

The background is a dark green chalkboard with white line-art illustrations of financial symbols like stacks of money, coins, a piggy bank, and a bar chart. The text is centered in white.

Financial Aid: An Overview of the Process

The WHY...

To be considered for federal or state **Financial Aid** you need to submit either a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) or California Dream Act (CADAA) Application.

These are used to:

- Determine your aid eligibility.
- Award State or College specific aid.
- Qualify for the **CA Community College and West Sacramento Promise Grant.**

The State of CA now requires schools to collect information on Financial Aid.

Students need to turn in a form indicating what application option they intend to use:

(FAFSA, CADAA, Opt Out).

The form will be available online in multiple languages and in the Counseling Office.

All seniors must turn in their signed* form to their counselor by **March 2, 2024.**

*Students under 18 yrs old must have a parent signature!

Introduction to financial aid

Financial aid: any form of funding that helps you pay for college

- grant
- loans
- scholarships
- work-study programs.

Covers expenses such as

- tuition and fees,
- room and board,
- books and other coursework supplies,
- and transportation.

Provided through

- federal and state agencies,
- colleges,
- high schools,
- foundations and corporations.

Type of aid determines whether it will have to be repaid.

The **amount** of aid a student receives depends on **federal, state and institutional guidelines.**



Types of Financial Aid

Work Study

- Provides part-time employment opportunities for students
- Paycheck can help cover educational expenses.

Grants

- Typically awarded based on financial need
- Does not need to be repaid
- Common examples include Cal Grant and Pell Grant

Scholarships

- Do not require repayment.
- Often awarded based on criteria other than financial need.
- May include academic achievement, athletic ability, community involvement, or specific talents.

Federal and Private Loans

- Are borrowed funds that must be repaid
- Tend to offer more favorable terms and lower interest rates
- May be subsidized or unsubsidized

Types of Loans

Subsidized Loans:

- need-based
- U.S. Department of Education pays the interest
- amount a student can borrow is determined by their school and is limited to their financial need.

Unsubsidized Loans:

- not based on financial need, and
- eligibility is not contingent on the borrower's income.
- the borrower is responsible for paying the interest
- loan amount is determined by the student's cost of attendance and other financial aid received.

In summary, the key difference lies in who pays the interest during certain periods. Subsidized loans have interest subsidized by the government during specific periods, while unsubsidized loans accrue interest that the borrower is responsible for paying throughout the loan's life.

Which Application do I File?

Free Federal Student Aid Application (FAFSA)

Eligibility: Students with citizenship or eligible noncitizen.

Eligible Noncitizen:

- A U.S. national
- U.S. permanent resident (who has an I-151, I-551 or I-551C [Permanent Resident Card]),
- or an individual who has an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) showing one of the following designations:
 - "Refugee"
 - "Asylum Granted"
 - T-visa (T-2, T-3, or T-4, etc.) holder

check [website](#) for more...

California Dream Act Application (CADAA)

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

1. Three (3) or more years of full-time attendance or attainment of equivalent credits earned in California High School

OR

2. Three (3) or more years of full-time high school coursework and attended a combination of elementary, middle and/or high school in California for a combined total of three (3) or more years.

AND

3. Graduate from a California high school

check [website](#) for more...

What do I need for my Application?

All students need to collect the following information:

- Student FSA ID or CADAA username & password
- Picture or copy of your social security card (if applicable)
- Picture or copy of your green card (if applicable)
- Your 2022 federal tax forms (if applicable)
- Total current amount in your checking and savings accounts: \$
- Net worth of your investments: \$
- List of colleges you will be applying to

FAFSA Terminology (Vocabulary)

Contributor

A contributor refers to anyone (student, the student's spouse, a biological or adoptive parent, or the parent's spouse) who's required to provide information on the FAFSA form.

[Who Is a Contributor on the 2024–25 FAFSA® Form? video](#)

Who Counts As a Parent

Dependent students are required to report parent information on the FAFSA® form, and in most cases, a parent will be identified as a contributor for these students. A parent means your legal (biological or adoptive) parent or a person that the state has determined to be your legal parent.

[Is My Parent A Contributor When I Fill Out My FAFSA Form? graphic](#)

Dependency Status

A student's dependency status is determined by a set of FAFSA questions (preview the questions at [StudentAid.gov/dependency](https://studentaid.gov/dependency)). A dependent student must report information about their parent(s) on the FAFSA form.

- A student cannot "declare" themselves independent, even if the student is self-sufficient or does not live with their parents.
- A student's dependency status has nothing to do with whether their parents claim them on their tax returns.
- A student can't be considered independent of their parents just because the parents refuse to provide information on the FAFSA form.

What happens after I file?

