

▶ How long may I receive my Cal Grant?

▶ Your Cal Grant award is for a maximum of four years (full time equivalent or FTE), unless you are in a mandatory five-year Bachelor's Degree program. Any Cal Grant award you receive at Fullerton College will count toward the four year (FTE.) Cal Grant C is awarded for a maximum of 2 years.

▶ Who is eligible to complete the Dream Act Application?

- ▶ On an annual basis only those AB540 students who are otherwise ineligible to complete the federal application (FAFSA.)
- **AB540 Eligibility:**
 - *Must have attended a California high school for 3 years or more OR graduated early from a California high school with the equivalent of at least three years of credit*.*
 - *Must have graduated from a California high school or will graduate from a California high school or passed the California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) or obtained a Certificate of General Education Development (GED).*
 - *Must have registered or currently be enrolled at an accredited institution of higher education in California.*
 - *You must have filed or will file an affidavit as required by individual institutions, stating that you will apply for legal residency as soon as possible; and*
 - *You may not be a non-immigrant holding a valid lettered non-immigrant visa.*

*If you graduated early from high school under this provision, you must also have attended CA schools (elementary and secondary) for a cumulative total of three or more years.

Webgrants for Students:

Applicants and current Cal Grant awardees should also check their Cal Grant status on the web using Webgrants.

Go to <https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/logon.asp>. Students will need to create an account. All students are encouraged to use the Webgrants for Students website to track their application status on-line. Students may use Webgrants to:

- *Check if your application data has been received by CSAC*
- *Check your award status and view your payment history*
- *Check your address on file and update it online*
- *See how your Cal Grant might change if you attend a different school*

Legislation and governmental regulations are continually changing the face of student financial aid. The information contained in this brochure is correct as of the time of publication 03/2015. However, information is subject to change without notice.

For more information on Cal Grant:

CSAC Student Support Services
(888) 224-7268 * studentsupport@csac.ca.gov
<https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/logon.asp>

If you have questions, please contact us at:

Fullerton College Financial Aid Office
714.888.7588 • financialaid.fullcoll.edu
financialaid@fullcoll.edu



Cal Grant

What it is
and
How to Apply

Fullerton College 2016-2017

Cal Grant is offered by the State of California and is open to California residents attending a college or university in California. The grant has an annual application deadline of March 2nd for the following academic year, and is based on need, income and GPA. Students must file both a completed FAFSA or Dream Act application and a GPA Verification prior to the deadline, in order to be considered. Income and asset ceilings, determined by California Student Aid Commission (CSAC), will be checked annually for all new and continuing students.

The Cal Grant is based on residency, proof of need, income, GPA, and other 'point' based criteria. There are two Cal Grants, entitlement and competitive. If you meet the March 2nd deadline and minimum qualifications for a Cal Grant (which are described below), you are eligible for an entitlement Cal Grant. In order to receive an entitlement Cal Grant, you must meet one of the three criteria listed below:

- ▶ You are currently a high school senior, or
- ▶ You are within one year of graduation or GED completion, or
- ▶ You are transferring to a 4 year university from a community college such as Fullerton College as long as you are under the age of 28

Minimum GPA for new Cal Grant awards:

- ▶ GPA for Cal Grant B is 2.0 or better.
- ▶ GPA for Cal Grant A is 3.0 or better.
- ▶ GPA for Cal Grant Transfer Entitlement Award is 2.4 or better
- ▶ (GPA not required for Cal Grant C, but more points for submitted GPA.)

Competitive Cal Grants are just that: you are, in essence, "competing" for a limited number of awards. The September 2nd cycle described later in this brochure is a competitive cycle. Student applicants who do not meet one of the three criteria described above, but meet the GPA cutoff for the March 2nd deadline, will also be considered for a competitive Cal Grant, as funds permit.

Dream Act applicants are only eligible for the Entitlement Awards thus March 2nd is their absolute deadline for Cal Grants.

Types of Cal Grants

There are currently three Cal Grants:

A, B, and C. You may only use B & C at Fullerton College.

Cal Grant A is for students attending a four year college or university. If you are awarded a Cal Grant A, but are attending a community college, such as Fullerton College, you must place your award on a reserve status.

Cal Grant B may be utilized at either a California Community College or a four year college or university.

