

I got a Cal Grant - So What's Next?



Good work on taking the first step in completing the CA Dream Act Application! So now that you've been offered a Cal Grant we want to help make sure you take the next steps to get it. Here are some tips to help you get you through the financial aid process.

- ▶ We only share the information you reported on your CA Dream Application with the school(s) you plan to attend, so they can determine your eligibility for financial aid.
- ▶ You can always check out your California Student Aid Report (CalSAR), located within your CA Dream Application. Just click on the "CalSAR" tab to view your application information and Expected Family Contribution (EFC).
- ▶ Log on to www.webgrants4students.org and create your online WebGrants for Students (WGS) account using your Dream ID# (this number is noted on your Dream Application Confirmation Page). Read "Understanding My Cal Grant" and keep your phone number, email address and college of attendance updated so you can receive up-to-date information.
- ▶ Complete the Cal Grant application process by satisfying any important requirements on WGS.
- ▶ Check with your campus financial aid office to find out:
 - ✓ How your Cal Grant funds will be paid to you (paper check, debit card, or direct deposit into your bank account) - it's your choice.
 - ✓ When they pay out your financial aid - some campuses post these dates on their website. Remember schools determine the final Cal Grant award amounts.
 - ✓ Other outstanding requirements at your college. For example, your application may be selected for verification. That means your campus may want you to submit extra documents to prove your eligibility before they pay out your funds.
 - ✓ What other financial aid you may be eligible to receive. For example, if you are planning to attend or are currently attending a California Community College, you may be eligible for the Board of Governor's Fee Waiver. This application process may be separate from the CA Dream Application.
 - ✓ What happens to your financial aid if you drop classes. Make sure you know what happens to your financial aid if you drop classes, because you may have to pay back if you drop before a certain date.

What else do I need to know before I get my Cal Grant payment?

- ▶ Confirm your AB 540 eligibility by completing an affidavit and any other documents required by your college. AB 540 determination usually happens through Admission or Records offices on campus; check out your campus website to see where to go. Don't wait!
- ▶ Register with the Selective Service if you are a male between the ages of 18 through 25. For more information about Selective Service requirements go to www.sss.gov. "*The Selective Service System has not now, or in the past, collected or shared any information which would indicate a man's immigration status, either documented or undocumented. The Selective Service System has no authority to collect such information, has no use for it, and it is irrelevant to the registration requirement. Consequently, there is no immigration data to share with anyone.*"
- ▶ Open a bank account if you want the funds to be disbursed directly to your bank account.
- ▶ Be aware of fees. For example, check cashing businesses may charge more than 20%, which could amount to hundreds of dollars!
- ▶ Check your campus student account or contact your financial aid office for Cal Grant disbursement dates.
- ▶ Complete the CA Dream Act application every year to renew your Cal Grant award using the same login. If your immigration status changes, make sure you contact us and let us know so we can change your status.

Additional Resources -

- California Dream Act Application site- www.caldreamact.org
- CA Dream Act Flyer - www.caldreamact.org
- E4FC & CSAC CADA Guide - <http://www.e4fc.org/resources/californiadreamact.html>
- Deferred Action (DACA) - <http://www.uscis.gov/>
- Life After DACA Blog - <http://www.lclaa.org/>