



2024-2025

3 Steps to FAFSA/CADAA Completion

1 CREATE A STUDENTAID.GOV ACCOUNT (For FAFSA filers only)

Your studentaid.gov account (FSA ID) serves as your legal, electronic signature for FAFSA*

(Note: studentaid.gov account not required for CA Dream Act Application (CADAA) for AB 540 eligible students)

Tips for studentaid.gov account creation:

- Any parent contributors and student all need their own account
- U.S. citizens verify identity with SSN, undocumented parent contributors 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 account information where you'll remember, you'll need it every year to renew your FAFSA!

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

2 FILL OUT THE FAFSA/CADAA

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 to see our full schedule of workshops.

Access the FAFSA at studentaid.gov or the CADAA at dream.csac.ca.gov.

What you will need:

- Studentaid.gov accounts for all contributors (FAFSA only)
- Social Security card or number if you have one (FAFSA only)
- Driver's license, if you have one
- 2023 income and tax information
- List of colleges interested in attending
- Students need contributor SSN (if they have one), date of birth, and email in order to invite them to contribute to the FAFSA.
- Any records of untaxed income such as child support payments, combat pay, short-term disability, or worker's compensation
- 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 for FAFSA support, or 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 - NOVEMBER

- Studentaid.gov account creation.** FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)-eligible students and any parent contributors on the FAFSA will need their own accounts to access and sign the FAFSA.
- Apply for scholarships** - [fastweb.com](https://www.fastweb.com) and collegeboard.org are both excellent sources for national scholarships.
- CSS Profile opens October 1 and is due February 1st** for all regular decision students. Some private colleges require this supplemental application to qualify students for institutional aid. See cssprofile.collegeboard.org for more information.

DECEMBER - MARCH

- Complete FAFSA or CADAA** (California Dream Act Application, for AB 540 eligible students). **Expected to release December 1** for the following year. The submission deadline for Cal Grant Consideration at a 4-year college is **March 2nd***, but students should submit by the earliest financial aid deadline of the schools to which they are applying. Check the priority financial aid deadlines of the colleges you've applied to.
- FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS) review.** Ensure you have successfully submitted and completed your FAFSA by reviewing your FSS, available at studentaid.gov a few days after submitting your FAFSA.
- Continue applying for scholarships.** Humboldt Area Foundation scholarships open **January 15** and close **March 3**.
- 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.
- 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.

**Subject to change for the 2024-25 academic year. Information accurate as of 8/9/24.*

APRIL - 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.