224-7268.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be pursuing a child development permit and plan to work at a licensed children's center in California</li> <li>Must sign a Service Commitment Agreement to teach or supervise in a California licensed child care facility</li> <li>Requires a Child Development Grant Application</li> </ul>
<b>Law Enforcement Personnel Dependents Grant</b> Up to \$13,665 a year. Visit <a href="http://www.csac.ca.gov">www.csac.ca.gov</a> and choose "Financial Aid Programs" or call 1-888-224-7268.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dependent or spouse of a California peace officer, firefighter or certain other law enforcement employee who died or became 100 percent disabled in the line of duty</li> <li>Requires a Law Enforcement Personnel Dependents Grant Application</li> </ul>
<b>University of California (UC)</b> Visit <a href="http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu">www.universityofcalifornia.edu</a> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nearly two-thirds of all undergraduate students receive UC grant and scholarship aid, with an average award of about \$14,000</li> </ul>
<b>California State University (CSU)</b> Visit <a href="http://www.calstate.edu">www.calstate.edu</a> or <a href="http://www.csumentor.edu">www.csumentor.edu</a> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CSU grant assists California residents with financial need</li> </ul>
<b>California Community College (CCC) Board of Governor (BOG) Fee Waiver</b> Visit <a href="http://icanaffordcollege.com">www.icanaffordcollege.com</a> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you qualify for a Cal Grant or have financial need, you may receive a fee waiver</li> <li>Completing the FAFSA is recommended, regardless of the type of CCC Fee Waiver, to qualify for federal and more state aid.</li> </ul>

\*Except for students working toward teacher certification or enrolled in a five-year baccalaureate program.

## FINANCIAL AID FOR SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

**Even if you hope for scholarships, submit the FAFSA and verified GPA to make the most of your financial aid options.**

### Athletes

Plan to play sports in college? Register with the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Visit [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) or call 1-877-262-1492.

### Foster Youth

Check into scholarships and fee waivers. Chafee Grant for Foster Youth, which provides up to \$5,000 in grant aid for college, [www.chafee.csac.ca.gov](http://www.chafee.csac.ca.gov) and [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov). Some colleges offer tuition waiver and scholarships; learn more at [www.calyouthconn.org](http://www.calyouthconn.org) and [www.orphan.org](http://www.orphan.org).

### California Conservation Corps

Earn up to \$2,000 for college or vocational training while working outdoors serving your state and taking community college classes, adult education classes or pursuing your high school diploma. Successfully complete classes and 48 hours of volunteer service; learn more at [www.ccc.ca.gov](http://www.ccc.ca.gov).

### Students with Dependents

If you're both a parent and a student, you may be eligible for financial support and help with child care, transportation and job or training expenses through the CalWORKs program. Contact your county social services office for more information.

### Students with Disabilities

All public and many independent colleges provide services to disabled students, including (but not limited to) counseling, tutoring, readers, interpreters, note takers, special parking zones or the loan of special equipment. Your cost of attendance should include all expenses necessary to accommodate your disability that aren't already covered by insurance or other sources. Contact your college's disabled students office or the national or local organizations serving your particular disability. Or go to [www.dor.ca.gov](http://www.dor.ca.gov) to learn more about the services offered through the California Department of Rehabilitation. Learn about additional services from the HEATH Resource Center at [www.heath.gwu.edu](http://www.heath.gwu.edu).

### Military and Their Dependents

Through the Montgomery GI Bill, active-duty service members and veterans can receive a monthly tax-free benefit to be used for tuition, books, fees and living expenses, while earning a degree or certification (including undergraduate and graduate degrees), or attending trade school. For more information on GI Bills and other education benefits for the military, veterans and their dependents, contact your college's veterans affairs office, call the local office of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-888-442-4551 or go to [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov).

### California National Guard

The California National Guard Education Award Assistance Program (CNG EAAP) is a state-funded program designed to provide an education incentive to improve skills, competencies and abilities for active members of the California National Guard, State Military Reserve or Naval Militia who have completed at least two years of service. The Adjutant General will select up to 1,000 participants for the CNG EAAP. For more information, click on "Money for College" at [www.calguard.ca.gov](http://www.calguard.ca.gov).



## What is the biggest obstacle keeping people from college? Perceived cost.

To make it easier for prospective students to figure out how much it will cost them to go to college, Congress passed a higher education law requiring all colleges to offer a "net price calculator" on their websites.

