

Cal Grant Program



California State Assembly

Roger Dickinson

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, 9TH DISTRICT



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ASSEMBLYMEMBER, 9TH DISTRICT

*For more information about financial aid,
contact your high school or community college
counselor, or check out my website.*

District Office:

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It could help put you
through college.

Dear Friend,

The California State Legislature understands that the search for financial aid sources can sometimes be challenging and expensive. However, many programs are available to help you and your family obtain the support you need.

California's Cal Grant Financial Aid Program guarantees financial assistance to every qualified student who applies. Depending on the type of financial aid for which you qualify, books and room and board may also be subsidized.

Applications can be mailed or submitted online. Check with your high school counselor, college financial aid advisor, or simply download the application at www.fafsa.gov.

Remember, you can't get the money unless you fill out the application and meet the **March 2nd deadline**. So don't delay.

If you have any questions, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

Roger Dickinson
State Assemblymember
9th Assembly District

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Basic Eligibility Requirements

- Have a 2.0 GPA or better.
- Be a California resident.
- Meet financial need requirements.

Who Can Apply?

- High school seniors.
- High school graduates who completed school within the last year.
- GED holders within one year of completion.
- Community college transfer students under the age of 24 years old.

How To Apply?

1. Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You can apply for financial aid online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or call (800) 433-3243 or TTY (800) 730-8913 to have it mailed to you. Submit the application by the March 2nd Cal Grant deadline.
2. Submit a verified GPA. Ask your high school to submit one on your behalf.
3. Review your Student Aid Report (SAR). Within 72 hours of submitting the FAFSA, you should receive your SAR containing your Expected Family Contribution. Check it for accuracy and make any necessary corrections to your online FAFSA immediately. Keep copies for your records.
4. Receive your Financial Aid Reward. An award letter (or email) will list this year's college costs and the amount that will be covered through your Cal Grant and the amount you'll have to pay.

FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID — This includes the federal Pell Grant, federal SEOG Grant, federal work-study and the federal Perkins Loan programs. The federal Stafford Loan programs and federal direct loan programs are available to almost all college students.

LOAN PROGRAMS — Qualified students and their parents can borrow money for education through low-interest federally supported loans. The loans are made by banks, savings and loans and credit unions and are guaranteed by the California Student Aid Commission's subsidiary, the EdFund.

STATE FINANCIAL AID — State Aid is administered by the Commission, and for the most part, is reserved for California resident students with financial need as determined by the information contained on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). In addition, the well-funded Cal Grant programs require academic qualification; a GPA Verification Form must be postmarked by March 2nd each year.

PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS — Hundreds of privately funded scholarships are available nationally to qualified students. Scholarships are considered gift aid, which does not have to be repaid, and are often awarded for merit in academics, athletics, or a particular field of study. Scholarships may also be awarded by ethnic background, religious affiliation and special interests.

No matter what type of financial aid you may need, be sure to start looking early! Many programs have specific filing deadlines.

MILESTONES ON THE FINANCIAL AID CALENDAR

It's never too early to start thinking about going to college, planning where you would like to attend and researching what financial resources may be available to you.

As you begin the process of planning, be sure to keep these tasks and time frames in mind:

High School Juniors

MARCH AND AUGUST — Sign up with your counselor to take the SAT or ACT test.

MAY AND AUGUST — Visit your high school counselor's office, browse through college directories at your library, communicate with colleges in which you're interested and meet with college representatives.

Financial aid can help make your dream of getting a college diploma come true.



High School Seniors

OCTOBER — Obtain college admission application packets at high school counseling offices or at nearby UC, CSU, or other campuses. Contact independent colleges and occupational career schools for admission materials and financial aid application procedures.

NOVEMBER — File your application for fall admission to UC and CSU campuses for priority consideration. If you're applying for a Cal Grant, pick up the FAFSA and GPA Verification Form.

Remember, file the FAFSA between January 1st and March 2nd.

JANUARY — Submit your financial aid applications for most state and federal aid.

FEBRUARY — Check with each college for information on its unique grant and scholarship programs.

MARCH 2ND — *Cal Grant A, B and C Application Deadline.*

Send your FAFSA to the federal processor postmarked no later than March 2nd.

For Cal Grants A, B and C, you must submit a GPA Verification Form to the California Student Aid Commission by March 2nd, if required. Please ask your school to submit your GPA electronically to the Commission by the March 2nd filing deadline.

RESOURCES

You can learn more about California's many fine colleges and universities by contacting:

California Community Colleges
1102 Q Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
www.cccco.edu

Association of Independent California Colleges
1100 11th Street
Suite 10
Sacramento, CA 95814
www.aiccu.edu

University of California System
1111 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94607
www.ucop.edu

California State University System
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach, CA 90802
www.calstate.edu

Scholarship Searches

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
(800) 4-FED-AID (433-3243)
www.fafsa.gov

California Student Aid Commission
(888) CA GRANT (224-7268)
www.calgrants.org

EdFund
(877) 2 EDFUND (233-3863)
www.edfund.org

College Connection Scholarships
(302) 765-3880
www.collegescholarships.com

FastWeb: Internet Scholarship Service
www.fastweb.com

California College Explorer
www.californiacolleges.edu

Smart Student Guide to Financial Aid
www.finaid.org