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

- ✓ Check your email for confirmation that your application has been submitted.
- ✓ After a few days, check your email for confirmation that your application has been processed
- ✓ Create your WebGrants for Students account at mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov
- ✓ After you decide what college you will attend, login to your WebGrants for Students account and update your
School of Attendance on your Cal Grant award if needed
- ✓ Verify your high school graduation status in June in WebGrants for Students. You should receive an e-mail reminder.
- ✓ If you submitted a CADAA, you are required to complete an AB 540 Affidavit (csac.ca.gov/post/california-nonresident-tuition-exemption).
- ✓ 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.

CSAC Student Support Phone: 888-224-7268

Federal Student Aid Phone: 1-800-433-3243

TIMELINE

December

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

Students should gather their needed paperwork and get their FSA ID's for themselves and a Contributor.

January

VIRTUAL Cash for College Workshop : **JANUARY 30, 2024**
6:00 - 8:00 PM

SAVE THE DATE and tell your Parents!

March

Application Verification Form(All in for FAFSA/CADAA) turned into your Counselor.

Create a *Webgrants for Students* account and claim Cal Grant* if eligible

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

June

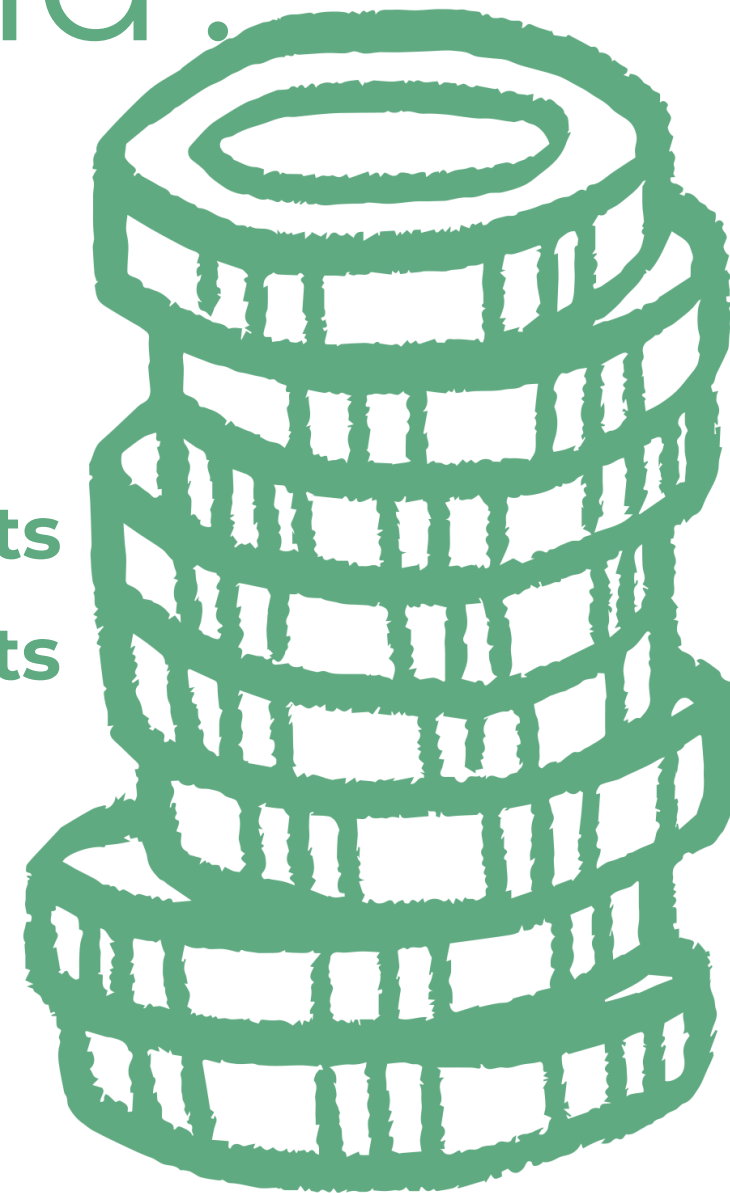
Verify Graduation on *Webgrants for Students* website

Wrap up: How Do I Apply for Financial Aid?

SUBMIT THE FAFSA OR CADAA by April 2nd.

Do not forget to create your WG4S (Webgrants for Students) Portal and confirm GPA for Grants

**Attend Cash For College Night online
January 30th.**



Helpful Links:

- Review "[what to expect](#)" when filling out the FAFSA
- [Gather the Documents Needed to Apply](#)
- Create your [FSA ID](#) Video
- Complete your [FAFSA Form](#)
- [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?](#)
- [AB 540 requirements](#)
- Assessing the [California Dream Act Application](#) Video
- Create your [Dream Act Account](#)
- Complete the [Dream Act Application](#)
- [California Dream Act/ Cal-Grant Checklist](#)
- [California Dream Act Application Frequently Asked Questions](#)

