

The background is a dark green textured surface. It is decorated with white line-art illustrations of financial symbols: stacks of money, coins, a piggy bank, a bar chart, a dollar sign, and a hand holding a coin. The text is centered in white.

Financial Aid:

An Overview of
the Process

The cost of College tuition can be overwhelming, financial aid can make higher education more affordable.

Introduction to financial aid

Financial aid is **any form of funding that helps you pay for college**, such as a grant, loans, scholarships or work-study programs.

College financial aid helps students and their families by covering higher education expenses such as tuition and fees, room and board, books and other coursework supplies, and transportation.

Different types of aid are provided through various sources, such as federal and state agencies, colleges, high schools, foundations and corporations. The amount of aid a student receives depends on federal, state and institutional guidelines.

Students have the choice to accept or reject the aid offered. The type of aid determines whether it will have to be repaid.



Types of Financial Aid

Grants

Grants are a form of financial aid that **does not need to be repaid**. They are typically awarded based on financial need. Common examples of grants include the Federal **Pell Grant** and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG). State governments and colleges may also offer their own grant programs. Example: **Cal Grant**

Federal and Private Loans

Student loans are **borrowed funds that must be repaid**, typically with interest. Federal student loans, such as Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans, **tend to offer more favorable terms and lower interest rates compared to private loans**. Repayment typically begins after the student leaves school, but there are options for deferment and income-driven repayment plans.

Scholarships

Scholarships are similar to grants in that they **do not require repayment**. However, scholarships are **often awarded based on criteria other than financial need**. These criteria may include academic achievement, athletic ability, community involvement, or specific talents. Scholarships can come from a wide range of sources, including universities, private foundations, and corporations.

Work Study

Work-study programs provide part-time employment opportunities for students, often related to their field of study or within the university. Students earn a paycheck for the hours they work, and this income can help cover their educational expenses. The Federal Work-Study program is an example of this, and it's typically available to students with financial need.

How Do I Apply for Financial Aid?

SUBMIT THE FAFSA OR CADAA

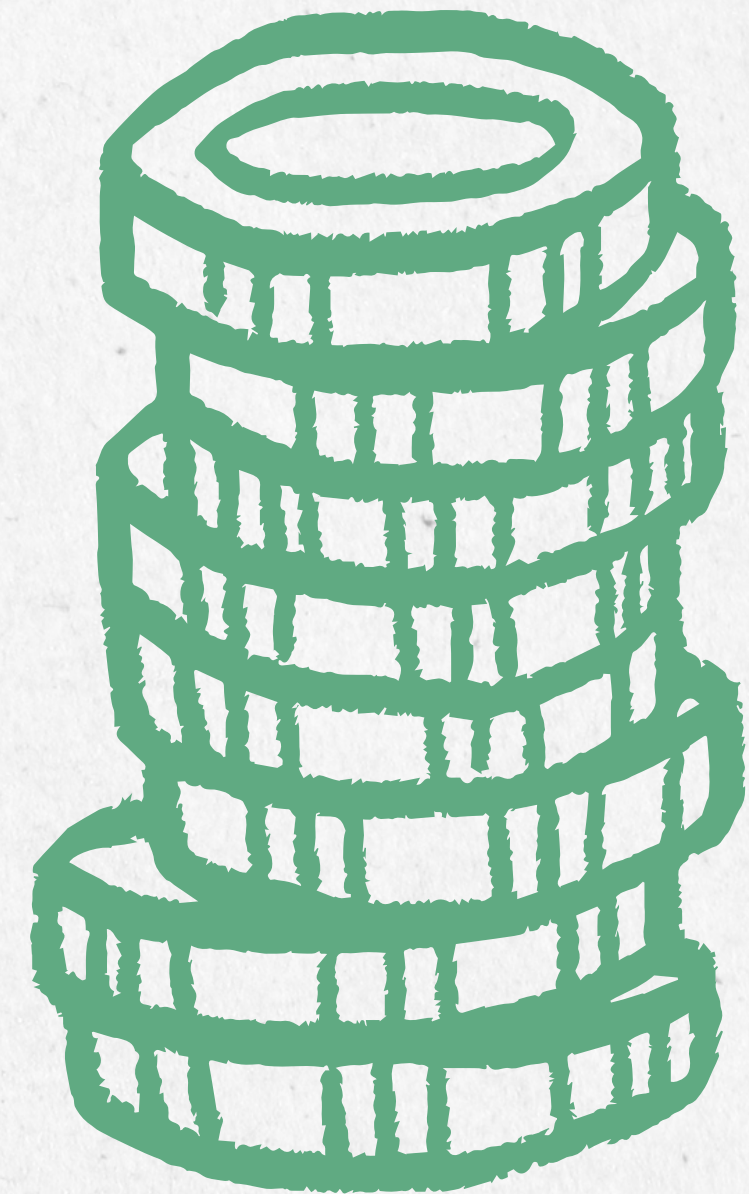
Submit the [FAFSA](#). Unless you're an undocumented, dream act-eligible student, then submit the [CA Dream Act Application](#).

