



SPECIAL ALERT

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



Update from the California Student Aid Commission

May 11, 2020

GSA 2020-17

TO: Financial Aid Administrators

FROM: Steve Caldwell 
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SUBJECT: COVID-19 Update for Cal Grant Participating Institutions

This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) provides an update to Cal Grant participating institutions regarding impact to Cal Grant program in response to the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Emergency Financial Aid Grants for Cal Grant Students

- Consistent with California Education Code Section 69432.9, and the flexibility provided by the CARES Act, any CARES Act emergency aid awarded to a student shall not be included in any financial need calculation when awarding state financial aid. This would mean that any distribution of federal emergency aid would not result in a state financial aid over-award.

Return of Cal Grant Funds per R2T4 Calculation

- Institutions must continue to follow their Cal Grant refund policy. If an institution is reducing tuition charges for classes that could not be completed due to the COVID-19 emergency, and the remaining tuition charge is less than the Cal Grant award amount, the institution shall return unused Cal Grant funds to the Commission.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

- As stated in Article IV B. 14) of the Cal Grant Institutional Participation Agreement, Cal Grant recipients must be in compliance with the Institution's federal Title IV satisfactory academic progress (SAP) policies.
- Institutions shall continue to follow their SAP policies, including any flexibilities adopted by the institution per the CARES Act to respond to the needs of their students affected by the COVID-19 emergency.

Selective Service Registration

- The Commission is working on alternatives for undocumented male students that cannot currently satisfy the selective service registration documentation requirements due to the interruption in mail processing from the U.S. Selective Service. The Commission will provide an update to this process as soon as available.

Need to contact us?

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