Need help? You can always schedule an appointment with Ms. Sroka in the Career Center for one-on-one assistance with your FAFSA or Dream Act Application.

There is also help every Monday and Wednesday from 3-5pm in Room 403...just come on by!

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Federal Grant Programs

- Pell Grant: Up to $5815
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant: $100-$4000

Grants and scholarships are often called “gift aid” because they are free money—financial aid that doesn’t have to be repaid. Grants are often need-based, while scholarships are usually merit-based.

What is financial aid and how does it work? Simple...

Financial aid awards consist of federal grant programs, federal loan programs, federal work study programs, state programs such as the Cal Grant, and institutional awards from the colleges and universities.

SO HOW DO THEY FIGURE IT ALL OUT?

During financial aid season, families file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.fafsa.gov from the information regarding income, family size, number of students in college and a host of other factors, the feds determine each family’s Expected Family Contribution or EFC.

Each school that the student has applied to receives the EFC.

Each school will then subtract the EFC from their Cost of Attendance or COA.

The gap left between the COA and the EFC is determined to be the students’ financial need.

Financial Aid offices will then fill in this GAP with all the federal, state and institutional financial aid programs, (grants, loans and self-help), that the student is eligible for.

VOILA! You will receive your financial aid award letter from colleges that you have been accepted to.

To be considered for ALL federal and state financial aid students must file a FAFSA online at www.fafsa.gov between OCTOBER 1st and MARCH 2nd of their senior year.

NOT fafsa.com

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federal Loan Programs</th>
<th>Loan Details (subject to change)</th>
<th>Annual Award (subject to change)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Federal Perkins Loan</strong></td>
<td>For undergraduate and graduate students&lt;br&gt;Eligibility depends on student’s financial need and availability of funds at the college&lt;br&gt;Interest rate is 5%&lt;br&gt;College is the lender; payment is owed to the college that made the loan</td>
<td>Undergraduate students: up to $5,500; graduate and professional students: up to $8,000Total amount may not exceed $27,500 for undergraduates and $60,000 for graduate students (including amounts borrowed as an undergraduate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Direct Subsidized Loan</strong></td>
<td>For undergraduate students who are enrolled at least half-time* and demonstrate financial need&lt;br&gt;Loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2016, interest rate is 3.76%&lt;br&gt;Student is not usually charged interest on the loan during certain periods&lt;br&gt;The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is the lender; payment is owed to ED</td>
<td>$3,500–$5,500, depending on grade level For total lifetime limit, go to StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Direct Unsubsidized Loan</strong></td>
<td>For undergraduate and graduate students who are enrolled at least half-time; financial need is not required&lt;br&gt;For loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2016:&lt;br&gt;◊ 3.76% interest rate for undergraduate students, and&lt;br&gt;◊ 5.31% interest rate for graduate and professional students&lt;br&gt;Student is responsible for interest during all periods&lt;br&gt;ED is the lender; payment is owed to ED</td>
<td>$5,500–$20,500 (less any subsidized amounts received for same period), depending on grade level and dependency status For total lifetime limit, go to StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Direct PLUS Loan</strong></td>
<td>For parents of dependent undergraduate students and for graduate or professional students; financial need is not required&lt;br&gt;Student must be enrolled at least half-time and must be either a dependent undergraduate student for whom a parent is taking out a Direct PLUS Loan or a graduate or professional student who is receiving a Direct PLUS Loan&lt;br&gt;For loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2016, interest rate is 6.31%&lt;br&gt;Borrower must not have negative credit history&lt;br&gt;Borrower is responsible for interest during all periods&lt;br&gt;ED is the lender; payment is owed to ED</td>
<td>Maximum amount is cost of attendance minus any other financial aid student receives; no minimum amount</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) is a new program beginning in the 2014-15 academic year that provides undergraduate students with family incomes up to $150,000 a scholarship to attend University of California (UC) or California State University (CSU) campuses. Initial 2014-15 awards were processed in September.

- **If your family earns up to $100,000 per year:**
  - You may be eligible for a scholarship of up to 40 percent of the mandatory systemwide tuition and fees.
  - The award is determined after you are awarded any federal Pell Grant, Cal Grant and institutional need-based grants for which you are eligible. The final award amount will be based on the number of students eligible for the MCS statewide and the funding allocated by the State Budget.
- **Students whose families earn between $100,001 and $150,000 per year:**
  - May be eligible for a reduced scholarship of no less than 10 percent of the mandatory systemwide tuition and fees.
  - MCS scholarships are not set amounts and may vary by student and institution.
- **The MCS is being phased in over four years:**
  - Each academic year, the maximum amount of the scholarship will increase until 2017-18, when the maximum scholarship award will be up to 40 percent of the mandatory systemwide fees and tuition.
  - Middle Class Scholarships are not set amounts and may vary by student. If you are selected you will be notified by the California Student Aid Commission.

**TO APPLY:** Complete a 2017-18 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.fafsa.gov or the California Dream Act Application at: caldreamact.org.

- More info at www.csac.ca.gov
The California Dream Act

The California Dream Act allows certain students who meet the requirements below to apply for and receive state financial aid at California public and private colleges and private scholarships administered by California public colleges.

Students need to meet the following Assembly Bill (AB) 540 qualifications:

- Attend a California high school for a minimum of three years;
- Graduate from a California high school or pass the California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE) or get a General Equivalency Diploma (GED);
- Enroll in an accredited and qualified California college or university; and,
- If applicable, fill out an affidavit to legalize immigration status as soon as eligible.

AB 540 students can apply for private scholarship aid administered by public and private colleges and universities. Check with your campus for program details and application information.

Beginning October 1st 2016, apply at www.caldreamact.org, for:

- California Community College Board of Governor's (BOG) fee waiver. Check with the college for required forms.
- Cal Grants that can be used in the 2015-2016 academic year. Apply by the Cal Grant March 2 deadline.
- Other state financial aid awarded by colleges and universities. Apply by the March 2 priority deadline.
- Cal Grants are free money for college that does not have to be paid back. Students may receive up to $12,192 annually for up to 4 years of college. Amount varies depending upon the college of attendance.
- The recent federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) does not prevent students from applying for California Dream Act financial aid. California students who have applied for or received approval for Deferred Action should complete the California Dream Act Application, not the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Learn more at www.uscis.gov, www.e4fc.org, or www.weownthedream.org.

Empezando en el primero de Octubre de 2016, visita www.caldreamact.org, para solicitar:

- E exenciones de Cuotas de Inscripción de la Junta de Gobernadores de los Colegios Comunitarios de California (BOG, en inglés). Pregunta en tu colegio cuáles son los formularios requeridos.
- Becas Cal Grant que se pueden usar en el año académico 2015-16. Solicita hasta la fecha de vencimiento de la beca Cal Grant del 2 de marzo.
- Otra ayuda financiera estatal otorgada por colegios y universidades. Solicita hasta la fecha de vencimiento de prioridad del 2 de marzo.
- Becas Chafee para jóvenes en cuidado adoptivo; presenta una solicitud para la Beca Chafee en www.csac.ca.gov.


Wilson College and Career Center
Look for our page on Schoolloop!