# STUDENT LOANS

Remember, student loans must be repaid like loans for a car or house – and with interest. Only borrow what you need to fill the gap between grants or scholarships and the cost to attend school. Learn more at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) and [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov).

## FEDERAL LOANS

### Federal student and parent loans through the Federal Direct Loan program from the U.S. Department of Education

Direct Loans are low-interest loans for students and parents. Loans help pay for the cost of higher education after high school. You'll have a single point of contact and online access to your Direct Loan account information. There are several repayment options to choose from. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA.

#### Subsidized

For students with demonstrated financial need, no interest is charged while in school at least half time. Up to \$3,500 in first year of college, and up to \$5,500 annually in senior year.

#### Unsubsidized

Not based on financial need; interest is charged during all periods, from \$5,500 in first year of college, up to \$7,500 a year in senior year.

#### PLUS

Unsubsidized loans for parents of dependent students and for graduate/professional students. Interest is charged during all periods.

#### Consolidation

Eligible federal student loans can be combined into one loan. Resulting in a single monthly payment and may provide alternative repayment plans.

## REPAYING STUDENT LOANS

You can work with your loan servicer and select a federal student loan repayment plan that works for you; standard, graduated, extended repayment, income-based, pay as you earn, income contingent and income sensitive. Learn about loan repayment options, management tools and calculators; go to [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) for more information.

Go to [StudentLoans.gov](http://StudentLoans.gov):

- Find out about Direct Loans
- Receive loan entrance counseling
- Manage your federal loan



## YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK THE COLLEGE

- What it costs to attend and what its refund policies are if you withdraw.
- How it determines whether you're making satisfactory academic progress and what happens if you're not.
- To disclose the percentage of its students who complete its programs and the percentage who transfer out.
- To explain its accreditation and licensing.
- For the percentage of students who are placed in jobs related to their course of study after graduation.
- What financial help is available, including information on all federal, state and college financial aid programs – not just loans.
- About the deadlines for submitting applications for each financial aid program and how recipients are selected.
- To explain the various elements in your financial aid package, and how and when you'll receive your aid.
- To explain how your financial aid offer was determined.
- What portion of your financial aid is grant or gift aid, and how much must be paid back. If you're offered a loan, you have the right to know the interest rate, the total amount that must be repaid, your repayment options, when repayment begins and how long you have to repay.
- How to be considered for additional aid if your financial circumstances change.
- About the effect outside scholarships may have on your financial aid award.
- How to reapply for financial aid for subsequent years.

## YOU HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO

- Research the colleges you're considering.
- Review and consider all information about the college's programs before enrolling.
- Know and comply with the deadlines for applications or reapplications for aid. Intentional misrepresentation on an application for federal financial aid is a crime.
- Respond promptly and provide to the appropriate place all requested verification documentation, corrections to your financial aid application or additional information.
- Read and keep copies of all forms and agreements you sign.
- Ask your college's financial aid office whether you were awarded student employment, and for details about hours, duties, pay rate and how you'll be paid.
- Complete loan entrance counseling before you receive your first disbursement of a federal loan, and exit counseling before you leave school.
- Compare your anticipated monthly student loan payments and other expenses to your expected take-home pay after college.
- Understand your school's return-of-aid policy if you receive federal or state financial aid and withdraw from school.
- Repay your student loans, even if you don't complete your education, can't get a job or aren't happy with your education.
- Notify your college and loan servicer promptly of changes in your name, permanent mailing address, telephone number, enrollment or marital status, or financial resources.
- Request a deferment or forbearance, or a change in repayment plan if you're having trouble making your monthly payments.
- Reapply for financial aid each year you attend college.

## PRIVATE LOANS

If you still need money and have exhausted options for grants and scholarships, you may want to look into private loans. These loans often carry a higher interest rate and fees. Compare lenders to make the best choice for you.

# AFTER YOU APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

## Review your Student Aid Report (SAR)

If you submit your FAFSA online and provide all the required e-signatures and an email address, you'll usually receive your SAR within 72 hours. To ensure you receive the email, designate the following email address as "safe":

**cpsnotify@cpsemail.ed.gov.** If you submit the paper FAFSA, it could take up to two weeks to receive your SAR.

The SAR contains the information you provided on the FAFSA and lists your expected family contribution, or EFC, for the school year. Look for this number next to "EFC" at the top of your SAR – there won't be a dollar sign. If there are any numbers after the EFC, even zeros, then your EFC was calculated. An EFC of 02500, for example, means that your EFC would be \$2,500 for the academic year. Your EFC may be more or less than what you actually end up paying for college.