Cal Grant C is for students enrolled in an occupational/technical program or certificate program.

The application process is the same for either Cal Grant, however Cal Grant C does not require a GPA submission, though students score more points if they submit a GPA.

Cal Grant C is awarded in the amount of \$547 per year full-time. Cal Grant B is awarded in the amount of \$1,656 per year full-time. The amount you receive will be based on your cost of attendance, the type of Cal Grant you are awarded, the type of institution in which you are enrolled, and the number of units in which you are enrolled. You must be enrolled in at least 6 units at Fullerton College.

It takes two!

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or Dream Act application & GPA Submission (GPA Verification Form)

Q Do you have 16 or more completed units (degree applicable/transferable) at Fullerton College?

- A
- If you have 16 or more completed units at Fullerton College (not including remedial coursework), your GPA will be sent automatically by us to CSAC (the administrator of the Cal Grant). You do not need to complete the GPA Verification Process. All you need to do is submit your FAFSA (electronically at www.fafsa.ed.gov or postmarked) or Dream Act application by March 2nd.

Q Do you have less than 16 completed units (degree applicable/transferable) at Fullerton College?

- A
- If you have less than 16 completed units at Fullerton College (not including remedial coursework), you will need to contact your prior school of attendance (whether a college or high school) and have that school submit your GPA. Depending on the school, they may submit your GPA electronically, or they may ask you to complete the hard-copy GPA Verification Form. Be sure to ask how they submit your GPA and make sure they know how long it has been since you last attended their school (as some schools may only submit GPA's automatically for currently attending students.)

Q Regular California Community College GPA vs. Reestablished Community College GPA:

- A
- If you have 24 or more units completed at Fullerton College, than Fullerton College will submit a Regular California Community College GPA for you.

This Regular California Community College GPA can be used for Entitlement Cal Grant consideration.

- If you have between 16-23 units at Fullerton College, Fullerton College can submit a re-established GPA. A re-established GPA is only for Competitive Cal Grant consideration, thus AB540/Dream Act students cannot have a Reestablished Community College GPA submitted.

Q What if I miss the March 2nd deadline?

- A
- If you miss the March 2nd deadline, you should still complete your FAFSA as soon as possible. The March 2nd deadline is only for the Cal Grant, and you may still be eligible for other state or federal aid. If you are still attending (or plan on attending) a California Community College in the next school year, then you have a second chance to receive a Cal Grant. For California Community College students only, a second deadline of September 2nd has been established. Based on units completed, you would either have your GPA submitted automatically by Fullerton College or you would go to your prior school of attendance for GPA certification, in order to be considered. You must also be currently enrolled by September 2nd in order to be awarded and meet the September 2nd deadline. AB540 Students who complete the Dream Act Application after the March 2nd deadline, will only be able to apply for the Board of Governors tuition fee waiver.

What happens after the application deadline?

Q What happens after March 2nd/September 2nd?

- A
- After the deadline, students will communicate directly with the Cal Grant administrator, not Fullerton College, regarding any questions pertaining to their application status. CSAC (California Student Aid Commission) will receive your GPA and results from your FAFSA application. You will receive a California Aid Report (CAR) via email from CSAC as long as you met the priority deadline. The CAR will inform you whether or not you have been awarded a Cal Grant and the steps to take (if any.) You may also receive correspondence via email from CSAC if your Cal Grant application was unsuccessful. Student applicants need to ensure that any communication from CSAC is followed up in a timely fashion. Students should make sure the information reported on the CAR is accurate and contact CSAC directly if a correction needs to be made. Fullerton College must be listed on the CAR in order to receive payment from us. If a student has been awarded a Cal Grant, a completed financial aid file at Fullerton College is needed in order to receive payment. Students can also access information at Webgrants.

Q What if I currently have a Cal Grant?

- A
- If you currently have a Cal Grant, you only need to submit your FAFSA or Dream Act application annually and complete your financial aid file. Providing you are making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) at Fullerton College, your Cal Grant will be part of your financial aid award. If your Cal Grant is on reserve, in addition to filing your FAFSA or Dream Act application and completing your financial aid file, be sure to activate your award by contacting CSAC directly. The form is sent to you with your California Aid Report (CAR) when you were initially awarded or it may be accessed on the web at:

<https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/logon.asp>