



# Fullerton College

## FINANCIAL AID NEWSLETTER

Summer 2022



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Make sure to visit us online at [financialaid.fullcoll.edu](https://financialaid.fullcoll.edu)

# NEW STAFF INTRODUCTIONS



## MARVIN PEREZ

### Financial Aid Technician

Hello Hornets! My name is Marvin Perez. I recently joined the Financial Aid office as a Technician. I have 10 years of experience working in higher education primarily with the financial aid department. I started as a student worker at Cerritos Community College. After working with Cerritos College for 6 years, I had the opportunity to work for California State University Los Angeles for four years as a Coordinator. I graduated from Cerritos College with an AA in Liberal Arts: Social and behavioral Science. I later attended and graduated from California State University Dominguez Hills with a BA in Liberal Studies: Natural Science. Throughout my college life I knew I wanted to work in education whether that be a teacher, counselor, or staff member. I wanted to be involved with students and families and assist them reach their goals. Outside of work I enjoy spending time with my family, going out for walks, taking small trips, reading a book, and watching sports. I am excited to be part of the Financial Aid team and look forward to working with the hornet student family.



## JOSHUA SANCHEZ

### Financial Aid Technician

Hello hornets! My name is Joshua Sanchez, and I recently joined the campus community as an office of Financial Aid Technician. I started my time as a first-generation college student at Fullerton College and completed my AA degree and transferred to Cal State Fullerton in which I completed my BA degree in Sociology. For the past 12 years I have had the roles of a financial aid federal work study student, financial aid document records advisor, financial aid document records coordinator, and most recently financial aid technician at Cal State Fullerton. As a financial aid technician, I have assisted with State aid programs such as Cal Grant, the middle-class scholarship, and California Dream Act Application awards processing. I am looking forward to rejoining the Fullerton college campus community as a Financial Aid Technician. I am looking forward to continuing to help a higher need student population. Financial Aid is personally important to me as a former recipient of financial aid, I would not have been able to advance in my schooling without it and the guidance I received from my financial aid representatives at the time. I hope to be a similar resource to students on campus.



# IN-PERSON, COMPUTER LAB, & REMOTE SERVICE HOURS FOR SUMMER 2022

Magaly Renteria, *Financial Aid Technician*

During Summer 2022, the Financial Aid Office will provide services in-person and remotely. We are available to service students in-person Monday through Thursday; during summer the office is closed on Fridays (June 6 – August 12, 2022). Students visiting our office in-person must check-in at the Financial Aid kiosks. When checking-in, students will have two options – one option for general financial aid questions and a second option for the financial aid computer lab. Students with general financial aid questions will be called to the financial aid counter in Building 100, Room 115 to speak to a financial aid representative. Students who require assistance in completing or making corrections to their FAFSA or CA Dream Act

Summer 2022 Financial Aid Office Hours June 6, 2022 – August 12, 2022		
	REMOTE SERVICES	IN-PERSON SERVICES
<b>Monday</b>	8:00 AM – 4:30 PM	8:00 AM – 12:00 PM <i>Closed 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM</i> 1:00 – 4:30 PM
<b>Tuesday</b>	8:00 AM – 4:30 PM	8:00 AM – 12:00 PM <i>Closed 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM</i> 1:00 – 4:30 PM
<b>Wednesday</b>	8:00 AM – 4:30 PM	8:00 AM – 12:00 PM <i>Closed 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM</i> 1:00 – 4:30 PM
<b>Thursday</b>	8:00 AM – 4:30 PM	8:00 AM – 12:00 PM <i>Closed 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM</i> 1:00 – 4:30 PM
<b>Friday</b>	Closed	Closed

Application, submitting verification documents online via <https://fullcoll.studentforms.com>, or other financial aid related tasks will be called to the computer lab in Building 100, Room 117. The financial aid counter and computer lab are directly across the hall from one another.

Along with our in-person services, we found it equally necessary to continue providing remote services. Our Summer 2022 remote services will be available Monday through Thursday; during summer the office is closed on Fridays (June 6 – August 12, 2022). The remote option allows for students to receive assistance over the phone, email, text, and through Zoom appointments with a Financial Aid Counselor or Technician, depending on the needs of students. Our office uses the QLess system. We know how valuable your time is, so the QLess system allows students to call us at (714) 888-7588, save a spot in the line, and wait for a call back. Students may also contact our office by sending an email or text message to their Financial Aid Technician. Technicians are assigned a caseload based on students' last names. A list of Financial Aid Technicians and the alpha breakdown can be found in the Contact Us section of the financial aid website (<https://financialaid.fullcoll.edu/#contact>). We welcome your questions and look forward to serving you!