If there are no numbers, your SAR is incomplete and you must provide additional information or corrections before your EFC can be calculated.

Review your SAR right away for accuracy, and follow the instructions if you need to make corrections. If you don't receive your SAR within two weeks, or if you need another copy, go to [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) or call 1-800-433-3243.

Each college you list on your FAFSA will receive your SAR information and will use your EFC to determine your eligibility for federal grants, loans and work-study, and possible institution-based aid. The California Student Aid Commission will also receive it to evaluate your eligibility for a Cal Grant and other California state aid as long as you list at least one California college and indicate you're a California resident.

## How will I find out how much financial aid I will receive?

The financial aid office at each college you list on your FAFSA will provide you with an evaluation of your eligibility for financial aid if you submitted the required financial aid applications and met the deadlines. Your financial aid offers will vary by college, so be sure to review them carefully.



## Review your California Aid Report (CAR)

If you're offered a Cal Grant, you'll receive an email notification from the California Student Aid Commission. To ensure you receive the email, designate the following email addresses as "safe": **studentsupport@csac.ca.gov** and **calgrantoffice@csac.ca.gov**. To view your CAR, go to [www.webgrants4students.org](http://www.webgrants4students.org). The CAR is an estimated Cal Grant award and should be considered a tentative offer. Cal Grant awards are subject to approval of the final 2013-2014 state budget. It is imperative to list a valid email address on your FAFSA as the Commission will send an email regarding Cal Grants to that address.

If you need to make corrections, such as a college change, use the New Recipient Change Form that came with your notification or go to [www.webgrants4students.org](http://www.webgrants4students.org). Choose "Forms/Applications" on the right.

If you submitted both the FAFSA and your verified Cal Grant GPA but were not awarded a Cal Grant, you'll receive notification explaining why.

If you submitted only the FAFSA and no GPA – and you're not pursuing a career or technical education – you won't receive a notification because you didn't meet the Cal Grant application requirements.

If you'll be attending a California Community College in the fall and submitted both your FAFSA and your verified Cal Grant GPA by the September 2 deadline, you'll receive a notification in early October indicating your eligibility status for a Cal Grant.

## How will you receive your financial aid?

At the beginning of each term, any federal or state financial aid you receive will go to your college first to pay for tuition and fees (and room and board, if provided by your school). Within the first few weeks of classes, you'll usually receive any remaining funds to cover your books, supplies, transportation expenses and other college costs. Any nonfederal or state scholarships or grants you applied for yourself may be sent to you or your college. For work-study or student employment programs, you'll be paid after you've worked, usually every two weeks. However, some schools may apply the wages you earn directly to your student account for unpaid balances.

Since you cannot receive more financial aid than the cost of attendance, colleges must apply any outside scholarships or grants toward your unmet financial need or reduce other aid – these awards can't replace your EFC. You can ask your school to reduce loan or student employment aid rather than grant aid, but most colleges have an established procedure for handling outside scholarships or grants. It's your responsibility to create a spending plan to make sure your financial aid lasts the entire term. Refer to the Spending Plan worksheet on page 15.

# SAR AND CAR

## Sample Student Aid Report (SAR notification)

A notification from the U.S. Department of Education that will have a link to view your actual SAR.

### SAMPLE

From: Federal Student Aid [mailto:[FederalStudentAidFAFSA@cpsemail.ed.gov](mailto:FederalStudentAidFAFSA@cpsemail.ed.gov)]

Sent: Tuesday, February 5, 2013 9:50 AM

To: Doe, Jane

Subject: FAFSA for 2013-2014 Processed Successfully

Dear JANE,

Congratulations, your FAFSA was processed successfully.

### What Happens Next

- Your FAFSA information was sent to the school(s) on your FAFSA, and they will contact you if they need additional information.
- Your school(s) will use your FAFSA information to determine the aid you may be eligible to receive.
- Contact your school(s) with any questions about your financial aid package.

### Your Student Aid Report

Your Student Aid Report (SAR), which contains the information you submitted on your FAFSA, is now available online at the link below. Your school(s) will use the information on your SAR to calculate the amount of federal student aid you are eligible to receive.

You should view your SAR and check for any errors by selecting the link below:

<https://fafsa.gov/FAFSA/app/fafsa?cycle=1314&key=MZd3oSqciPTMBiM876LVbw>

If you can't select the link, copy the entire link and paste it into the address or location line of your Web browser. Make sure you copy and paste the entire link, as it may appear on multiple lines. You can also go to [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) and log in to view your SAR.

