

Do we have to fill out the FAFSA or Dream Act when we know we will not qualify for financial aid?

Yes, many universities and scholarships will not award you merit based scholarships unless you have filled out the FAFSA or Dream Act Application. The FAFSA or Dream Act is required to receive free tuition at California's junior colleges.

What is the difference between the FAFSA and Dream Act?

The Dream Act application is for students who are not U.S. Citizens, National or Permanent residents or do not fulfill ALL of the **FAFSA** requirements. The **DREAM** application is unique to California promoting access to all students regardless of immigration statuses and/or documentation.

How do I know which grants I have been awarded?

You will need to create an account on the CSAC website, <https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/>. This is where you will be able to see which grants you qualified for, accept the money and report which school you will attend so the money is directed to the proper institution.

How does my college know what my financial aid is?

When you complete the FAFSA you may add up to 10 colleges for your financial aid information to be sent to. If you need to add a school to the FAFSA, you may open the FAFSA and make that correction. Once you decide which college to attend you will have to submit that information to Webgrants.

In order for me to complete the FAFSA® form, do my parents need SSNs?

No. Since your parents' citizenship doesn't affect your ability to complete the FAFSA form, they don't need SSNs. If your parents don't have SSNs, they must enter 000-00-0000 when the FAFSA form asks for your parents' SSNs. If your parents don't have SSNs, they won't be able to create FSA IDs and therefore won't be able to sign your FAFSA form electronically. You'll have to print out the signature page from the online FAFSA form so that your parents can sign it and mail it to the address indicated.

Do I only complete the FAFSA or Dream Act my senior year of high school?

No, you should file the FAFSA or Dream Act each year you are attending school.

What is an FSA ID and why do I need one?

The **FSA ID** allows students and parents to identify themselves electronically to access Federal Student Aid websites. An **FSA ID** is made up of a username and password and can be used to log into the online Free Application for Federal Student Aid form.

How will colleges let me know if I have been admitted or if they need additional documentation?

Once a college receives your application, you will be notified by email to create a portal through their school website. The portal will be the college's way to inform you of admittance, financial aid, missing documentation or any other detail related to your application.

What will happen if I fail a class my senior year?

If the course was an A-G requirement your admission will be revoked. If the course was not required the college still may revoke your admission. Colleges do not want prospective students to check out during their senior year. They may also revoke your admission if you drop a course that they deem as a core class.

When is the last chance I have to take the SAT/ACT?

Typically for CSU's and UC's the last opportunity for a test to be taken and reported for admission is December. Private and out of state schools have different deadlines for admission which could also affect the deadline for the SAT/ACT. It is important to check the school's website for deadlines.

How many letters of recommendation do I need?

We suggest that you ask for a minimum of two, but 3 is recommended. When asking the recommender for the letter of recommendation you should be able to hand them a senior activity sheet and give them a date when you would like the letter. That date should be no less than 2 weeks out and preferably a month or more. It is always a good idea to follow up with a thank you note after receiving the letter.

When do I apply for housing?

As soon as you have committed to a particular school you should start working on your housing application. Most schools will require a non-refundable deposit for housing. Not all schools guaranteed freshman on campus housing, while some require it. Schools housing and meal plans vary, so do your homework.

What loans are available and how to I apply for loans?

Subsidized and unsubsidized loans are federal student loans for eligible students to help cover the cost of higher education at a four-year college or university, community college, or trade, career, or technical school. The U.S. Department of Education offers eligible students at participating schools Direct Subsidized Loans and Direct Unsubsidized Loans.