



OPERATIONS MEMO

Update from the California Student Aid Commission

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



December 6, 2018

GOM 2018-37

TO: Financial Aid Administrators

FROM: Catalina G. Mistler 
Deputy Director, Program Administration & Services Division

SUBJECT: 2019-20 Cal Grant Eligible/Ineligible Institutions

This Operations Memo from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) announces the release of the 2019-20 [Cal Grant Eligible Schools](#) list. The list is now available on the Commission's website.

Cal Grant Eligible/Ineligible Institutions

- All continuing 2019-20 Cal Grant-eligible institutions appear on the Eligible Cal Grant Schools list.
- Newly-ineligible Cal Grant institutions appear on the 2019-20 Ineligible Cal Grant Schools list.
- If a student lists an ineligible institution as their first choice on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the system will default to the next Cal Grant-eligible institution on the application.
- Students who only list ineligible institutions on the FAFSA will receive an "Application on Hold" notification requesting they select an eligible institution on the Application Correction screen in WebGrants for Students (WG4S). Entitlement applications will be reprocessed if students select an eligible institution.
- The California Dream Act Application (CADAA) does not allow students to choose an ineligible institution.

Cal Grant Institutional Participation Criteria

[California Education Code 69432.7](#)(l) defines a qualifying institution as meeting one of the following criteria:

1. A private or independent institution that participates in the Pell Grant Program and at least two of the following federal student aid programs:
 - Federal Work-Study
 - Federal Stafford Loan Program
 - Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant
2. A nonprofit institution headquartered and operating in California that a) allocates 10% of the operating budget for institutionally-funded grants, b) demonstrates administrative capacity to disburse funds, c) is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and (d) meets any other state-required

criteria adopted by regulation by the Commission in consultation with the Department of Finance.

3. A California public postsecondary educational institution.

Additionally, qualifying institutions must have a federal student loan borrower's rate of 40% or less for undergraduate students, **or**;

- a. Are below the three-year cohort default rate of 15.5% and above the two-year graduation rate of 30%

Please refer to the Commission's website for more information about [Institutional Participation Criteria](#)

Need to contact us?

- Institutional Support phone number: (888) 294-0153
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Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school!