### Questions

Visit [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) and click the "Help" icon on the FAFSA home page.

Thank You,

U.S. Department of Education  
Federal Student Aid

## Sample California Aid Report (CAR)

You'll receive a notification from the California Student Aid Commission to access your CAR.

### SAMPLE



### Cal Grant Program Award Offer

2012-2013 California Aid Report (CAR)



Congratulations! The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) is offering you an estimated preliminary Entitlement Cal Grant award. This potential Cal Grant award is based on the information you have reported on your FAFSA, thereby, it is considered an estimated offer. Before the Cal Grant can be activated, there are further actions that must take place. Please carefully read the information below to understand what you need to do to receive your Cal Grant award. **Please be aware that this award offer may be reduced or withdrawn based on the final State Budget.**

JOHN DOE  
123 MAIN ST.  
ANYTOWN, CA 12345

Date 02/16/12  
Grant ID Number E1234XXXX  
CSAC ID Number 11112XXXX  
Academic Year 2012-2013

### AWARD INFORMATION

School Choice, as listed on your FAFSA:	Cal Grant A	Cal Grant B
UNIV OF SOUTHERN CALIF	\$9,708	SEE CODE #1
UNIV OF CA - DAVIS	\$12,192	SEE CODE #1
NAPA VALLEY COLLEGE	SEE CODE #1A	\$1,551

To receive the Cal Grant award offer you must:

- Log on to [www.webgrants4students.org](http://www.webgrants4students.org) and create your WebGrants for Students (WGS) account to manage your Cal Grant online. It is important to know that your WGS account is separate from your school or FAFSA account. Read the Important Facts About Your New Cal Grant Award fact sheet as it has important information you need to know about the Cal Grant award.
- Change your school of attendance on your WGS account if the first school listed above is not the school you plan to attend. The Cal Grant award will be sent to the school listed in your WGS account.
- Contact the college Financial Aid Office if your Cal Grant does not appear on the financial aid award notification you receive from your college and let them know about your Cal Grant award offer.
- Confirm your high school graduation on your WGS account **AFTER** you have satisfied all of your high school graduation requirements. The Cal Grant award cannot be disbursed until you or your school confirms your high school graduation.
- Keep your email address updated so we can send you up-to-date information about the award offer and notify you of any changes that may impact this Cal Grant award offer.

This award offer is pending approval of the final State Budget and could be reduced or withdrawn. After confirmation of the final State Budget, the Cal Grant award will be determined based on your school of attendance, enrollment status, and other eligibility requirements that must be verified by your school before Cal Grant funds can be released to you. To renew your Cal Grant award, you must file a FAFSA each year and continue to meet the income and asset requirements.

If you were offered a Cal Grant A and you attend a California Community College, you will not receive any payments at the community college. Instead, CSAC will hold the award in a Community College Reserve status for up to two years. You may activate the award once you complete your community college education and transfer to an eligible school. A Community College Reserve student must be enrolled for the 2012-13 fall term to remain eligible for the Cal Grant award.

**PRIVACY STATEMENT:** Please be aware, Cal Grant information for students who are 18 years of age or older will only be released to parents or guardians with written authorization from the student.

Diana Fuentes-Michel, Executive Director  
California Student Aid Commission

E1CAR2 (02/12)

(over)

# EVALUATE YOUR FINANCIAL AID OFFERS

A quick way to compare offers and determine your net costs is to subtract all your grant, scholarship and other free aid from your cost of attendance. Keep in mind that colleges have different ways of awarding financial aid as well as different costs of attendance.<sup>1</sup>

	1	2	3
<b>COLLEGE:</b>			
<b>COST OF ATTENDANCE</b>			
Tuition and fees			
Room and board <sup>2</sup>			
Books and supplies			
Computer allowance			
Other fees			
Other costs			
<b>Total college costs (A)</b>			
<b>GRANT/SCHOLARSHIP AID</b>			
Federal Pell Grant			
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)			
TEACH Grant			
Cal Grant			
Other grants			
Scholarships			
Institution-based aid			
<b>Total grant/scholarship aid (B)</b>			
<b>Your net costs (A - B)</b>			
<b>LOANS</b>			
Federal subsidized Stafford loan			
Federal unsubsidized Stafford loan			
Federal Perkins loan			
Federal PLUS loan			
Private loan			
<b>Total loan aid (C)</b>			
<b>Total financial aid (B + C = D)</b>			
<b>Your out-of-pocket costs (A - D)</b>			
<b>Work-study or student employment (E)</b>			

<sup>1</sup> Not all colleges participate in all of the financial aid programs listed above.

