



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS REGARDING THE CAL GRANT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS PER SENATE BILL 70

The Legislature recently passed, and the Governor signed on March 24, 2011, a number of budget-related bills to achieve savings in state spending, including Chapter 7 of the Statutes of 2011 ("SB 70"), which implements changes in the Cal Grant Program, among other things. Following are the initial questions from students related to this legislation. This document will be updated as needed.

1. I checked my account and my Cal Grant has not renewed. Why?

The California Student Aid Commission will renew Cal Grants for the upcoming 2011-12 academic year in July 2011. After the renewal process is run, your 2011-12 Cal Grant status will be available. If you have not already done so, we suggest you create a WebGrants for Students (WGS) account at webgrants4students.org. To create a WGS account, click on the link that says, "Create an Account."

2. I have received the Cal Grant in prior years and now I am disqualified. Why can't I renew my Cal Grant?

A new California law redefines the way that a renewing recipient's financial need is determined. In order to renew a Cal Grant, renewing recipients must now meet the [2011-12 Income and Asset Ceilings](#) and minimum need criteria.

After the California Student Aid Commission runs the renewal process in July 2011, the renewal status of your Cal Grant will be available. If you have not already done so, we suggest you create a WebGrants for Students (WGS) account at webgrants4students.org. To create a WGS account, click on the link that says, "Create an Account."

3. If I lose eligibility for the Cal Grant award in one year (e.g., when a sophomore), can I be re-evaluated for eligibility and regain the Cal Grant if I qualify in the following year (e.g., when a junior)? Can I just opt to take a leave from payment?

Failing to meet the income or asset ceilings or minimum need for renewal of a Cal Grant will result in the withdrawal of your Cal Grant.

If your Cal Grant is withdrawn for failure to meet the income or asset ceilings or minimum need, you may not take a leave of absence or leave from payment to avoid losing the award. However, if you have not exhausted your payment eligibility, you may reapply for a Cal Grant for the 2012-13 academic year by submitting both a Cal Grant GPA Verification Form and a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the March 2, 2012 deadline.

4. I am currently receiving Cal Grant B payments. What happens if I don't meet the 2011-12 income and asset ceilings for a Cal Grant B but do meet the income and asset ceilings for a Cal Grant A?

If you have received Cal Grant B payments, your award cannot be changed to a Cal Grant A and your Cal Grant B will be withdrawn. You may reapply for a Cal Grant for the 2012-13 academic year by submitting both a Cal Grant GPA Verification Form and a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the March 2, 2012 deadline.

5. I have a Cal Grant A award and I am attending a California community college. Will I need to meet the income, assets, and minimum need criteria required by the new California law?

No, you will not need to meet the 2011-12 income, assets, and minimum need criteria for renewing recipients if you remain enrolled at the California community college. When you transfer to an eligible Cal Grant, degree granting, tuition/fee charging school, CSAC will evaluate your financial information. You must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) if you want to renew your Cal Grant A award.

6. I have been offered a new Cal Grant for the 2011-12 academic year, but when I went to look up my school on csac.ca.gov, my school was not listed under the "Search for Cal Grant Eligible School" option. Why?

You should have received correspondence from the California Student Aid Commission indicating that the first school you listed on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is no longer a Cal Grant eligible school. If you wish to keep your potential Cal Grant, you will need to activate your Cal Grant by changing your college to a [Cal Grant eligible school](#) for the fall term.

To report a School Change, log into WebGrants for Students (WGS) at webgrants4students.org and click the link that says, "Submit a School Change." If this is your first time visiting WGS, you will need to create a WGS account by clicking the link that says, "Create an Account." Select an eligible Cal Grant school from the drop down list under the "School Change To" section, and then click on the "submit change" box to process the school change.

7. I received a Cal Grant payment last year and this year the award amount has been reduced by 20 percent. Why?

A new California law restricts Cal Grant payments to schools that have a high loan default rate. Renewal Cal Grant recipients who attended a campus during 2010-11 that is now considered an ineligible school and **continue** to attend that campus during 2011-12 will have their Cal Grant award reduced by 20 percent. This means you will receive 80 percent of your maximum award. You have the following two options available:

Option 1: Remain at your current school of attendance and your potential Cal Grant award for the 2011-12 academic year will be reduced by 20 percent.

Option 2: Change your school of attendance by logging into WebGrants for Students (WGS) at webgrants4students.org and click the link that says, "Submit a School Change." If this is your first time visiting WGS, you will need to create a WGS account by clicking the link that says, "Create an Account." Select an eligible Cal Grant school from the drop down list under the "School Change To" section, and then click on the "submit change" box to process the school change.

8. I received a Cal Grant for the 2010-11 academic year and am going to transfer to another school for the 2011-12 academic year. The problem is I can't seem to find the school that I want to transfer to on csac.ca.gov. My school was not listed under the "Search for Cal Grant Eligible School" option. Why?

If you couldn't find your school on the Cal Grant Eligible School list, it may be a Cal Grant school [affected by the new California law](#).

9. How do I know for sure that my campus is one of the Cal Grant schools affected by the new California law?

See the list of [Cal Grant schools affected by the new California law](#) posted on the California Student Aid Commission's website.

10. What does someone else's loan default rate have to do with me? I have never defaulted on a loan.

We understand your frustration, but, under a new California law, if a large number of students attending a school default on their loans (meaning they don't pay the loans back), the school becomes ineligible for new and renewal Cal Grant awards. This means that a student with a Cal Grant may not be paid while attending this school.