# FINANCIAL AID OUTREACH

Wendy Ascencio, *Financial Aid Technician*

The priority filing deadline of March 2nd was extended to April 1, 2022 for the 2022-2023 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), California Dream Act Application (CADAA), and Cal Grant. The Financial Aid Office has hosted its own workshops and has collaborated with various Fullerton College departments to participate in several virtual events for both incoming and continuing students. Between January through April 2022, our office has participated in 50 outreach events and assisted over 400 students. There are upcoming summer outreach events in the near future, so we know we will assist more students, which is the goal! The partnerships between the Financial Aid Office and Outreach, Promise, Transfer Center, Grads to Be, and Counseling have become essential in providing a path to success for our students.

The financial aid workshops walk students through the process of completing their financial aid application from beginning to end. We assist students in creating an FSA ID, which is a username and password used to login and complete a financial aid application. Although there are two financial aid applications, we cannot stress the importance of completing only the application that is applicable to the student – the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA, <https://studentaid.gov/>) or a California Dream Act Application (CADAA, <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>).

Our office would like to remind everyone that financial aid applications are available every year starting October 1st, with a priority filing deadline of March 2nd to be considered for the Cal Grant priority deadline. If students inadvertently miss the priority filing deadline, we still encourage them to complete a financial aid application for financial aid eligibility that is not tied to the March 2nd deadline.

We have received positive feedback from students saying the one-stop style events are helpful in getting answers to all of their questions without having to walk from one department to the next. Having the ability to hold virtual outreach events and provide one-on-one and group assistance to our students has been a positive experience for both students and staff. Even after the campus fully reopens, we hope to continue providing virtual workshops for students and parents who are unable to attend in-person sessions. For our latest news and events, please visit our website at <https://financialaid.fullcoll.edu/>.



# GOLDEN STATE EDUCATION & TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM (GSETGP)

Krystal Correa & Carmen Zapata, *Financial Aid Technicians*

This program is designed to encourage and support individuals who suffered COVID-related job loss to enter, continue and complete college and job training programs. The program was established and funded in the 2021 California Budget Act, mainly with one-time federal COVID recovery dollars, to offer this one-time financial incentive. Half of the funds must go to individuals supporting dependent children (a student parent).

To be eligible for the Golden State Education and Training Grant Program, a student must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Was displaced from employment due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Was not enrolled in a training program or institution of higher education at the time they were displaced from employment
- Has been unable to obtain employment that provides an average monthly wage that is equal to or greater than the average monthly wage received from their employment prior to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Meets the income and asset criteria to be eligible for a Cal Grant A award
- Is enrolled in an educational program at an institution of higher education, an adult vocational or career training program provided by a K12 school or community college.

CSAC intends for awards to be \$2,500. In total, approximately \$500 million is available (statewide) on a one-time basis.

How do students apply?

- The application is brief and simple. Students will need to log in on the Golden State Education and Training website
- Students with a FAFSA or California Dream Act application on file will not need to provide financial information.
- Those without those financial aid applications on file will be required to complete a short, supplemental application form to verify financial eligibility for this program.
- The application form will ask up front if a student and/or their child(ren) are receiving support from their local county CalWORKs program. If they certify “yes” the application will bypass the need to input income and asset data.

Once a student has submitted their application, Commission staff will coordinate with the respective campuses to ensure that an applicant is on the GSETGP roster. After the student’s enrollment in a credit or non-credit program is confirmed, Commission staff will send the grant funding to financial aid offices and inform the student of the award. Students will be directed to their campus financial aid office for next steps.



# CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT SERVICE INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM (DSIG)

Carmen Zapata & Krystal Correa, *Financial Aid Technicians*

The California Dream Act Service Incentive Grant Program (DSIG) encourages California Dream Act Application (CADAA) students with a Cal Grant B award to perform community or volunteer service. The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) will award up to \$3,000 per academic year (up to \$1,500 per semester) to eligible students. The grant will be available to the students for up to 8 semesters while they have an active Cal Grant B award. Students will need to apply annually to participate in the DSIG program.

What are the grant requirements?

- Must have completed and submitted California Dream Act Application for the academic year.
- Must be an active recipient of a Cal Grant B award for the academic year.
- Must have enough financial need.
- Complete community or volunteer service hours in that academic year. Students need to perform at least 150 hours per semester.
- Must meet SAP: Satisfactory Academic Progress.

How do students Apply?