<sup>2</sup> If room and board aren't part of your housing contract, check with the college's housing office or check the local paper or online for rental costs.

# MORE ABOUT FINANCIAL AID

## What does it cost to attend college? (COA)

Each college has its own cost of attendance, or COA, which includes tuition, fees, books, supplies, housing, food, transportation and personal expenses for the school year.

Your COA will vary depending on your college and where you live (with your parents, or on or off campus). If you have children or other dependents who require care while you go to class, your COA may also include these expenses. If you have a disability, let your college know about any related expenses that aren't already covered.

## Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

Your expected family contribution, or EFC, is the amount of money the government calculates you and your family could reasonably contribute toward your education for the year,

You can compare your offers online by using this calculator:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-awards/compare-aid-calculator>

based on your and your parents' FAFSA responses. Your EFC determines the types and amounts of federal and state aid you qualify to receive.

## Comparing financial aid offers

If you receive offers of financial aid from more than one college, you need to find out what your "net cost" is at each school. The net cost is the cost the student must pay after subtracting all the financial aid he or she will receive from the cost of attendance at the school. Each school will have a special calculator on its website to assist students in comparing the net cost with other schools.



## SAMPLE COLLEGE FINANCING PLAN

Here is one possible scenario illustrating how one student pays for college. See more sample college financing plans at <http://californiacolleges.edu/finance/finance.asp>.

Student: <b>Serena</b> Age: <b>18</b> Status: <b>Single (dependent on parents)</b> Housing: <b>At home with parents</b> Parent income: <b>\$40,000</b>	<b>(A) 2011-2012 CSU cost of attendance</b> (living at home with parents): Fees/tuition: \$5,472 Books/supplies/room/board/misc. expenses: \$9,756	\$15,228
	<b>(B) Grant assistance total</b> Serena is eligible for grant assistance based on her family's financial resources. The campus aid office pulls together grant aid from a variety of sources, including federal Pell Grants, state Cal Grants and the CSU's own grant funding.	\$9,680
	<b>(A - B) = Net cost to family</b> The net cost is the amount that Serena's family must pay after need-based grants are taken into account.	\$5,548
<b>MANAGING THE NET COST</b> Parents and students work together to cover the net cost using resources provided by the college, including parent and student education loans, part-time work during the academic year and savings from summer earnings.  The net cost is not due all at once. Many costs, such as living expenses, are incurred over time.  Here is a sample of how Serena's family might cover her net cost.	<b>Serena's parents</b> Combination of current earnings, savings or a parent loan: Serena's parents would be expected to contribute \$926 for the year.  <b>Serena</b> Student part-time work during academic year: Student education loans: Savings from summer jobs:	\$926  \$0 \$2,981 \$1,641

# WAYS TO REDUCE COLLEGE COSTS

## APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

### Private scholarship

Discuss with your counselor ways to find scholarships through community organizations, foundations, religious organizations, neighborhood banks, and business and professional and trade organizations.

### National Merit Scholarships

More than 9,000 scholarships are available each year. Take the Preliminary SSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test in the fall of your junior year in high school. Learn more at [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org).

## COMMUNITY SERVICE – BE A VOLUNTEER

### AmeriCorps

By becoming a volunteer with one of the AmeriCorps programs, you can earn up to \$5,550 a year for college. Learn more at [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov).

### Teach for America

An AmeriCorps program at [www.teachforamerica.org](http://www.teachforamerica.org), pays recent college graduates to teach for two years at disadvantaged schools.

### Peace Corps

Incorporate your Peace Corps service into a master's degree program and you may receive financial assistance. Benefits are offered for loan deferment payments or loan debt forgiveness. Get information at [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov), or contact your college.

## ENLIST IN THE MILITARY

The U.S. Armed Forces offer education benefits to enlistees for college assistance and tuitions. Scholarships are available through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, too. Consider one of the five U.S. service academies. For detailed information, go to [www.todaysmilitary.com](http://www.todaysmilitary.com).

## CREDIT FOR EXPERIENCE

Perhaps you are a nontraditional student and you may have received academic credit for your job, volunteer or travel experience through the College-Level Examination Program. See [www.collegeboard.org/clep](http://www.collegeboard.org/clep) for more information.

