



2023-2024

# 3 Steps to FAFSA/CADAA Completion

## 1 CREATE AN FSA ID (FAFSA filers only)

Go to [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)

**The FSA ID serves as your legal, electronic signature for FAFSA\***

*(Note: FSA ID not required for CA Dream Act Application (CADAA) for AB 540 eligible students)*

### Tips for FSA ID creation:

- Legal parent(s) and student all need own ID
- U.S. citizens verify identity with SSN, undocumented parents of FAFSA filers verify using other information.
- Don't use your high school email address
- Ensure information is accurate, but progress quickly. If the account creation form times out it can mean starting the process all over.
- Save your ID where you'll remember, you'll need it every year to renew your FAFSA!

**Note:** FSA IDs are required in order to access and complete the FAFSA. It's best to create and troubleshoot your FSA ID well before it's time to file the FAFSA to ensure the application process goes smoothly.

## 2 FILL OUT THE FAFSA/CADAA Available late December , 2023 (this year only)

### ATTEND A CAL-SOAP CASH FOR COLLEGE WORKSHOP

*Cal-SOAP offers in-class Cash For College workshops at many high schools as well as after school workshops open to all senior students and parents that provide expert support in FAFSA/CADAA completion. Visit [hcoe.org/cash-for-college](https://hcoe.org/cash-for-college) to see our full schedule of workshops.*

*Access the FAFSA at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) or the CADAA at [dream.csac.ca.gov](https://dream.csac.ca.gov).*

### What you will need:

- FSA IDs for all contributors (FAFSA only)
- Social Security card or number if you have one (FAFSA only)
- Driver's license, if you have one
- 2022 income and tax information
- Any records of untaxed income such as child support payments, combat pay, short-term disability, or worker's compensation
- List of colleges interested in attending
- Verify all information before submitting

## 3 NEED HELP? ASK COLLEGE ACCESS PROFESSIONALS!

Ask your academic counselor or other college access staff at your school site if you have questions about the financial aid application process. You can also visit [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) for FAFSA support, or [dream.csac.ca.gov](https://dream.csac.ca.gov) for CADAA support.

**\* Free Application for Federal Student Aid - the gateway to grants, scholarships, work-study & loans**

## Financial Aid Timeline for Seniors

### SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

- FSA ID creation.** FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)-eligible students and any parent contributors on the FAFSA will need their own FSA IDs to access and sign the FAFSA.
- Apply for scholarships.**
- CSS Profile** opens October 1st. Some private colleges require this supplemental application to qualify students for institutional aid. See [cssprofile.collegeboard.org](https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org) for more information.

### JANUARY - APRIL

- Complete FAFSA or CADAA** (California Dream Act Application, for AB 540 eligible students). The FAFSA/CADAA submission deadline for Cal Grant Consideration at a 4-year college is **April 2nd**, but students should submit by the earliest financial aid deadline of the schools to which they are applying. Check with the financial aid offices of the colleges you've applied to to see when their priority financial aid deadlines are.
- CSS Profile due February 1st** for all regular decision students.
- WebGrants 4 Students.** Create your WebGrants account about a week after you submit your FAFSA or CADAA to check your Cal Grant award status. Check your account regularly for status updates and to fulfill any additional requirements to claim your grant should you be awarded.
- FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS) review.** Ensure you have successfully submitted and completed your FAFSA by reviewing your FSS, available at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) a few days after submitting your FAFSA.
- Complete Verification.** Some colleges may require additional documentation to verify the information on your FAFSA or CADAA. Send additional documents to a college's financial aid office only upon request. If you are selected for verification, you must submit all requested documents by the college's deadline before you can receive your financial aid.
- Review and compare financial aid offers** from all colleges applied to.
- Continue applying for scholarships.**

### MAY - SEPTEMBER

- Intent to enroll and tuition deposit at 4-year colleges usually due May 1st.**
- September 2nd** is the FAFSA/CADAA submission deadline for Cal Grant consideration at a California Community College.