Everyone should apply!

Cal Grant

Money for College

Cal Grant Awards guaranteed for students who qualify

College is now more affordable than ever for students with good grades and financial need. The best part is that Cal Grants cost nothing to apply for and do not have to be repaid!

Students who meet the following criteria are guaranteed grants:

Cal Grant A Entitlement Awards

Requirements include financial and basic eligibility (see box lower right), and a minimum 3.0 grade point average (GPA). Students must apply by March 2nd either the year they graduate from high school or the following year. This Entitlement Award provides for fees at the California State University and the University of California, as well as tuition support at private California colleges and universities.*

Cal Grant B Entitlement Awards

Requirements include financial and basic eligibility and a minimum 2.0 GPA. Students must apply by March 2nd either the year they graduate from high school or the following year. This Entitlement Award provides up to $1,551 for books and living expenses for students in their first year of college.

For the second and subsequent years, the award also helps pay for tuition and fees at the California State University and the University of California, as well as tuition support at private California colleges and universities.*

California Community College Transfer Entitlement Awards

Students who meet financial and basic eligibility requirements, have a minimum 2.4 GPA from a California Community College, were California residents when they graduated from high school, and graduate from high school July 1, 2000, or later are eligible for this award when transferring from a community college to a four-year institution. This Entitlement Award is offered to California Community College students who were not awarded a Cal Grant within a year of graduating from high school, but meet certain eligibility requirements at the time of transfer from a California Community College to most four-year colleges or universities in California.

Basic Cal Grant eligibility requirements

All Cal Grant applicants must:

- Be California residents
- Be U.S. citizens **or** eligible non-citizens
- Meet U.S. Selective Service requirements
- Attend a qualifying California postsecondary institution
- Be enrolled at least half-time
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined at the school of attendance
- Have family income and assets below the established ceilings
- **Not** be in default on any student loan
- **Not** owe any federal or state grant refund

*Students attending a California Community College may have their fees waived through the Board of Governor's Fee Waiver Program (BOGFW). Contact your local community college financial aid office for more information.

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All students are encouraged to apply for financial aid, even if their family income and assets are above the ceilings.

Many things can happen, between the time the FAFSA is submitted and the start of school, that can dramatically change a family's situation, including illness or layoff.

Other Cal Grant Programs

Cal Grant A and B Competitive Awards

Students who are not eligible for a Cal Grant Entitlement Award may compete for a Cal Grant A or B Competitive Award.

These awards are similar to the Cal Grant A and B Entitlement Awards, except that they are not guaranteed. Each year, 22,500 awards are available. Of these, 11,250 awards are available to students who do not qualify for an Entitlement Award, but who file by the March 2 deadline and meet Competitive eligibility criteria. These criteria are geared toward nontraditional students and take into consideration family income, parent's educational level, GPA, time out of high school, high school performance standards and other factors, such as whether the student comes from a single-parent household or is a former foster youth.

California Community College students can compete for the remaining 11,250 awards during the September 2nd application deadline period.

Cal Grant C Awards

Cal Grant C Awards are available to assist students with tuition, fees and training costs for occupational or vocational programs. The $576 Cal Grant C Award provides for books, tools and equipment.

Students planning to attend a school other than a California Community College may also receive up to $2,592 in assistance.

To qualify for Cal Grant C Awards, students must meet basic eligibility requirements and be enrolled in a vocational program that is at least four months in length.

For more information on Cal Grants

Visit the California Student Aid Commission Web sites at: *www.csac.ca.gov* or *www.calgrants.org*
Call the Commission's Student Support Service staff at: 888-224-7268 (that's 888-CA-GRANT)
Write to us at:
California Student Aid Commission
P.O. Box 419027
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9027
Email us at:
studentsupport@csac.ca.gov
For a list of Cal Grant eligible schools: Log on to the Commission's Web site and click on: *Search for a Cal Grant Eligible School*
To find income and asset ceilings: On the Commission's Web site, click on *Income and Asset Ceilings*.

How to apply for a Cal Grant!

To apply for a Cal Grant, students must do two things:
- submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), *and*
- file a Grade Point Average (GPA) Verification Form, or *make sure* their high school or college has filed the GPA on their behalf.

When to apply-Each January 1 starts the application period when students can file their FAFSA online at *www.fafsa.ed.gov* or file a paper FAFSA. Students may obtain a paper FAFSA from their high school counselor or college financial aid office or download it from either of the Commission's two Web sites, at left.

Deadlines-Both the FAFSA and GPA Verification Form must be submitted, or post-marked, no later than **March 2**. California Community College students have a second chance to apply by the September 2 deadline.

Get a FAFSA PIN now:
To file a FAFSA online, each student needs a personal identification number, or PIN, and the parent of a dependent student needs a PIN, too.

Students and parents may log onto the Internet, go to *www.fafsa.ed.gov*, then, click on *Getting Started* and follow the prompts. *It's fast and easy.*

CALIFORNIA
STUDENT AID
COMMISSION

This flyer provides general information. If there is any difference between the information in this flyer and California law, California law will apply.