FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid

DON'T MISS THE MARCH 2ND DEADLINE! IT IS MANDATORY FOR ALL SENIORS TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA, CADAA OR A WAIVER.

WHAT IS FAFSA/CADAA?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the *CA Dream Act Application* (CADAA) are FREE applications that can grant you thousands of dollars in financial aid to be used for your college education and/or career & technical training beyond high school. In addition, students planning to attend a local community college will qualify for **TWO FREE YEARS OF TUITION** by completing the FAFSA or CADAA. Here is the link to the FAFSA website.

The FAFSA is accepted by most colleges, including community colleges and trade schools. The information you provide will be used to figure the amount your family can afford to contribute toward your education (also known as your EFC: estimated family contribution).

Here is the link to the FAFSA Application
Here is the link to the CADAA Application

If you do not complete the FAFSA or CADA, you MUST complete this waiver and have your parent/guardian sign it (if you are under 18) and return it to the PCA office by the deadline.

Final financial aid deadlines vary by college, but if you file your FAFSA by December you should be in no danger of missing a deadline. If you are unsure, check your college's website.

Here is an information video about Financial Aid

An Overview of the FAFSA & the Financial Aid Process for the Class of 2023

Created by the EDUHSD College & Career Centers

Use this helpful guide to walk you through the FAFSA!

Created by the El Dorado High School College & Career Center

Prepare for the FAFSA with this FAFSA Checklist

Created by the El Dorado High School College & Career Center

INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEOS

How to Create Your FSA ID

How to Complete a FAFSA

FAFSA Helpline: 800-433-3243

New FAFSA filing period: Oct. 1 - March 2 of Senior year
Note: March 2nd is the deadline for Cal Grant. You may still file a FAFSA after March 2nd, but you will not be eligible for the Cal Grant.
www.fafsa.ed.gov

CAL GRANT

If you submit your FAFSA by March 2nd, you will be considered for a Cal Grant.

If you plan to attend any type of college or trade school in the state of California, you might qualify to receive additional aid

A Cal Grant is money for college that does not need to be paid back! Cal Grants can be used at any University of California (UC), California State University (CSU) or California Community College, as well as qualifying independent and career colleges or technical schools in California. There are 3 types of Cal Grant Awards. Find out more here!

Follow these simple steps to apply for a Cal Grant.

Step 1:
Complete the FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application
The FAFSA is your application for Cal Grant.

Step 2:
Create your *Webgrants 4 Students* Account.

Step 3:
Follow the Financial Aid Checklist to stay informed on the status of your aid.

In addition to considering family income, your GPA will be considered. Your Cal Grant GPA will be uploaded to the California Student Aid Commission during the fall semester of Senior year by the PCA Registrar. This gpa is calculated differently than most gpa's you've seen, but should be close to what you normally know as your cumulative gpa. *There is nothing you need to do, no paperwork to fill out.*

It is important for you to monitor your Cal Grant status and make sure your GPA actually made it all the way into the state's database. Remember, a missed deadline is a missed deadline, even if it wasn't your fault. After you file your FAFSA, visit webgrants4students to verify your status - you'll need to create a profile.

Cal Grant Help Line: 888-224-7268

www.csac.ca.gov