LOGIN TO WG4S AND CONFIRM GPA

After your FAFSA or CADAA application is processed, you'll receive an email letting you know it's time to create your [WebGrants4Students](#) account. Once you are logged in, confirm that CSAC (California Student Aid Commission) has your GPA as this completes your Cal Grant application.

NEED ASSISTANCE APPLYING?

Attend one of CSAC's Cash for College [workshops](#) to get free assistance for you and your family in applying for Financial Aid.



CSAC CASH FOR COLLEGE Resources

Free Federal Student Aid Application (FAFSA)

Eligibility: Students with citizenship or eligible noncitizen. Click [here](#) to learn more about eligibility.

Get Started Now!

- Review [“what to expect”](#) when filling out the FAFSA
- [Gather the Documents Needed to Apply](#)
- Create your [FSA ID Video](#)
- Complete your [FAFSA Form](#)

Additional Resources:

- [Tips for Parents Video](#)
- Use the [IRS Data Retrieval Tool](#) to easily transfer your tax information to the FAFSA!
- [Who is my parent?](#)
- [Am I an independent or dependent student?](#)

Have questions? Important Contacts for FAFSA!

Federal Student Aid Contact Center

- [Federal Student Aid Contact Center](#)
- Federal Student Aid Help Center Number: 1-800-433-3243

California Dream Act Application (CADAA)

Eligibility: Undocumented and nonresident students who meet [AB 540 requirements](#) may apply to the California Dream Act Application.

Get Started Now!

- Assessing the [California Dream Act Application Video](#)
- Create your [Dream Act Account](#)
- Complete the [Dream Act Application](#)
- Complete Selective Service Requirement

Additional Resources:

- [California Dream Act/ Cal-Grant Checklist](#) from Immigrants Rising
- [California Dream Act Application Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Have questions? Important Contacts for CADAA!

California Student Aid Commission Student Support

- Email: studentsupport@csac.ca.gov
- CSAC Student Support Center: 1- 888-224-7268

Financial Aid Timeline

For 2024-2025 only -
FAFSA / CADAA
Application opens
end of December

December

APPLICATION VERIFICATION
FORM TURNED INTO
COUNSELOR

March*

For 2024-2025 only :
Deadline for FAFSA /
CADAA extended to
April 2, 2024.

October*

FAFSA/CADAA APPLICATION
OPENS FOR FALL 2024
ADMISSION CYCLE

*For 2024-2025 only - FAFSA /
CADAA opening end of
December due to form changes
and federal updates.

November

CREATE FSA ID
GATHER REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

WORKSHOP 11/13/23 IN RCHS
CAFE

January

JANUARY 30, 2024
VIRTUAL LINE BY LINE FAFSA
WORKSHOP with CADAA
Breakout

CREATE A WEBGRANTS FOR
STUDENTS ACCOUNT AND
CLAIM CAL GRANT IF ELIGIBLE

*For 2024-2025 only: March 2
deadline extended to April 2nd.

April

Next Steps on the Road to Financial Aid

Congrats on submitting your financial aid application! Please complete these next steps to ensure your financial aid is ready when you start college.



Record your account login information below or save it in your phone.

Email (Use a personal email, not a school email): _____

Username: _____

Password: _____

Additional Notes: _____

- 1) Check your email for confirmation that your application has been submitted.
 - If you do not receive an email, log back into your application, and verify that you submitted it. Also, verify that you submitted an application for the correct school year. It should be for the year you will be in college.

- 2) After a few days, check your email for confirmation that your application has been processed
 - If you do not receive an email, log back into your account, and check for any error messages.
 - For FAFSA filers, contact Federal Student Aid for questions about processing your application. For CADAA filers, contact CSAC for questions about processing your application.

Next Steps on the Road to Financial Aid continued..

- 3) **Create your WebGrants for Students account at mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov**
 - FAFSA filers need to wait 7-10 days before you can create an account.
 - CADAA filers can create your account almost immediately using the same username and password as your CADAA.
 - Check if your application is complete and verify that a GPA has been matched to your account.

- 4) **Check your email and login to your WebGrants for Students** account (mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov) to see if you are eligible for Cal Grant.

- 5) After you decide what college you will attend, login to your WebGrants for Students account (mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov) and **update your School of Attendance** on your Cal Grant award if needed. This step does NOT need to be completed by March 2nd

- 6) Starting in the month you graduate, you may need to **verify your high school graduation status** in WebGrants for Students (mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov). You should receive an e-mail reminder.

- 7) If you submitted a CADAA, you are required to **complete an AB 540 Affidavit** (csac.ca.gov/post/california-nonresident-tuition-exemption). Please contact the Financial Aid Office or the Admissions Office of the college you plan on attending for assistance. For more information about the AB 540 Affidavit, visit the Immigrants Rising website (immigrantsrising.org/resource/submitting-the-affidavit).

- 8) To find other sources of financial aid and private scholarships, check websites such as **Fastweb.com** and your college's financial aid website. Undocumented students can find scholarships with the **Immigrants Rising database** (immigrantsrising.org/resource/list-of-scholarships-and-fellowships).

Follow up with your college's financial aid office, CSAC or Federal Student Aid for any questions regarding your financial aid application or financial aid awards.



**Thank you
very much!**