## EARN CREDIT AT HIGH SCHOOL

Look into taking Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses in high school and then take the exams to earn college credit. For details, check with your high school counselor and go to [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org) or <http://apcentral.collegeboard.org>.

## COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

Work-learn programs incorporate paid work experience with classroom studies. Alternate your work and school options, full time/part time. Although there's no direct financial aid, you may be able to earn enough to pay for college. Look into [www.workcolleges.org](http://www.workcolleges.org).

## START AT A CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

You'll save thousands of dollars in tuition and have your general education requirements behind you. Go to [www.icanaffordcollege.com](http://www.icanaffordcollege.com).

## PART-TIME WORK

A part-time, summer or holiday season job can also help.

## COMPANY-PAID EDUCATION

Some employers may pay or reimburse you for some or all of your education and training. Many companies and labor unions offer scholarships for children and even grandchildren of employees. Ask your family about scholarships available through their work.

## AID FOR FOSTER YOUTH

Money is set aside for foster youth. If you are or were in foster care, you may be eligible for financial assistance for college or job training. Check out Chafee Grants for up to \$5,000 a year in free aid, [www.chafee.csac.ca.gov](http://www.chafee.csac.ca.gov). Check on college waivers and scholarships at [www.calyouthconn.org](http://www.calyouthconn.org). Another scholarship source for former foster youth is [www.orphan.org](http://www.orphan.org).

## Jobs That Help You Repay Your Loans

Some jobs actually give you both a paycheck and help you pay down your student loans. Learn about the many programs at [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov). Programs include: health care; child care providers through Head Start; volunteer service in VISTA or Peace Corps; U.S. federal/public service for employees; law and teaching.

# SPENDING PLAN WORKSHEET

Use this worksheet to help get a clear picture of your income and expenses. If your expenses are more than your income, you'll need to look for ways to reduce expenses and/or supplement your income.

INCOME SOURCE	Estimated monthly total	Estimated yearly total
Earnings		
Money from savings		
Money from parents		
Work-study / student employment		
Scholarships		
Grants		
Loans		
Spouse's wages		
Other		
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
EXPENSES	Estimated monthly total	Estimated yearly total
Tuition		
Fees		
Loan payments		
Books / supplies		
Rent / housing		
Gas / electricity		
Cell phone service		
Internet service / TV service		
Other		
Child care		
Transportation:		
Car gas and maintenance		
Car insurance and registration		
Car payment		
Public transportation		
Parking		
Food:		
Groceries		
Restaurants		
Coffee, snacks		
Clothing:		
Clothes		
Laundry / dry cleaning		
Entertainment		
Credit card payments		
Medical / dental insurance and expenses		
Miscellaneous		
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Total income minus total expenses =</b>	<b>\$</b> (available funds)	<b>\$</b> (available funds)

# TERMS TO KNOW

The most important definitions are highlighted.

**Ability-to-benefit test:** one way to determine eligibility for federal aid for students who aren't high school graduates or don't have a GED certificate.

**Asset:** an item of value, such as real estate, stock, bond, cash savings, trust fund, money market fund, college savings plan, retirement plan or prepaid tuition plan.

**California Aid Report (CAR):** the report from the California Student Aid Commission reporting your Cal Grant eligibility; estimates your Cal Grant award.

**California residency:** you're considered a California resident if you're an unmarried student, under 18, and your parents have been legal California residents for one year prior to the residence determination date of the college you will attend, or September 20, if your college does not have a residence determination date; if you've lived for two years with a legal California resident, other than a parent; or if a parent is in the U.S. Armed Forces, stationed in California and on active duty when you enroll. All married students, regardless of age, and unmarried students 18 or older, must establish their own residency.

**Campus-based aid:** federal programs administered by colleges: federal Perkins loan, federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant and Federal Work-Study.

**Capitalization:** when interest is added to the principal balance of a loan rather than being paid as it accrues; any future interest is based on the higher loan amount.

**Citizen/national:** U.S. citizens are those born in one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia or abroad to a U.S. citizen. Nationals include citizens of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, and natives of American Samoa and Swain's Island.

**Cost of attendance (COA):** the total cost of college for the school year as calculated by the college, including tuition, fees, books, supplies, transportation, food, housing, personal expenses and sometimes the rental or purchase of a computer; also known as the student budget.

**CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE:** the financial aid application administered by the College Board and required by some independent colleges and scholarship organizations to award private aid.

**Default:** failure to make the required payments on your student loan or otherwise honor a loan's terms.

**Deferment:** temporary postponement of payment on your student loan. Interest accrues unless your loan is subsidized by the federal government. Common reasons for deferment include attending school at least half time, and economic hardship/unemployment.

**Delinquency:** the state of being behind on your loan payments.

**Direct Loan Servicing Center:** all federal student loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2010, are handled by the Direct Loan Servicing Center, the U.S. Department of Education's agent contracted to collect Direct Loans and handle deferments, forbearances and repayment options.

**Eligible noncitizen:** a U.S. permanent resident who has a Permanent Resident Card (I-551 or I-151); a conditional permanent resident (I-551C); or a noncitizen who has an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services with one of the following designations: Refugee (including noncitizen victims of human trafficking), Asylum Granted, Parolee (the I-94 confirms paroled for a minimum of one year and status has not expired), T-Visa holder or Cuban-Haitian Entrant.

**Expected family contribution (EFC):** the portion of your own and your family's financial resources that should be available to pay for college, based on a federal formula using the information on your FAFSA.

**FAFSA:** Free Application for Federal Student Aid; the application used to apply for federal and most state financial aid, and sometimes institutional aid.

**Federal processor:** the federal government's computer system that analyzes the information on your FAFSA, calculates your expected family contribution and sends out the Student Aid Report.

**Financial aid eligibility:** the difference between your expected family contribution and the college's cost of attendance; also known as your financial need.

**Financial aid package:** the total amount of financial aid offered by a school; usually a combination of grants, scholarships, work-study and loans.

**Forbearance:** temporary postponement or reduction of your monthly loan payment. Interest

continues to accrue, increasing the loan balance. Forbearance must be approved by your loan servicer.

**GED:** General Educational Development test/certificate used to measure high school academic achievement (in place of a diploma).

**GPA:** grade point average.

**Grant:** financial aid that doesn't have to be repaid; usually based on financial need.

**Independent college:** a nonprofit, private college that is not run by a government organization.

**Institutional methodology:** the formula used by some colleges to determine your eligibility for institutional aid; may count home equity and other assets the FAFSA does not.

**Institution-based aid:** financial assistance offered and controlled by individual colleges, such as alumni scholarships and endowments from private donors; also called institutional aid.

**Interest:** the money you will be charged for taking out a loan.

**Loan servicer:** a company that handles all the administrative tasks associated with a loan, such as establishing repayment terms, handling deferment and forbearance requests, and accepting and collecting payments.

**Master promissory note (MPN):** a legally binding contract between a borrower and the U.S. Department of Education listing all terms and conditions of a loan; federal student loans require you to sign an MPN.

**Merit-based aid:** financial aid based on grades, test scores, athletic ability, talents or other criteria, not income or assets.

**Need-based aid:** financial aid that is based on your own or your family's income or assets; most financial aid offered by the government is need-based.

**Net cost of attendance or net price:** what a student pays to attend a higher education institution; the school's cost of attendance minus money for college that doesn't have to be repaid, including grants and scholarships.

**PIN:** personal identification number from the U.S. Department of Education that serves as your e-signature on the electronic FAFSA; also can be used to check on the status of your FAFSA, correct or print your Student Aid Report, sign your master promissory note and view your federal financial aid records.

**Principal (loan):** the amount you originally borrowed, plus any capitalized interest.

**Private career college:** a for-profit institution offering a course of study or job skills beyond high school.

**Satisfactory academic progress (SAP):** as established by your college, the progress you must maintain toward obtaining a degree or certificate to continue receiving financial aid, and the GPA you must maintain.

**Scholarship:** money for college that you don't have to repay; awarded based on grades, test scores, major, heritage or other criteria, and sometimes, financial need.

**Selective Service registration:** males (citizens and eligible noncitizens) ages 18-25 who are not currently on active duty in the Armed Forces must register with the Selective Service for military draft to receive federal student aid.

**Social Security number (SSN):** nine-digit number issued to U.S. citizens, permanent residents and temporary (working) residents by the U.S. Social Security Administration.

**Student Aid Report (SAR):** summarizes the information you provide on the FAFSA.

**Undocumented students:** students who live in the U.S. and are not U.S. citizens or eligible noncitizens and who don't have an Alien Registration Card, visa or other legal documentation; includes students or their families who entered the country legally on tourist or work visas and chose to stay after their visas expired.

