May 27, 2020   **GSA 2020-19**

TO: Financial Aid Administrators
           High School Counselors

FROM: Steve Caldwell
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SUBJECT: **Governor's Executive Order and other Cal Grant Updates**

This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) announces Governor Newsom's [Executive Order](#) (EO) that includes two provisions to ease certain administrative requirements for Cal Grant eligibility. The EO addresses the following Cal Grant requirements (see items 6) and 7) in EO). Additionally, the Commission is addressing its current practices to verify high school graduation for graduating seniors to ease their administrative burden.

Late Grade Point Average (GPA)

Recognizing the difficulties potential Cal Grant entitlement students may have in securing a verified 2020-21 GPA while schools and offices are closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, the May 18, 2020 deadline is extended through **September 2, 2020**. This applies to Cal Grant Entitlement students who filed a California Dream Act Application (CADAA) or Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the March 2, 2020 deadline.

Selective Service Verification for Dream Act Applicants

The requirement to verify Selective Service registration is waived for applicants who apply for Cal Grant aid using the California Dream Act Application (CADAA) for grants received for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 academic years.

Verification of High School Graduation

In addition to the Executive Order, the Commission is encouraging new Cal Grant applicants graduating from high school in 2020 to self-certify their high school graduation in the event that their school is unable to do so due to school closures. Students can log onto their [WebGrants 4 Students](#) account to determine the next steps in accessing their Cal Grant award.

COVID-19 Information

The Commission continues to update its COVID-19 web page to help California students have access to real-time guidance and resources. The COVID-19 web page includes a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)s section about the impact this situation may have on financial aid programs administered by the Commission, as well as other updates and resources. Please visit https://www.csac.ca.gov/covid19 for more information.

The Commission will release additional Grant Operations Memos to highlight any modifications of current practices due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate your patience as we all work together to continue to support California's students and one another.

Need to contact us?

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