CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION

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ENERGY
LAWYER

HOW TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

CAL GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

CALIFORNIA DREAMERS MONEY FOR COLLEGE!

STUDENT LOANS BORROW WISELY

MIDDLE CLASS SCHOLARSHIP

NEW

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A publication of the California Student Aid Commission

WELCOME TO FUND YOUR FUTURE®

Dream it – and then step into your educated future

Welcome to the Fund Your Future Workbook, which provides information about financial aid and the basic steps to access higher education. This workbook will help you continue your education by sharing financial aid options and basic steps to help you get into college. You'll learn how to review financial aid offers and manage your money. It's a whole new language; learn the terms, apply by the deadlines and go to college. Most financial aid is based on demonstrated financial need.

Be sure to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) **or** California Dream Act Application and verified Grade Point Average (GPA). You may be surprised. Your dreams, your reality, your future – fund it now!

The term **college** in this workbook refers to any college, university, graduate or professional school, career college, technical or vocational program, or other educational institution beyond high school.

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TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

While most colleges expect you and your family to contribute financially toward your education, financial aid can help narrow the gap between your resources and the cost of college. The following types of financial aid are available from the federal government, states, colleges and private sources:

Grants are money you don't have to repay and are typically based on financial need. Check into California Cal Grants at **www.calgrants.org** and learn about federal Pell Grants at **www.studentaid.ed.gov**.

Scholarships are also free money for college and are usually based on your area of study or merit, such as good grades; high test scores; athletic, musical or other special abilities; leadership; community service; and sometimes financial need.

Work-study or student employment programs – federal and college – let you earn money through certain jobs on or off campus to help pay for your education.

Loans are borrowed money that you must pay back, usually with interest.

FINANCIAL AID BASICS

Financial aid is available to manage the cost of attending college or training after high school. Think of it this way: First, take the cost to attend, then subtract the free money – grants and scholarships – and that will give you the "Net Cost" to attend college. Then, look for options to pay the net cost. Look for grant and scholarship money first; that money doesn't need to be repaid. If needed, consider loans; however, loans must be repaid with interest.

Cost for first year of college

- GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

= Net Cost

Options to pay net costs:
- Work-study
- Federal student loans

Other options:
- Family contributions
- Payment plan offered by college
- Parent PLUS loan
- Military or other service benefits
- Private education loans

QUALIFYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

Top 5 things you MUST do to maximize your student financial aid

1. Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, at **www.fafsa.gov** between **January 1 - March 2***.
2. AB 540 students complete the free, secure online California Dream Act Application at **www.caldreamact.org** between **January 1 - March 2***.
3. Submit your verified GPA for the Cal Grant program by **March 2***.
4. Apply for national and local scholarships (see page 17). See your school's college advisor for help.
5. Talk to your family about paying for college. Tell them they can assist just by helping you complete the FAFSA.

You should apply for financial aid even before you find out if you've been accepted to a college. Otherwise, you may miss out on grants, scholarships, and other free money.

** When a state deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, applications will be accepted through the next working day.*

NEW MIDDLE CLASS SCHOLARSHIP

Starting in the 2014-15 academic year, the Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) is available to University of California or California State University undergraduate students with family incomes up to $150,000. Scholarship amounts vary by student and institution. The scholarship is being phased in and in four years will increase up to 40 percent of the mandatory systemwide tuition and fees.

Eligibility requirements can be found at **www.csac.ca.gov**.

Applicants must submit a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) online at **www.fafsa.gov** or California Dream Act Application at **www.caldreamact.org**.

See page 4 for application information.

MIDDLE CLASS SCHOLARSHIP

TAX INCENTIVES

The American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC) allows you to claim up to $2,500 per student per year for qualified educational expenses in the first four years of college. Up to $1,000 of the credit can be refunded if your credit is more than you owe in taxes.

The Lifetime Learning Credit allows you to claim up to $2,000 per tax return for tuition, fees, and other qualified educational expenses. Unlike the AOTC, this credit is limited to the amount of tax you owe, so it is not refundable. Also unlike the AOTC, there is no limit of years this credit can be claimed.

For more information about these and other tax benefits for education, please visit **https://studentaid.ed.gov/types/tax-benefits**.

To learn more, go to **www.studentaid.ed.gov** and **www.calgrants.org**.

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www.facebook.com/CSAC.StudentAidCommission **http://www.youtube.com/CaStudentAid**

The Fund Your Future online workbook is provided by the California Student Aid Commission and can be viewed at **www.csac.ca.gov**.

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FINANCIAL AID TIMELINE AND CHECKLIST

FALL OF SENIOR YEAR

Prepare
- Focus on your grades and credits to graduate.
- Search online for scholarships (see page 17).
- Attend your school's fall financial aid workshops.
- Ask if your school will submit your verified Cal Grant GPA electronically, or if you'll need to submit it using the paper Cal Grant GPA Verification form, located at **www.calgrants.org**.

Explore and Compare
- Talk to your high school counselor about your college plans and financial needs. Ask about scholarships offered by local organizations and businesses.
- Browse the Web for college and career planning tips (see page 17).
- Use cost calculators to help you determine the cost of education at a particular school. Schools are required to have these calculators available to you online.

BEGINNING IN JANUARY

Apply
- Submit your FAFSA or California Dream Act Application and verified Cal Grant GPA after **January 1** and before **March 2*.** If your parents (or you) haven't yet completed a federal tax return, use estimates. Make updates or corrections later.
- After you submit a FAFSA, review your Student Aid Report (SAR) for eligibility.

Deadlines
- Apply for a Cal Grant or Middle Class Scholarship by the **March 2*** Cal Grant deadline.
- Check with each college you're considering about other financial aid deadlines, and mark your calendar.

Free Help
- Free financial aid is available; never pay for the FAFSA or to have it completed for you. Attend a Free Cash for College workshop in January or February for help completing the FAFSA or California Dream Act Application and other forms. For dates and locations, go to **www.californiacashforcollege.org**.

Keep It Together
- Keep all of your FAFSA or California Dream Act and Cal Grant online account information in one place for easy access.

SPRING/ SUMMER

Track Your Cal Grant
- After you've completed your FAFSA or California Dream Act Application, visit **www.webgrants4students.org** to open your very own Cal Grant account. You can review your California Aid Report (CAR), which you'll receive in an email notification after you apply and are approved for a Cal Grant. You can make corrections and updates on final school choice and confirm your high school graduation.
- Complete your high school graduation confirmation paperwork once you are notified to do so.

Evaluate and Compare
- Watch and respond to college acceptance letters and financial aid offers.
- Review financial aid offers carefully; ask questions. Use the "Compare Your Aid Awards" tool at **www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org**.
- Consider grants, scholarships, work-study and other aid you don't have to repay before accepting a student loan.
- If needed, borrow only what you need, and check out low-interest federal student loans at **www.studentloans.gov**.

CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT FINANCIAL AID

The California Dream Act allows undocumented and documented students who meet the requirements below to apply for and receive state financial aid at California public and private colleges and private scholarships administered by California public colleges.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

STUDENTS WHO:

- Have attended a California high school for a minimum of three years;
- Graduate from a California high school or pass the California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE) or get a General Equivalency Diploma (GED);
- Enroll in an accredited and qualified California college or university;
- Fill out an affidavit to legalize immigration status as soon as eligible.

FALL

- Apply for scholarships at campus websites.
- Visit **www.maldef.org** and **www.e4fc.org** for a list of scholarships.
- Community college students apply for a Board of Governor's Fee Waiver (BOG). **www.icanaffordcollege.com**

BEGINNING IN JANUARY

- Students can apply online for a Cal Grant, Middle Class Scholarship, Chafee Grant and other state aid using the California Student Aid Commission's secure California Dream Act Application at **www.caldreamact.org**.
- Apply for a Cal Grant, Middle Class Scholarship or UC and CSU institutional grants, by **March 2**.*
- Other state Dream Act aid such as EOP, EOPS, CARE and CalWORKs may be available through your campus. Contact your financial aid and scholarship office for further details.

SUMMER

- After completing the California Dream Act Application, check with your campus financial aid and scholarship office for further details.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

Completing the DACA process does not prevent students from applying for California Dream Act financial aid. California students who have applied for or received approval for Deferred Action should complete the California Dream Act Application, not the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Learn more at **www.uscis.gov**, **www.e4fc.org** or **www.weownthedream.org**.

Persons who receive a "Valid for Work Only" Social Security card as a result of completing the DACA process do not meet the federal financial aid requirements. If the student meets the AB 540 requirements, he or she should complete the California Dream Act Application and contact the financial aid office at the colleges he or she is considering to see if any other applications are required.

Dream Act Eligibility

AB 540 students may be:

- Students who are undocumented;
- U.S. citizens who are not California residents, including dependent students living in the state whose parents are not California residents and sometimes former California residents.

The California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request Form or "Affidavit" is how you officially become classified as an AB 540 student. Visit **www.caldreamact.org**.

Also, students with non-immigrants U Visas can file the Dream Act Application. Holders of T Visas must file the FAFSA.

Important Information for AB 540 Students

Males ages 18-25 must register with Selective Service for Cal Grant and other state aid:

- An SSN is not needed to register.
- Selective Service does not share data.
- Download the form at **www.sss.gov**.
- Take form to U.S. Post Office or register on-site, sign and mail.

Students and parents residing in the United States who file U.S. tax returns:

- Students may be required to provide a copy of the U.S. tax return by their college/university if selected for verification.
- The IRS does not share data.

Your California Dream Act Application information is not shared with federal databases. California Dream Act student and parent information is protected by the same privacy and information security laws and safeguards as all other Cal Grant applicants.

** When a state deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, applications will be accepted through the next working day.*

START WITH THE FAFSA OR CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT APPLICATION

Go online and complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid**, or **FAFSA**. The FAFSA is the universal application for most financial aid for higher education. The federal government, states and colleges use the results to determine how much financial aid you may qualify to receive.

California students who have applied for or received approval for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) should complete the California Dream Act Application, not the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

GET FREE HELP

Students can get help applying for financial aid

In Person: Ask your school for help, attend your school's financial aid event or a free California Cash for College workshop in January or February. Cash for College workshops offer help in other languages. Students can get help applying for California Dream Act aid. For dates, locations and a list of what to bring, go to **www.californiacashforcollege.org**.

Online: At **www.fafsa.gov**, find help for questions or click on the Live Help button located inside each page.

Phone: Call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243 (TTY 1-800-730-8913) Monday through Friday 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Pacific Time

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS MAY QUALIFY FOR $1,000

High school seniors who attend a Cash for College workshop and apply for a Cal Grant by the **March 2** deadline could qualify for an extra $1,000 scholarship.

CASH FOR COLLEGE

http://www.facebook.com/CashforCollegeCalifornia
@Cash4CollegeCa

HOW DO YOU APPLY?

A quick way to compare offers and determine your net costs is to subtract all your grant, scholarship and other free aid from your cost of attendance. Keep in mind that colleges have different ways of awarding financial aid as well as different costs of attendance.

GET READY

COLLECT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

Social Security number
- You'll need it to apply for most federal and state aid (not needed for California Dream Act Application). If you don't have one, go to **www.ssa.gov** or call the Social Security office at 1-800-772-1213. California students who have applied for or received approval for Deferred Action should complete the California Dream Act Application.

Your driver's license number
- If you have one.

Your alien registration number
- If you are not a U.S. citizen (not needed for California Dream Act Application).

Your financial aid records
- This includes your W-2 Forms or other records of money earned, current bank statements, business and investment records, and records of untaxed income.

An email address
- If you provide one, you'll receive your results sooner. Be sure it is an appropriate email address.

DO I NEED TO PROVIDE PARENT FINANCIAL INFORMATION?

- Learn more at **www.studentaid.ed.gov**.

- If you are an **independent** student, you will report your own information.
- If you're married, your spouse's information will be reported as well.

- If you are a **dependent** student, you will report your and your parent's information.

The FAFSA and California Dream Act Applications ask for information about you, your family, your finances and your college plans.

COMPLETE THE FAFSA ONLINE

TAKE ACTION

- ☐ Complete the FAFSA to apply for aid for the school year. (For schools with year-round admissions and rolling starts, contact the financial aid office to find out which FAFSA to submit.)
- ☐ Schedule an hour. The FAFSA should take less than an hour if you have your completed FAFSA on the Web Worksheet in front of you.
- ☐ Read all the instructions, work through each step and review your answers carefully. Careless errors can delay processing, which could mean missed deadlines and dollars.
- ☐ Be sure your name matches your name as it appears on your Social Security card. Using a nickname will delay processing. If you've changed your name, update your records with the Social Security Administration at **www.ssa.gov**. (Also notify Social Security if you've become a U.S. citizen.)

DON'T HAVE A COMPUTER?
Look into using one at your school or library. You can save your FAFSA for up to 45 days at a time, so you don't have to complete it in one sitting.

- ☐ Don't mail or date your paper FAFSA before January 1. It will be returned to you unprocessed and you'll need to submit it again.
- ☐ Photocopies or faxes of the FAFSA are not accepted.
- ☐ Don't send any tax forms, letters of explanation or other materials with your FAFSA – they'll be shredded. If you or your family have unusual circumstances you feel should be considered, complete the FAFSA as best you can. Then contact the financial aid office of each college you're considering.
- ☐ If you provide an email address, you'll get an instant confirmation that your FAFSA was received; which you should save.
- ☐ If you don't already have a Federal Student Aid PIN (personal identification number), you'll receive one when you're completing the FAFSA. (If you're a dependent student, your parent will need to get a PIN.) To get a PIN before starting the FAFSA, go to **www.pin.ed.gov**. You can even select your own PIN. It can be used to e-sign your FAFSA or master promissory note.

AB 540 STUDENTS
Complete the California Dream Act Application.

