

Financial Aid Checklist

For Students Going to College in 2027–2028

Follow these steps to help receive the maximum amount of financial aid you're eligible for.

☐ Figure out which application is right for you

You only need to complete ONE application, depending on your eligibility:

CADAA

- Undocumented students (with or without DACA)
- Students with a U-Visa
- Students with Temporary Protected Status

FAFSA

- U.S. citizens
- Permanent residents (Green Card)
- Eligible non-citizens

☐ Gather the required information & documents

If you're the student:

- ☐ Student FSA ID / login information (FAFSA only)
- ☐ Social Security Number (if applicable)
- ☐ Alien Registration Number (if applicable)
- ☐ 2025 income tax return (if applicable)
- ☐ Government-issued photo ID
- ☐ List of schools you're interested in attending

If you're the parent or contributor:

- ☐ Contributor FSA ID / login information (FAFSA only)
- ☐ 2025 income tax return
- ☐ Amounts in checking and savings accounts
- ☐ Untaxed income, such as child support received
- ☐ Assets such as businesses, investments, real estate, etc. (excluding retirement accounts and primary residence)
- ☐ Government-issued photo ID

☐ Apply

Apply for financial aid

Applications open: October 1, 2026

Cal Grant priority deadline: March 2, 2027

CA Community College deadline: September 2, 2027

Apply for colleges & scholarships

Research colleges and keep track of admission deadlines, fees, and financial-aid requirements.

Apply for as many scholarships as possible, including national and local community scholarships.

☐ Check your financial aid status

1

Submit

Your FAFSA or CADAA is submitted and processed.

2

Check status

Sign in to your state financial-aid account and review Cal Grant status.

3

Review SAI

Your Student Aid Index is calculated and shared with schools.

4

Compare offers

Schools send financial-aid offers after admission/acceptance decisions.

Tip: Deadlines and requirements can change. Always confirm current dates with your school and official financial-aid sources.