1. To apply for the California Dream Act Service Incentive Grant Program (DSIG), students will need to complete and submit the 2022-2023 DSIG application found on the CSAC website (<https://www.csac.ca.gov/dsig>).
2. To request payment from the California Dream Act Service Incentive Grant Program, students can request payment after performing at least 150 hours per semester community or volunteer services. Student can complete the Payment Request form to request payment found on the CSAC website (<https://www.csac.ca.gov/dsig>).

Volunteer opportunities will be listed online (<https://www.csac.ca.gov/dsig/serviceorganizations>) and it would be the student's responsibility to ensure that they are completing hours at an eligible organization. Fullerton College is also part of the eligible organizations and different on-campus opportunities will be announced throughout the year.



# INCOME CHANGES? AN APPEAL MAY BE RIGHT FOR YOU!

Felipe Rodriguez, *Financial Aid Technician*

In 2015, the Federal Government signed prior-prior year into legislation. This requires both FAFSA & CA Dream Act (CADAA) applicants to use tax information from two years prior. For the current academic year, 2021-2022, students and parents are required to provide 2019 tax information.

The intention of prior-prior year is to make the application process easier for students and parents; by requesting prior-prior year taxes it eases the pressure of having to file taxes early. Furthermore, students and parents have the option of linking the tax information directly from the Internal Revenue Service, using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT). Presently, the tool is only available through the FAFSA and to use the tool applicants must meet certain criteria. The use of the IRS DRT minimizes inconsistencies and expedites the financial aid verification process. However, we are aware that a lot can change in two years specifically due to COVID 19, its effect on the economy and the closure of many businesses, resulting in employees being laid off or furloughed. Additionally, as a result of inflation, prices have been skyrocketing and we know that this impacts many students and families.

As a result, the Fullerton College Financial Aid Office continues to offer Income Adjustments to students and families. Although schools do have the option to offer income adjustments, it is not a requirement. Students can appeal at the Fullerton College Financial Aid Office to use current income as opposed to prior-prior year. If the appeal is approved, the student's financial aid eligibility will be recalculated for the current 2021-2022 academic year. The decrease in income may result in a decrease to the student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which in turn can result in additional need based financial aid for the student. The goal of Fullerton College is to ensure that our students are able to achieve their academic goals, and financial aid specifically can assist by maximizing financial aid eligibility whenever possible.

Students and families who believe they can benefit from an income adjustment will need to contact their assigned Financial Aid Technician via email or text message. The Financial Aid Technician will conduct an interview to determine if an income adjustment appeal is appropriate and, if so, the technician will provide students with the information on how to complete the next steps in the process. Moreover, the technicians are available to assist students through this process which can at times seem difficult, however the result will be favorable for the student, once completed. A list of Financial Aid Technicians and the alpha breakdown can be found on the Financial Aid Office website (<https://financialaid.fullcoll.edu>).



# FEDERAL WORK-STUDY

Carmen Zapata & Krystal Correa, *Financial Aid Technicians*



Federal Work-Study (FWS) is a campus-based program providing students with the opportunity to earn additional money, while working in approved FWS jobs. In addition to the money earned from FWS, students gain valuable work experience and knowledge, while departments receive additional assistance answering phone calls, replying to emails, and other important departmental needs. While working in a FWS job, students are given the opportunity to network with staff and faculty members and learn.

Funding for FWS is very limited, so it is imperative for students to meet all FWS requirements. Students interested in FWS positions must complete a FAFSA as soon as possible and answer yes to the FWS question on the application. Students must meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) and must remain enrolled in a minimum of 6 active units per term in order to participate in the FWS program. If at any point in the semester students do not meet SAP or fall below 6 units of enrollment, they will no longer be able to continue with their FWS position. Students may work up to 20

hours a week as long as they remain eligible for FWS and have not reached their maximum award allocation. How quickly the FWS award is expended depends on the number of hours worked each week and the hourly payrate. How much a student earns per hour depends highly on the skills possessed by the student and the skills required for the position. If a student does not work to earn the amount of the FWS offered, the money will be returned to the FWS program. Students must renew their FAFSA each year to be reconsidered for FWS eligibility.

The FWS jobs are primarily on campus or with selected employers in the community. Students must apply and go through the interview and hiring process. There are upcoming opportunities for FWS eligible students to work on-campus as well as getting some off-campus experience working with Raymond Elementary School. We are always looking for opportunities to make positive impact in our local community. Future on-campus and off-campus opportunities will continue to develop as the program grows with more department participation and off-campus partnerships. For further information about FWS, please visit the Financial Aid Office website or contact Carmen Zapata (czapata@fullcoll.edu). You may learn more about financial aid at Fullerton College by visiting the Financial Aid website (<https://financialaid.fullcoll.edu/>).

