
Downloadable GPA Verification Form Project

Issue

In order to be considered for either an Entitlement or Competitive Cal Grant A or B a student must submit a complete application prior to the appropriate award cycle deadline, March 2nd or September 2nd. A complete application consists of a complete FAFSA and a Verified GPA. Cal Grant Regulations state it is the responsibility of the applicant to have a grad point average or test score reported. 30023(2)

The Commission currently distributes one million paper GPA Verification forms to high schools and colleges throughout the state. However, some students may not have access to the forms or may not know they are required.

Background and Methodology

As part of the Commission's efforts to provide improved access for students to the Commission's programs, the Commission is working with its auxiliary on an exciting two part project to improve students' ability to submit a GPA to the Commission for Cal Grant consideration. The first phase of the project involves allowing students to download the GPA verification form from the Commission's website (or WebGrants for Students) and mail it to the Commission for processing. Using Intelligent Character Recognition Imaging options, CSAC and EDFUND hope to provide a new form and process for the processing and transmittal of GPAs. The second phase of this project would allow students to electronically request that their school submit their GPA to the commission on their behalf.

Status

The first phase of this project is well underway and the downloadable form will be available to students to use for the 2006-2007 award cycle. Student will be able to fill in data on-line and then print out the form prior to taking it to their school for verification of their GPA. This ability should increase the rate at which GPAs match with ISIR data. Students will be required to enter their Social Security number twice on the form. It is hoped that this double verification will catch and typos on the on-line form and will provide a extra check for those forms that are filled out after they have been downloaded.

These forms will be available on the Commission's website. WebGrants for Students will also provide a link to the on-line GPA Verification form.

The change to a downloadable GPA has given the Commission the opportunity to redesign the GPA Verification form. Staff has consulted with our External Letter Review Committee, CCCCSFAAA, CASFAA, and a focus group made up of students and parents during this redesign. The Commission staff has worked to incorporate all the great suggestions and we appreciate the input we received. Schools will continue to receive the paper GPA form but they can also download the forms to provide to students at their outreach events as needed.