

You're not done yet.

## 5 Review your Student Aid Report (SAR)

If you submit your FAFSA online and provide all the required e-signatures and an e-mail address, you'll usually receive your Student Aid Report, or SAR, within 72 hours. If you submit the paper FAFSA, it could take up to three weeks.

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. Your EFC may be more or less than what you actually end up paying for college (see a sample SAR on page 32).

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 three weeks or if you need another copy, go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) or call 800.433.3243.

Each college you list on your FAFSA will receive your SAR information. 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.

## 6 Review Your California Aid Report (CAR)

- **If you're offered a Cal Grant, you'll receive a California Aid Report, or CAR,** in the mail from the California Student Aid Commission with an estimate of your Cal Grant award (see a sample CAR on page 32). Your CAR will list the first three California colleges you listed on your FAFSA where you can use your Cal Grant. Your college will verify your Cal Grant eligibility and the amount of your award.
- **If you need to make corrections,** such as a college change, use the New Recipient Change Form that came with your letter or go to [www.webgrants4students.org](http://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 letter 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 letter in early October indicating your eligibility for a Cal Grant.



*Even if you think your family has too much money to qualify, you should still apply for financial aid. Don't miss out on scholarships, grants or other money such as low-interest loans for education.*

### Your SAR— online or paper

How you submit the FAFSA—online or on paper—and whether or not you include an e-mail address will determine the type of SAR you receive. (If you submit the Spanish version of the FAFSA, you'll receive your SAR in Spanish.)

- Submit the FAFSA online or on paper and provide an e-mail address and you'll receive an e-mail with a link to your SAR information on the Web.
- Submit the FAFSA online without an e-mail address and you'll receive a paper SAR Acknowledgement. It will have all of the information you provided on the FAFSA but can't be used to make corrections. To make corrections to your SAR, you'll need to go online, using your PIN, at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) or request a paper SAR.
- Submit the paper FAFSA without an e-mail address and you'll receive a paper SAR on which you can make any corrections—or use your PIN to make corrections at: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).



*If you submitted both your FAFSA and your verified Cal Grant GPA by the March 2 deadline but don't receive a California Aid Report or a letter by April 30, or if you have questions, go to [www.webgrants4students.org](http://www.webgrants4students.org), call 888.224.7268 or e-mail [student.support@csac.ca.gov](mailto:student.support@csac.ca.gov).*

# samples SAR & CAR

Here are samples of the Student Aid Report (SAR) and California Aid Report (CAR), so that you'll know what they look like. (The SAR is usually several pages long.)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
FEDERAL STUDENT AID  
START HERE. GO FURTHER.

**STUDENT AID REPORT**

WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV      1-800-4-FED-AID (TTY: 1-800-730-8913)      OMB No.1845-0008

APRIL 17, 2008      DATA RELEASE NUMBER (DRN): 2401  
000117C041      EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC): 02600 C

CHRISTOPHER E. STUDENT  
1234 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZABCD  
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNPOQ, MD 12345

Dear CHRISTOPHER E. STUDENT,

**Your Student Aid Report (SAR) summarizes the information you submitted on your 2008 - 2009 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).**

**Application Status (review the checked boxes)**

Your FAFSA appears to be complete. **Review the data on pages 3-8 of your SAR** and make corrections or updates if necessary. The school(s) listed on your FAFSA will receive your information.

**Federal Student Aid Eligibility (review the checked boxes)**

The data submitted on your FAFSA is used to calculate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which is 02600. The EFC is **not** the amount of money that your family must provide. Rather, you should think of the EFC as an index that colleges use to determine how much financial aid you would receive if you were to attend their school. Financial aid may include grants, loans, and/or work-study. This award information will vary from college to college because the cost of attending each is different. Please note that your EFC is subject to change if you update or correct your FAFSA.

Based on your EFC it appears that you may be **eligible** for a Federal Pell Grant. You may also be eligible for other Federal grants, low-interest student loans, and work-study opportunities.

We sent your information to other federal agencies to verify your eligibility for federal student aid and there appears to be an issue with the information provided on your application. **Review the checklist on page 3 for instructions on how to resolve these issues.**

**You should keep this SAR for your records!**

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**Cal Grant Program Award Announcement**  
California Aid Report (CAR)



Congratulations! The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) has offered you an estimated Entitlement Cal Grant award. This CAR contains important information about your Cal Grant. Please note that the information provided below is based on the information you provided on your FAFSA and is considered an estimated award. Please be aware that this award offer may be withdrawn or reduced pending approval of the final state budget.

• STUDENT NAME	Date	06/15/09
• 1234 ANY AVE	Grant ID Number	E
• CITY, CA ZIP CODE	CSAC ID Number	
	Academic Year	2009-10

**Award Information**

<u>School Choice, as listed on your FAFSA:</u>	<u>Cal Grant A</u>	<u>Cal Grant B</u>
UNIV OF CA - DAVIS	\$7,788	SEE CODE #1
AMERICAN RIVER COLLEGE	CC RESERVE	\$1,551
POMONA COLLEGE	\$9,708	SEE CODE #1

How to activate and retain your Cal Grant award:

1. Log on to [www.webgrants4students.org](http://www.webgrants4students.org) and create your WebGrants for Students account. This is how you view the status and terms of your Cal Grant, make schools changes and request a leave of absence. To retain your award, it is very important to keep your account information current.
2. If the first school listed above is not the school you plan to attend, when you decide on the school you will attend, please log on to your WebGrants for Students account and change your school of attendance.
3. If your Cal Grant award does not appear on your financial aid award notification from your school, contact the college Financial Aid Office at the school you plan to attend and notify them of your Cal Grant offer.
4. To be eligible for this Entitlement Cal Grant award, you must have satisfied all high school graduation requirements. In late spring, CSAC will be requesting confirmation of your high school graduation.
5. Go to [www.webgrants4students.org](http://www.webgrants4students.org) and read the Important Facts About Your Cal Grant fact sheet. This contains important information on how to activate, retain and renew your Cal Grant award offer.

If you have been offered a Cal Grant A and you choose to attend a California Community College, you will not receive any payments while attending community college. Instead, CSAC will hold the potential grant in a status called Community College Reserve for up to two years and, potentially, for an additional year with an extension request from the student. You may activate the Cal Grant A award by putting a school change request on WebGrants and by attending in an AA or BA/BS program at a non-community college in California. To keep your eligibility for a Community College Reserve award, you must be enrolled for the fall term 2009-10.

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

Diana Fuentes-Michel, Executive Director  
California Student Aid Commission

## Applying for a Cal Grant? Watch for both of these important forms:

**SAR** = Student Aid Report [from the federal government]

**CAR** = California Aid Report [from the California Student Aid Commission]