

Quick Reference Guide

on California College Grants



Cal Grants

- California (CA) students can receive up to \$14,000 in [Cal Grant](#) money from the CA Student Aid Commission to attend college. This is money that does not need to be paid back. Students can receive up to \$5,742 for attending a CSU, \$12,570 for attending a UC, \$9,084 for attending a Private Non-Profit, and up to \$4,000 for attending a For-Profit school towards tuition and fees. Some awards have an additional access award amount of \$1,656 that can be used towards personal expenses.
- [In order to be considered for a Cal Grant](#), students need to submit a financial aid application (FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application) and have a GPA submitted to the CA Student Aid Commission by March 2 prior to the year that they want to be awarded. Students can be eligible for a Cal Grant A, B, or C.
- In order to qualify for a Cal Grant, students must have a minimum 2.0 GPA and meet the [income and asset ceilings](#).
- When is the easiest time to qualify for a Cal Grant? A high school senior who meets the requirements (GPA minimum of 2.0 and higher and has a financial aid application submitted by March 2) will automatically be considered for an [Entitlement Cal Grant](#). If the student doesn't meet these criteria, they are considered for a competitive Cal Grant, which puts a student in a pool with as many as 300,000 other potential awardees for only 41,000 awards.
- Students can still qualify for [Cal Grant C](#), if they choose to attend a vocational, technical or occupational program of at least 4 months in length. Students still must meet all income and asset requirements and have financial need, as we discussed earlier. Unlike Cal Grant A or B, Cal Grant C has no GPA submission requirement. Students need to attend a Cal Grant eligible institution that offers a recognized program.
- If students do not qualify for a Cal Grant due to financial ineligibility but their family's income/assets ≤ \$184,000, the student attends a UC or CSU at least half-time and are in their first undergraduate program, they can be considered for a [Middle Class Scholarship](#). The annual maximum amount at a UC is \$5,028 and the maximum amount at a CSU is \$2,298.

Grant for Current and Former Foster Youth

- The [Chafee Grant](#) is available to current and former foster youth who were dependent or wards of the court, living in foster care, for at least 1 day between the ages of 16-18. Students can receive both a Cal Grant and a Chafee Grant in the same academic year, but they have to complete the two separate applications! Students can receive up to \$5,000 per academic year and the Chafee Grant can be used at eligible schools both in-state and outside of CA.
- Current and former foster youth students (a person whose dependency was established or continued by the court on or after the date on which the person reached 13 years of age) are eligible to receive [Cal Grant B High School Entitlement Award](#) consideration as long as they have not yet reached 26 years of age as of July 1 of the initial award year and submit a qualifying high school GPA or test score, regardless of the date of high school graduation or the equivalent. The maximum Cal Grant eligibility has been increased from 4 years to 8 years.

California Dream Act Application (CADAA)

- The CA Student Aid Commission administers the [California Dream Act Application](#). This financial aid application is for undocumented students who meet the AB 540 Requirements of non-resident tuition exemption. Students do not need to be a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) holder.

Web Grants for Students

- [WebGrants for Students \(WGS\)](#) is the CSAC-run portal that allows students to manage their Cal Grant, Middle Class Scholarship and/or Chafee account(s) online by letting them view updates and eligibility, make school changes, make address changes, make corrections, and post leave of absence requests.

Free Workshops

- Students and their families can attend FREE virtual workshops where there are financial aid experts and volunteers to help complete their FAFSA, CADAA, or Chafee applications. They can look for workshops at www.cash4college.csac.ca.gov to find the nearest webinar that they can attend.