- ☐ E-sign your FAFSA using your Federal Student Aid PIN and provide an email address to receive an estimate of your EFC instantly. Your application will be processed faster, usually within three to five business days.
- ☐ Keep a copy of your FAFSA for your records. Also keep copies of the financial records you used to complete the FAFSA. Your college may ask to see them.
- ☐ Use your PIN to check on the status of your FAFSA, correct or print your Student Aid Report or view your federal financial aid records at **www.nslds.ed.gov**. Don't give your PIN to anyone – not even to someone who works in a financial aid office, or who is helping you fill out the FAFSA.

If you'd like additional colleges to receive your FAFSA information, go to **www.fafsa.gov** (or call 1-800-433-3243). If you have to delete a college before adding a new one, be sure the first college has already received your information.

CAL GRANTS ARE FREE MONEY – APPLY BY MARCH 2

The Cal Grant guarantee

If you're a high school graduate or recent high school graduate from a California high school, meet the eligibility requirements and apply by **March 2***, you're guaranteed to receive a Cal Grant.

You don't have to figure out which Cal Grant applies to you. Your eligibility is based on your FAFSA or California Dream Act Application responses, verified Cal Grant GPA, the California colleges you list on your FAFSA and whether you're a recent high school graduate.

Your Cal Grant follows you to whichever eligible California school you choose. You can get up to $12,192 for college or up to $3,009 a year for career training. And you don't have to pay it back. Find out more at **www.calgrants.org**. Cal Grant offers are subject to state budget requirements.

**When a state deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, applications will be accepted through the next working day.*

TO BE ELIGIBLE YOU MUST

- submit the FAFSA or California Dream Act Application and your verified Cal Grant GPA by the deadline;
- be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, California Dream Act student or other eligible noncitizen (your parents don't need to be);
- be a California resident;
- meet any minimum GPA requirements;
- have a Social Security number (not needed for California Dream Act);
- attend a qualifying California college;
- be pursuing an undergraduate associate or bachelor's degree, or an occupational training program;
- not have a bachelor's or professional degree (except for the Cal Grant Extended Awards for a teaching credential program);
- have financial need based on your college costs and your EFC;
- have family income and assets below the established maximum levels;
- be in a program leading to an undergraduate degree or certificate;
- be enrolled at least half time;
- register with U.S. Selective Service (males ages 18-25); and
- not owe a refund on a state or federal grant, or be in default on a student loan.

Are you attending a qualified institution? Check it out at **www.csac.ca.gov**.

CAL GRANTS AT A GLANCE

Cal Grant:	You can receive up to:**
Cal Grant A 3.0 high school GPA required	• $12,192 at University of California • $5,472 at California State University • $8,056 at qualifying private California colleges • $4,000 at non-WASC accredited for-profit institutions • If you attend a California Community College, your grant is held in reserve until transfer
Cal Grant B 2.0 high school GPA required	• $1,473 living allowance for your first year, plus tuition and fee award beyond first year in the same amounts as Cal Grant A
Cal Grant C	• $547 for books, tools and equipment for a technical or career education • $2,462 for tuition (if not attending a California Community College)
Cal Grant Transfer Entitlement Award 2.4 community college GPA required	• Same as Cal Grant A or Cal Grant B

***Cal Grant offers are subject to state budget requirements, check out www.csac.ca.gov for current award amounts.*

For more information, visit **www.calgrants.org** or **www.csac.ca.gov**.

CAL GRANTS: OPPORTUNITIES TO APPLY

CHECK FOR A CAL GRANT ELIGIBLE SCHOOL AT WWW.CSAC.CA.GOV

BEST PLACE TO START

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR

Apply as a high school senior by March 2*

- Cal Grants are worth up to $12,192 annually, depending on your school and attendance
- Use at a qualifying campus for up to 4 years
- Best option to maximize the Cal Grant
- All public and many private California institutions qualify. Check out where your Cal Grant can be used at **www.calgrants.org**

COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFER STUDENT

Transferring from a community college to a 4 year school

- As a California Community College Transfer student, as long as you are under the age of 28
- Apply by **March 2*** in the year you plan to transfer

RECENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

Apply after high school and within 1 year of high school graduation or GED

- Up to 4 years of Cal Grants of up to $12,192
- Complete FAFSA or California Dream Act Application/submit high school GPA by **March 2***
- Go back to the high school you graduated from for your GPA

CAREER TECHNICAL SCHOOL STUDENT

Cal Grant C – Career Technical Grant

- Complete FAFSA by **March 2***
- List Career Technical School on FAFSA
- Course of study must be occupation or career technical

OTHER STUDENTS

All other students can apply for Competitive Cal Grants

- If you are a California Community College student, apply for a Competitive Cal Grant by completing the FAFSA and Cal Grant GPA by **September 2** of each year. Your college will submit your GPA for you. You must submit a FAFSA.
- Students of any age can apply for competitive Cal Grants by the **March 2*** Cal Grant deadline.

Track Your Cal Grant 24/7

Open a WebGrants4Students Account to track your Cal Grant or California Chafee Grant. Visit **www.webgrants4students.org** after you have submitted your FAFSA, California Dream Act Application or California Chafee Grant Application.

Every year you attend college, submit your FAFSA or California Dream Act Application.

MORE FREE MONEY

FILE A FAFSA OR CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT APPLICATION* TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THESE GRANTS

Type of Grants	Conditions for Eligibility
Federal Pell Grant Up to $5,645 for 2014-15, amounts can change yearly Visit **www.studentaid.ed.gov** for current award amounts	• Your cost of attendance and expected family contribution • Whether attending full or part time • Must not already have a bachelor's degree†
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) From $100 to $4,000 a year (funds are limited). Visit **www.studentaid.ed.gov**	• Your cost of attendance and expected family contribution • Priority given to Pell Grant recipients with the lowest expected family contributions • Whether attending full or part time
Federal TEACH Grants Up to $4,000 a year. Visit **www.studentaid.ed.gov** or contact the financial aid office at the college or university you plan to attend	• Be enrolled in, or plan to complete, coursework to begin a teaching career • Maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 • Sign agreement to serve as a paid full-time teacher in a high-need field serving low-income students • Agree to teach at least four academic years within eight years of completing your program of study • If you fail to complete your obligation, the grant converts to an unsubsidized Stafford loan you must repay with interest
***California Chafee Grant** Up to $5,000 a year for job training or college in addition to any other state or federal aid you receive. Visit **www.chafee.csac.ca.gov**; or contact your school, caseworker or Independent Living Coordinator	• You are or were in foster care between ages 16-18 • Stay in school and maintain good grades • Be enrolled at least half time • *Requires a Chafee Grant application (doesn't require a Social Security number)*
Child Development Grants $1,000 a year (at a California Community College) or $2,000 a year (at a four-year college); up to $6,000 total. Visit **www.csac.ca.gov**; choose "Financial Aid Programs"	• Be pursuing a child development permit and plan to work at a licensed children's center in California • Must sign a Service Commitment Agreement to teach or supervise in a California licensed child care facility • *Requires a Child Development Grant application*
***Middle Class Scholarship** Award amounts will vary and will be increased yearly until maximum award amount is reached in 2017. Visit **www.csac.ca.gov**.	• Be an undergraduate student • Meet Cal Grant eligibility requirements • Attend a UC or CSU • Family income up to $150,000 NEW
Law Enforcement Personnel Dependents Grant Up to $13,665 a year. Visit **www.csac.ca.gov** and choose "Financial Aid Programs"	• Dependent or spouse of a California peace officer, firefighter or certain other law enforcement employee who died or became 100 percent disabled in the line of duty • *Requires a Law Enforcement Personnel Dependents Grant application*
***University of California (UC)** Visit **www.universityofcalifornia.edu**	• Nearly two-thirds of all undergraduate students receive UC grant and scholarship aid, with an average award of about $14,000
***California State University (CSU)** Visit **www.calstate.edu** or **www.csumentor.edu**	• The CSU grant assists California residents with financial need
***California Community College (CCC) Board of Governor (BOG) Fee Waiver** Visit **www.icanaffordcollege.com**	• If you qualify for a Cal Grant or have financial need, you may receive a fee waiver • *Completing the FAFSA is recommended, regardless of the type of CCC Fee Waiver, to qualify for federal and more state aid.*