**Untaxed income:** all income you receive that's not taxed or may not be reported to the IRS.

**Verification:** the procedure by which a college verifies the information reported on the FAFSA, usually by requesting a copy of your (and/or your parents') signed tax return and other documentation.

**Veteran:** a person who has engaged in active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces; or is a National Guard or Reserve enlistee called to active duty for purposes other than training; or who was a cadet or midshipman at one of the service academies; and who was released under a condition other than dishonorable or who'll be a veteran by June 30, 2013.

## CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION

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California Community Colleges  
Representative  
Governor Appointee

**Michele Siqueiros**  
General Public Representative  
Governor Appointee

## CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES

### COLLEGE FUNDING

**California student aid and Cal Grants**  
[www.calgrants.org](http://www.calgrants.org)  
[www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov)  
\*[www.ca.gov/education](http://www.ca.gov/education)

**California Cash for College**  
[www.californiacashforcollege.org](http://www.californiacashforcollege.org)

**Dreamer resources**  
[www.caldreamact.org](http://www.caldreamact.org)  
[www.e4fc.org](http://www.e4fc.org)  
[www.maldef.org](http://www.maldef.org)  
<http://prepare.collegeboard.org/resources>

**Federal financial aid**  
\*[www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)  
\*[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)  
\*[www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov)

**ScholarShare**  
[www.scholarshare.com](http://www.scholarshare.com)

**Scholarship Information**  
[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)  
\*[www.collegeboard.com/pay](http://www.collegeboard.com/pay)  
[www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)  
[www.zinch.com/](http://www.zinch.com/)

**African-American scholarships**  
[www.uncf.org](http://www.uncf.org)

**Asian-American scholarships**  
[www.apiasf.org](http://www.apiasf.org)

**Gates Millennium scholarships**  
[www.gmsp.org](http://www.gmsp.org)

**Latino scholarships**  
\*[www.hsf.net](http://www.hsf.net)  
[www.maldef.org](http://www.maldef.org)

**Native American scholarships**  
[www.bie.edu](http://www.bie.edu)  
[www.collegefund.org](http://www.collegefund.org)  
[www.aises.org/what/programs/scholarships](http://www.aises.org/what/programs/scholarships)

**Sports scholarships**  
[www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)

**Scholarship fraud**  
\*[www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams](http://www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams)

### COLLEGE COSTS AND CAREER EXPLORATION

[www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu)  
\*<http://collegenavigator.ed.gov>  
[www.whodouwant2b.com](http://www.whodouwant2b.com)  
[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

### COLLEGES

**California public colleges**  
[www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu)

**California Community Colleges**  
\*[www.icanaffordcollege.com](http://www.icanaffordcollege.com)

**California State University**  
\*[www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu)

**University of California**  
[www.universityofcalifornia.edu](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu)

**Independent California colleges**  
[www.aiccu.edu](http://www.aiccu.edu)

### THINGS TO KNOW

**Identity theft**  
\*[www.ftc.gov/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft)  
\*[www.idtheftcenter.org](http://www.idtheftcenter.org)

**Smart borrowing**  
\*[www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov)

**Tax benefits**  
[www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf)

### OTHER RESOURCES

**ACT or SAT**  
[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)  
\*[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

**AmeriCorps/volunteers**  
[www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov)  
\*[www.californiavolunteers.org](http://www.californiavolunteers.org)

**Citizenship/Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals**  
\*[www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)

**Foster youth grants and information**  
[www.chafee.csac.ca.gov](http://www.chafee.csac.ca.gov)  
[www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov](http://www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov)  
[www.calyouthconn.org](http://www.calyouthconn.org)  
[www.calgrants.org](http://www.calgrants.org)

**Health careers**  
\*[www.healthjobsstarthere.com](http://www.healthjobsstarthere.com)

**Job trends**  
[www.bls.gov/emp](http://www.bls.gov/emp)

**Students with disabilities**  
[www.heath.gwu.edu](http://www.heath.gwu.edu)  
[www.dor.ca.gov](http://www.dor.ca.gov)

**Military and veterans benefits**  
\*[www.todaysmilitary.com](http://www.todaysmilitary.com)  
[www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov)

\*Provides information in Spanish

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# MY ACTION PLAN

Use this page to help you plan ahead and capture important dates. Be sure to maximize your financial aid by applying for a Cal Grant by **March 2**.