†*Except for students working toward teacher certification.*

FINANCIAL AID FOR SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

Even if you hope for scholarships, submit the FAFSA and verified GPA to make the most of your financial aid options.

Athletes

Plan to play sports in college? Register with the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Visit **www.ncaa.org** or call 1-877-262-1492.

Foster Youth

Check into scholarships and fee waivers. Chafee Grant for Foster Youth, which provides up to $5,000 in grant aid for college, **www.chafee.csac.ca.gov** and **www.csac.ca.gov**. Some colleges offer tuition waiver and scholarships; learn more at **www.calyouthconn.org** and **www.orphan.org**.

California Conservation Corps

Earn up to $2,000 for college or vocational training while working outdoors serving your state and taking community college classes, adult education classes or pursuing your high school diploma. Successfully complete classes and 48 hours of volunteer service; learn more at **www.ccc.ca.gov**.

Students with Dependents

If you're both a parent and a student, you may be eligible for financial support and help with child care, transportation and job or training expenses through the CalWORKs program. Contact your county social services office for more information.

Students with Disabilities

All public and many independent colleges provide services to disabled students, including (but not limited to) counseling, tutoring, readers, interpreters, note takers, special parking zones or the loan of special equipment. Your cost of attendance should include all expenses necessary to accommodate your disability that aren't already covered by insurance or other sources. Contact your college's disabled students office or the national or local organizations serving your particular disability. Or go to **www.dor.ca.gov** to learn more about the services offered through the California Department of Rehabilitation. Learn about additional services from the HEATH Resource Center at **www.heath.gwu.edu**.

Military and Their Dependents

Through the Montgomery GI Bill, active-duty service members and veterans can receive a monthly tax-free benefit to be used for tuition, books, fees and living expenses, while earning a degree or certification (including undergraduate and graduate degrees), or attending trade school. For more information on GI Bills and other education benefits for the military, veterans and their dependents, contact your college's veterans affairs office, call the local office of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-888-442-4551 or go to **www.gibill.va.gov**.

California National Guard

The California National Guard Education Award Assistance Program (CNG EAAP) is a state-funded program designed to provide an education incentive to improve skills, competencies and abilities for active members of the California National Guard, State Military Reserve or Naval Militia who have completed at least two years of service. The Adjutant General will select up to 1,000 participants for the CNG EAAP. For more information, click on "Money for College" at **www.calguard.ca.gov**.

What is the biggest obstacle keeping people from college?

Perceived cost.

To make it easier for prospective students to figure out how much it will cost them to go to college, Congress passed a higher education law requiring all colleges to offer a "net price calculator" on their websites.

STUDENT LOANS

Remember, student loans must be repaid like loans for a car or house – and with interest. Only borrow what you need to fill the gap between grants or scholarships and the cost to attend school. Learn more at **www.studentloans.gov** and **www.studentaid.gov**.

FEDERAL LOANS

Federal student and parent loans through the Federal Direct Loan program from the U.S. Department of Education

Direct Loans are low-interest loans for students and parents. Loans help pay for the cost of higher education after high school. You'll have a single point of contact and online access to your Direct Loan account information. There are several repayment options to choose from. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA.

Subsidized

For students with demonstrated financial need, no interest is charged while in school at least half time. Up to $3,500 in first year of college, and up to $5,500 annually in senior year.

Unsubsidized

Not based on financial need; interest is charged during all periods, from $5,500 in first year of college, up to $7,500 a year in senior year.

PLUS

Unsubsidized loans for parents of dependent students and for graduate/professional students. Interest is charged during all periods.

Consolidation

Eligible federal student loans can be combined into one loan. Resulting in a single monthly payment and may provide alternative repayment plans.

REPAYING STUDENT LOANS

You can work with your loan servicer and select a federal student loan repayment plan that works for you; standard, graduated, extended repayment, income-based, pay as you earn, income contingent and income sensitive. Learn about loan repayment options, management tools and calculators; go to **www.studentloans.gov** for more information.

Go to **StudentLoans.gov**:
- Find out about Direct Loans
- Receive loan entrance counseling
- Manage your federal loan

FEDERAL LOAN REPAYMENT PLANS

Standard - You fully repay the loan and all interest accrued with fixed monthly payments for up to 10 years.

Graduated - You fully repay the loan and all interest accrued for up to 10 years with payments that start out lower, but increase over time.

Extended - Up to 25 years (for borrowers with balances of $30,000 or more) in which you fully repay the loan and all interest accrued with fixed or graduated payments.

Income-Based - Your monthly payment is based on your discretionary income. Payments will be less than the Standard plan; however, you'll end up paying more over time, but any amount not repaid after the equivalent of 25 years of payments will be forgiven. Financial hardship conditions apply.

Pay As You Earn - Your monthly payment is based on your discretionary income. Payments will be less than the Standard plan; however, you'll end up paying more over time, but any amount not repaid after the equivalent of 20 years of payments will be forgiven. Financial hardship conditions apply.

Income-Contingent - Your monthly payment will be recalculated each year depending on your income and other factors. Like the Income-based repayment plan, any amount not repaid after the equivalent of 25 years of payments will be forgiven.

Learn more about federal student loan repayment and federal loan forgiveness programs (that's where you work in a certain occupation, pay on your loans for a fixed period, and any remaining balance is forgiven!) at **http://studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans**.

If you don't repay your loan, you'll damage your credit rating, making it harder and more expensive to borrow money in the future.

PRIVATE LOANS

If you still need money and have exhausted options for grants and scholarships, you may want to look into private loans. These loans often carry a higher interest rate and fees. Compare lenders to make the best choice for you.

AFTER YOU APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

Review your Student Aid Report (SAR)

If you submit your FAFSA online and provide all the required e-signatures and an email address, you'll usually receive your SAR within 72 hours. To ensure you receive the email, designate the following email address as "safe": **cpsnotify@cpsemail.ed.gov**. If you submit the paper FAFSA, it could take up to two weeks to receive your SAR.

The SAR contains the information you provided on the FAFSA and lists your expected family contribution, or EFC, for the school year. Look for this number next to "EFC" at the top of your SAR – there won't be a dollar sign. If there are any numbers after the EFC, even zeros, then your EFC was calculated. An EFC of 02500, for example, means that your EFC would be $2,500 for the academic year. Your EFC may be more or less than what you actually end up paying for college.

If there are no numbers, your SAR is incomplete and you must provide additional information or corrections before your EFC can be calculated.

Review your SAR right away for accuracy, and follow the instructions if you need to make corrections. If you don't receive your SAR within two weeks, or if you need another copy, go to **www.fafsa.gov** or call 1-800-433-3243.

Each college you list on your FAFSA will receive your SAR information and will use your EFC to determine your eligibility for federal grants, loans and work-study, and possible institution-based aid. The California Student Aid Commission will also receive it to evaluate your eligibility for a Cal Grant and other California state aid as long as you list at least one California college and indicate you're a California resident.

How will I find out how much financial aid I will receive?

The financial aid office at each college you list on your FAFSA will provide you with an evaluation of your eligibility for financial aid if you submitted the required financial aid applications and met the deadlines. Your financial aid offers will vary by college, so be sure to review them carefully.

Review your California Aid Report (CAR)

If you're offered a Cal Grant, you'll receive an email notification from the California Student Aid Commission. To ensure you receive the email, designate the following email addresses as "safe": **studentsupport@csac.ca.gov** and **calgrantoffice@csac.ca.gov**. To view your CAR, go to **www.webgrants4students.org**. The CAR is an estimated Cal Grant award and should be considered a tentative offer. Cal Grant awards are subject to approval of the final state budget. It is imperative to list a valid email address on your FAFSA as the Commission will send an email regarding Cal Grants to that address.

If you need to make corrections, such as a college change, use the New Recipient Change Form that came with your notification or go to **www.webgrants4students.org**. Choose "Forms/Applications" on the right.

If you submitted both the FAFSA and your verified Cal Grant GPA but were not awarded a Cal Grant, you'll receive notification explaining why.

If you submitted only the FAFSA and no GPA – and you're not pursuing a career or technical education – you won't receive a notification because you didn't meet the Cal Grant application requirements.

If you'll be attending a California Community College in the fall and submitted both your FAFSA and your verified Cal Grant GPA by the September 2 deadline, you'll receive a notification in early October indicating your eligibility status for a Cal Grant.

How will you receive your financial aid?

At the beginning of each term, any federal or state financial aid you receive will go to your college first to pay for tuition and fees (and room and board, if provided by your school). Within the first few weeks of classes, you'll usually receive any remaining funds to cover your books, supplies, transportation expenses and other college costs on a debit card, by direct deposit or by check. Any nonfederal or state scholarships or grants you applied for yourself may be sent to you or your college. For work-study or student employment programs, you'll be paid after you've worked, usually every two weeks. However, some schools may apply the wages you earn directly to your student account for unpaid balances.

Since you cannot receive more financial aid than the cost of attendance, colleges must apply any outside scholarships or grants toward your unmet financial need or reduce other aid – these awards can't replace your EFC. You can ask your school to reduce loan or student employment aid rather than grant aid, but most colleges have an established procedure for handling outside scholarships or grants. It's your responsibility to create a spending plan to make sure your financial aid lasts the entire term. Refer to the Spending Plan worksheet on page 15.

SAR AND CAR

Sample Student Aid Report (SAR notification)

A notification from the U.S. Department of Education that will have a link to view your actual SAR.

SAMPLE

From: Federal Student Aid [mailto:FederalStudentAidFAFSA@cpsemail.ed.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, February 5, 2013 9:50 AM
To: Doe, Jane
Subject: FAFSA for 2014-2015 Processed Successfully

Dear JANE,

Congratulations, your FAFSA was processed successfully.

What Happens Next
- Your FAFSA information was sent to the school(s) on your FAFSA, and they will contact you if they need additional information.
- Your school(s) will use your FAFSA information to determine the aid you may be eligible to receive.
- Contact your school(s) with any questions about your financial aid package.

Your Student Aid Report
Your Student Aid Report (SAR), which contains the information you submitted on your FAFSA, is now available online at the link below. Your school(s) will use the information on your SAR to calculate the amount of federal student aid you are eligible to receive.

You should view your SAR and check for any errors by selecting the link below:
https://fafsa.gov/FAFSA/app/fafsa?cycle=1314&key=MZd3oSqciPTMBiM876LVbw

If you can't select the link, copy the entire link and paste it into the address or location line of your Web browser. Make sure you copy and paste the entire link, as it may appear on multiple lines. You can also go to www.fafsa.gov and log in to view your SAR.

Questions
Visit www.fafsa.gov and click the "Help" icon on the FAFSA home page.

Thank You,

U.S. Department of Education
Federal Student Aid

Sample California Aid Report (CAR)

You'll receive a notification from the California Student Aid Commission to access your CAR.

SAMPLE

CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION

Cal Grant Program Award Offer
2013-2014 California Aid Report (CAR)

Congratulations! The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) is offering you an estimated preliminary Entitlement Cal Grant award. This potential Cal Grant award is based on the information you have reported on your FAFSA, thereby, it is considered an estimated offer. Before the Cal Grant can be activated, there are further actions that must take place. Please carefully read the information below to understand what you need to do to receive your Cal Grant award. **Please be aware that this award offer may be reduced or withdrawn based on the final State Budget.**

JOHN DOE	Date	02/16/13
123 MAIN ST.	Grant ID Number	E1234XXXX
ANYTOWN, CA 12345	CSAC ID Number	11112XXXX
	Academic Year	2013-2014

AWARD INFORMATION

School Choice, as listed on your FAFSA:	Cal Grant A	Cal Grant B
UNIV OF SOUTHERN CALIF	$9,708	SEE CODE #1
UNIV OF CA - DAVIS	$12,192	SEE CODE #1
NAPA VALLEY COLLEGE	SEE CODE #1A	$1,551

To receive the Cal Grant award offer you must:

- Log on to www.webgrants4students.org and create your WebGrants for Students (WGS) account to manage your Cal Grant online. It is important to know that your WGS account is separate from your school or FAFSA account. Read the Important Facts About Your New Cal Grant Award fact sheet as it has important information you need to know about the Cal Grant award.
- Change your school of attendance on your WGS account if the first school listed above is not the school you plan to attend. The Cal Grant award will be sent to the school listed in your WGS account.
- Contact the college Financial Aid Office if your Cal Grant does not appear on the financial aid award notification you receive from your college and let them know about your Cal Grant award offer.
- Confirm your high school graduation on your WGS account **AFTER** you have satisfied all of your high school graduation requirements. The Cal Grant award cannot be disbursed until you or your school confirms your high school graduation.
- Keep your email address updated so we can send you up-to-date information about the award offer and notify you of any changes that may impact this Cal Grant award offer.

This award offer is pending approval of the final State Budget and could be reduced or withdrawn. After confirmation of the final State Budget, the Cal Grant award will be determined based on your school of attendance, enrollment status, and other eligibility requirements that must be verified by your school before Cal Grant funds can be released to you. To renew your Cal Grant award, you must file a FAFSA each year and continue to meet the income and asset requirements.

If you were offered a Cal Grant A and you attend a California Community College, you will not receive any payments at the community college. Instead, CSAC will hold the award in a Community College Reserve status for up to two years. You may activate the award once you complete your community college education and transfer to an eligible school. A Community College Reserve student must be enrolled for the 2014-15 fall term to remain eligible for the Cal Grant award.

PRIVACY STATEMENT: Please be aware, Cal Grant information for students who are 18 years of age or older will only be released to parents or guardians with written authorization from the student.

Diana Fuentes-Michel, Executive Director
California Student Aid Commission

E1CAR2 (02/12) (over)

Important!

1. Review your SAR and CAR right away.
2. Make corrections in a timely manner.
3. Access your CAR online at **www.webgrants4students.org**.
4. In addition to the SAR and CAR, also watch for financial aid offers from each college to which you've been accepted. It should include the school's cost of attendance (COA); what types of grants, loans or work-study are being offered; and the amount you and your family are expected to contribute (EFC).

EVALUATE YOUR FINANCIAL AID OFFERS

A quick way to compare offers and determine your net costs is to subtract all your grant, scholarship and other free aid from your cost of attendance. Keep in mind that colleges have different ways of awarding financial aid as well as different costs of attendance.[1]

	1	2	3
COLLEGE:			
COST OF ATTENDANCE			
Tuition and fees			
Room and board[2]			
Books and supplies			
Computer allowance			
Other fees			
Other costs			
Total college costs (A)			
GRANT/SCHOLARSHIP AID			
Federal Pell Grant			
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)			
TEACH Grant			
Cal Grant			
Other grants			
Scholarships			
Institution-based aid			
Middle Class Scholarship			
Total grant/scholarship aid (B)			
Your net costs (A – B)			
LOANS			
Federal subsidized Stafford loan			
Federal unsubsidized Stafford loan			
Federal Perkins loan			
Federal PLUS loan			
Private loan			
Total loan aid (C)			
Total financial aid (B + C = D)			
Your out-of-pocket costs (A – D)			
Work-study or student employment (E)			

[1] *Not all colleges participate in all of the financial aid programs listed above.*

[2] *If room and board aren't part of your housing contract, check with the college's housing office or check the local paper or online for rental costs.*

MORE ABOUT FINANCIAL AID

What does it cost to attend college? (COA)

Each college has its own cost of attendance, or COA, which includes tuition, fees, books, supplies, housing, food, transportation and personal expenses for the school year.

Your COA will vary depending on your college and where you live (with your parents, or on or off campus). If you have children or other dependents who require care while you go to class, your COA may also include these expenses. If you have a disability, let your college know about any related expenses that aren't already covered.

Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

Your expected family contribution, or EFC, is the amount of money the government calculates you and your family could reasonably contribute toward your education for the year, based on your and your parents' FAFSA responses. Your EFC determines the types and amounts of federal and state aid you qualify to receive.

Comparing financial aid offers

If you receive offers of financial aid from more than one college, you need to find out what your "net cost" is at each school. The net cost is the cost the student must pay after subtracting all the financial aid he or she will receive from the cost of attendance at the school. Each school will have a special calculator on its website to assist students in comparing the net cost with other schools.

You can compare your offers online by using this calculator:
https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-awards/compare-aid-calculator

SAMPLE COLLEGE FINANCING PLAN

Here is one possible scenario illustrating how one student pays for college. See more sample college financing plans at **http://californiacolleges.edu/finance/finance.asp**.

Student: **Serena** Age: **18** Status: **Single (dependent on parents)** Housing: **At home with parents** Parent income: **$40,000**	**(A) 2013-2014 CSU cost of attendance** (living at home with parents): Fees/tuition: $6,633 Books/supplies/room/board/misc. expenses: $8,825	$15,458
	(B) Grant assistance total Serena is eligible for grant assistance based on her family's financial resources. The campus aid office pulls together grant aid from a variety of sources, including federal Pell Grants, state Cal Grants and the CSU's own grant funding.	$11,067
	(A – B) = Net cost to family The net cost is the amount that Serena's family must pay after need-based grants are taken into account.	$4,391
MANAGING THE NET COST Parents and students work together to cover the net cost using resources provided by the college, including parent and student education loans, part-time work during the academic year and savings from summer earnings. The net cost is not due all at once. Many costs, such as living expenses, are incurred over time. Here is a sample of how Serena's family might cover her net cost.	**Serena's parents** Combination of current earnings, savings or a parent loan: Serena's parents would be expected to contribute $585 for the year.	$585
	Serena Student part-time work during academic year: Student education loans: Savings from summer jobs:	$0 $2,306 $1,500

Explanation: The CSU mandatory systemwide fees are $5,472. But this particular sample college plan on the **www.californiacolleges.edu** website apparently includes campus-based fees, too.

WAYS TO REDUCE COLLEGE COSTS

APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Middle Class Scholarship
State funded program that offers assistance to students not receiving Cal Grants or Pell Grant assistance who file the FAFSA or California Dream Act Application.

Private scholarship
Discuss with your counselor ways to find scholarships through community organizations, foundations, religious organizations, neighborhood banks, and business and professional and trade organizations.

National Merit Scholarships
More than 9,000 scholarships are available each year. Take the Preliminary SSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test in the fall of your junior year in high school. Learn more at **www.nationalmerit.org**.

COMMUNITY SERVICE – BE A VOLUNTEER

AmeriCorps
By becoming a volunteer with one of the AmeriCorps programs, you can earn up to $5,550 a year for college. Learn more at **www.americorps.gov**.

Teach for America
An AmeriCorps program at **www.teachforamerica.org**, pays recent college graduates to teach for two years at disadvantaged schools.

Peace Corps
Incorporate your Peace Corps service into a master's degree program and you may receive financial assistance. Benefits are offered for loan deferment payments or loan debt forgiveness. Get information at **www.peacecorps.gov**, or contact your college.

ENLIST IN THE MILITARY

The U.S. Armed Forces offer education benefits to enlistees for college assistance and tuitions. Scholarships are available through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, too. Consider one of the five U.S. service academies. For detailed information, go to **www.todaysmilitary.com**.

CREDIT FOR EXPERIENCE

Perhaps you are a nontraditional student and you may have received academic credit for your job, volunteer or travel experience through the College-Level Examination Program. See **www.collegeboard.org/clep** for more information.

EARN CREDIT AT HIGH SCHOOL

Look into taking Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses in high school and then take the exams to earn college credit. For details, check with your high school counselor and go to **www.ibo.org** or **http://apcentral.collegeboard.org**.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

Work-learn programs incorporate paid work experience with classroom studies. Alternate your work and school options, full time/part time. Although there's no direct financial aid, you may be able to earn enough to pay for college. Look into **www.workcolleges.org**.

START AT A CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

You'll save thousands of dollars in tuition and have your general education requirements behind you. Go to **www.icanaffordcollege.com**.

PART-TIME WORK

A part-time, summer or holiday season job can also help.

TAX INCENTIVES

Look into tax benefits that will help you get back some of the money you spend on tuition or loan interest or help with college savings to maximize benefits. Learn more about the American Opportunity Tax Credit, Lifetime Learning Credit, qualified tuition programs and interest deductions at **studentaid.ed.gov/types/tax-benefits**.

COMPANY-PAID EDUCATION

Some employers may pay or reimburse you for some or all of your education and training. Many companies and labor unions offer scholarships for children and even grandchildren of employees. Ask your family about scholarships available through their work.

AID FOR FOSTER YOUTH

Money is set aside for foster youth. If you are or were in foster care, you may be eligible for financial assistance for college or job training. Check out Chafee Grants for up to $5,000 a year in free aid, **www.chafee.csac.ca.gov**. Check on college waivers and scholarships at **www.calyouthconn.org**. Another scholarship source for former foster youth is **www.orphan.org**.

JOBS THAT HELP YOU REPAY YOUR LOANS

Some jobs actually give you both a paycheck and help you pay down your student loans. Learn about the many programs at **www.studentaid.ed.gov**. Programs include: health care; child care providers through Head Start; volunteer service in VISTA or Peace Corps; U.S. federal/public service for employees; law and teaching.

SPENDING PLAN WORKSHEET

Use this worksheet to help get a clear picture of your income and expenses. If your expenses are more than your income, you'll need to look for ways to reduce expenses and/or supplement your income.

INCOME SOURCE		Estimated monthly total	Estimated yearly total
Earnings			
Money from savings			
Money from parents			
Work-study / student employment			
Scholarships			
Grants			
Loans			
Spouse's wages			
Other			
Total income		$	$
EXPENSES		**Estimated monthly total**	**Estimated yearly total**
Tuition			
Fees			
Loan payments			
Books / supplies			
Rent / housing			
Gas / electricity			
Cell phone service			
Internet service / TV service			
Other			
Child care			
Transportation:	Car gas and maintenance		
	Car insurance and registration		
	Car payment		
	Public transportation		
	Parking		
Food:	Groceries		
	Restaurants		
	Coffee, snacks		
Clothing:	Clothes		
	Laundry / dry cleaning		
Entertainment			
Credit card payments			
Medical / dental insurance and expenses			
Miscellaneous			
Total expenses		$	$
Total income minus total expenses =		$ (available funds)	$ (available funds)

TERMS TO KNOW

The most important definitions are highlighted.

Ability-to-benefit test: one way to determine eligibility for federal aid for students who aren't high school graduates or don't have a GED certificate.

California Aid Report (CAR): the report from the California Student Aid Commission reporting your Cal Grant eligibility; estimates your Cal Grant award.

California residency: you're considered a California resident if you're an unmarried student, under 18, and your parents have been legal California residents for one year prior to the residence determination date of the college you will attend, or September 20, if your college does not have a residence determination date; if you've lived for two years with a legal California resident, other than a parent; or if a parent is in the U.S. Armed Forces, stationed in California and on active duty when you enroll. All married students, regardless of age, and unmarried students 18 or older, must establish their own residency.

California Student Aid Report (CalSAR): Upon completing the CA Dream Act Application, the student will be able to print out a CalSAR which displays their application responses.

Campus-based aid: federal programs administered by colleges: federal Perkins loan, federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant and Federal Work-Study.

Capitalization: when interest is added to the principal balance of a loan rather than being paid as it accrues; any future interest is based on the higher loan amount.

Citizen/national: U.S. citizens are those born in one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia or abroad to a U.S. citizen. Nationals include citizens of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, and natives of American Samoa and Swain's Island.

Cost of attendance (COA): the total cost of college for the school year as calculated by the college, including tuition, fees, books, supplies, transportation, food, housing, personal expenses and sometimes the rental or purchase of a computer; also known as the student budget.

DACA: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. A federal program that protects young immigrants from deportation for two years at a time.

Default: failure to make the required payments on your student loan or otherwise honor a loan's terms.

Deferment: temporary postponement of payment on your student loan. Interest accrues unless your loan is subsidized by the federal government. Common reasons for deferment include attending school at least half time, and economic hardship/unemployment.

Delinquency: the state of being behind on your loan payments.

Direct Loan Servicing Center: all federal student loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2010, are handled by the Direct Loan Servicing Center, the U.S. Department of Education's agent contracted to collect Direct Loans and handle deferments, forbearances and repayment options.

Eligible noncitizen: a U.S. permanent resident who has a Permanent Resident Card (I-551 or I-151); a conditional permanent resident (I-551C); or a noncitizen who has an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services with one of the following designations: Refugee (including noncitizen victims of human trafficking), Asylum Granted, Parolee (the I-94 confirms paroled for a minimum of one year and status has not expired), T-Visa holder or Cuban-Haitian Entrant.

Expected family contribution (EFC): the portion of your own and your family's financial resources that should be available to pay for college, based on a federal formula using the information on your FAFSA.

FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid; the application used to apply for federal and most state financial aid, and sometimes institutional aid.

Federal processor: the federal government's computer system that analyzes the information on your FAFSA, calculates your expected family contribution and sends out the Student Aid Report.

Financial aid eligibility: the difference between your expected family contribution and the college's cost of attendance; also known as your financial need.

Financial aid package: the total amount of financial aid offered by a school; usually a combination of grants, scholarships, work-study and loans.

Forbearance: temporary postponement or reduction of your monthly loan payment. Interest continues to accrue, increasing the loan balance. Forbearance must be approved by your loan servicer.

GED: General Educational Development test/certificate used to measure high school academic achievement (in place of a diploma).

GPA: grade point average.

Grant: financial aid that doesn't have to be repaid; usually based on financial need.

Independent college: a nonprofit, private college that is not run by a government organization.

Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN): An ITIN is a tax processing number only available for certain nonresident and resident aliens. If a person obtains a Social Security Number (SSN), they no longer use their ITIN.

Institutional methodology: the formula used by some colleges to determine your eligibility for institutional aid; may count home equity and other assets the FAFSA does not.

Institution-based aid: financial assistance offered and controlled by individual colleges, such as alumni scholarships and endowments from private donors; also called institutional aid.

Interest: the money you will be charged for taking out a loan.

Loan servicer: a company that handles all the administrative tasks associated with a loan, such as establishing repayment terms, handling deferment and forbearance requests, and accepting and collecting payments

Merit-based aid: financial aid based on grades, test scores, athletic ability, talents or other criteria, not income or assets.

Middle Class Scholarship: State funded program that offers assistance to students not receiving Cal Grants or Pell Grant assistance who file the FAFSA or California Dream Act.

Need-based aid: financial aid that is based on your own or your family's income or assets; most financial aid offered by the government is need-based.

Net cost of attendance or net price: what a student pays to attend a higher education institution; the school's cost of attendance minus money for college that doesn't have to be repaid, including grants and scholarships.

PIN: personal identification number from the U.S. Department of Education that serves as your e-signature on the electronic FAFSA; also can be used to check on the status of your FAFSA, correct or print your Student Aid Report, sign your master promissory note and view your federal financial aid records.

Principal (loan): the amount you originally borrowed, plus any capitalized interest.

Private career college: a for-profit institution offering a course of study or job skills beyond high school.

Satisfactory academic progress (SAP): as established by your college, the progress you must maintain toward obtaining a degree or certificate to continue receiving financial aid, and the GPA you must maintain.

Scholarship: money for college that you don't have to repay; awarded based on grades, test scores, major, heritage or other criteria, and sometimes, financial need.

Selective Service registration: males (citizens and eligible noncitizens) ages 18-25 who are not currently on active duty in the Armed Forces must register with the Selective Service for military draft to receive federal student aid.

Social Security number (SSN): nine-digit number issued to U.S. citizens, permanent residents and temporary (working) residents by the U.S. Social Security Administration.

Student Aid Report (SAR): summarizes the information you provide on the FAFSA.

Undocumented students: students who live in the U.S. and are not U.S. citizens or eligible noncitizens and who don't have an Alien Registration Card, visa or other legal documentation; includes students or their families who entered the country legally on tourist or work visas and chose to stay after their visas expired.

Untaxed income: all income you receive that's not taxed or may not be reported to the IRS.

Verification: the procedure by which a college verifies the information reported on the FAFSA, usually by requesting a copy of your (and/or your parents') signed tax return and other documentation.

Veteran: a person who has engaged in active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces; or is a National Guard or Reserve enlistee called to active duty for purposes other than training; or who was a cadet or midshipman at one of the service academies; and who was released under a condition other than dishonorable or who'll be a veteran by June 30, 2013.

CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION

John R. McDowell, Jr. (Chairman)
General Public Representative
Speaker of Assembly Appointee

Ana Beltran (Vice Chair)
Secondary Schools Representative
Governor Appointee

Cris Arzate (Secretary)
General Public Representative
Senate Rules Appointee

Nancy Anton
General Public Representative
Governor Appointee

Larry Asera
Public, Proprietary Non-Profit Representative
Governor Appointee

Brian E. Conley
General Public Representative
Speaker of Assembly Appointee

Jacqueline Doud
Independent California Colleges and Universities Representative
Governor Appointee

Hal Geiogue
General Public Representative
Governor Appointee

Harry Le Grande
UC Representative
Governor Appointee

Jamillah Moore
California Community Colleges Representative
Governor Appointee

Wm. Gregory Sawyer
California State University Representative
Governor Appointee

Jack Scott
General Public Representative
Senate Rules Appointee

Michele Siqueiros
General Public Representative
Governor Appointee

Vacant
Public, Proprietary Non-Profit Representative
Governor Appointee

Vacant
Student Representative
Governor Appointee

Vacant
Student Representative
Governor Appointee

CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES

COLLEGE FUNDING

California student aid & Cal Grants
www.calgrants.org
www.csac.ca.gov
www.ca.gov/education

California Cash for College
www.californiacashforcollege.org

Dreamer resources
www.caldreamact.org
www.e4fc.org
www.maldef.org

Federal financial aid
www.fafsa.gov
www.getschooled.com
www.studentaid.ed.gov
www.studentloans.gov

ScholarShare
www.scholarshare.com

Scholarship Information
www.fastweb.com
http://.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/
www.scholarships.com
www.zinch.com/

African American scholarships
www.uncf.org

Asian American scholarships
www.apiasf.org

Gates Millennium scholarships
www.gmsp.org

Latino scholarships
www.hsf.net
www.maldef.org

Middle Class scholarship
www.csac.ca.gov/mcs.asp

Native American scholarship
www.bie.edu
www.collegefund.org
www.aises.org/what/programs scholarships

Sports scholarships
www.ncaa.org

Scholarship fraud
http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/

COLLEGE COSTS AND CAREER EXPLORATION

www.californiacolleges.edu
http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator
www.whodouwant2b.com
www.finaid.org

COLLEGES

California colleges
www.californiacolleges.edu

California Community Colleges
www.icanaffordcollege.com

California State University
www.csumentor.edu

University of California
www.universityofcalifornia.edu

Independent California colleges
www.aiccu.edu

THINGS TO KNOW

Identity theft
www.ftc.gov/idtheft
www.idtheftcenter.org

Smart borrowing
www.studentloans.gov

Tax benefits
http://www.irs.gov/uac/Tax-Benefits-for-Education:-Information-Center
www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf

OTHER RESOURCES

ACT or SAT
www.actstudent.org
www.collegeboard.org

AmeriCorps/volunteers
www.americorps.gov
www.californiavolunteers.org

Citizenship/Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
www.uscis.gov

Foster youth grants and information
www.chafee.csac.ca.gov
www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov
www.calyouthconn.org
www.calgrants.org

Health careers
www.healthjobsstarthere.com

Job trends
www.bls.gov/emp

Military and veterans benefits
www.todaysmilitary.com
www.gibill.va.gov

Students with disabilities
www.heath.gwu.edu
www.dor.ca.gov

Look for additional language options on websites.

The online Fund Your Future Workbook is produced by the California Student Aid Commission for students and their families.

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MY ACTION PLAN

Use this page to help you plan ahead and capture important dates. Be sure to maximize your financial aid by applying for a Cal Grant or Middle Class Scholarship by **March 2** by submitting a FAFSA or California Dream Act Application.

THINGS TO DO

Plan an 18- to 24-month calendar starting with your junior year until you get to college.

To help determine what should be on your calendar, review pages 2, 5 and 6, and check out websites (see page 17).

Meet with a guidance counselor to discuss options for higher education. Be sure to discuss grades, classes needed, Advanced Placement courses and financial aid.

APPOINTMENT

Date _____

Time _____

Check out colleges – consider virtual and physical tours. Select at least 5-7 schools to research.

Start this in your junior year. Write down deadlines and important dates, and add them to your calendar.

How much will college cost?

Check out the college price calculator; each college is required to have one. Also see **www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov**.

Learn about financial aid. Attend your high school's financial aid night.

Financial aid night

Review page 2, check out websites (see page 17).

Date _____

Prepare to take the SAT/ACT, the required test for college. Does your school offer a class to help you prepare?

SAT/ACT

Date _____

Time _____

Ask your counselor, teacher or other important contacts to write a letter of recommendation for you.

Thank you!

Write down the names of the people you asked for a letter of recommendation and be sure to thank them by

_____

Submit college admission applications on time! Get ready early and know what is needed: paperwork, deadlines and expenses. How long will it take to get your transcripts?

Applications

Due dates to submit college admission applications

_____

_____

_____

Follow up on admission applications. Check with each college to find out when you can expect to hear about your application.

Follow up

If I haven't heard anything by this date, I'll follow up

_____

Once you're accepted to a college, complete additional paperwork or steps. Know the deadlines for acceptance and payment requirements.

Deadlines

Check with the college you'll be attending and mark the dates.

Pay tuition and fees by

_____

Pay dormitory fees by

_____

Pay parking pass by

_____