



– CHANGES –



to Financial Aid Regulations and Processes

2023-2024

1. The maximum academic year Pell Grant award is \$7,395 for eligible students with a \$0 Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The minimum academic year Pell Grant award is \$750.
2. The Pell Grant eligibility expanded to include students with an EFC of up to \$6,656, which is an increase compared to last year's max Pell Grant eligible EFC of \$6,206.
3. The 2023-2024 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the California Dream Act Application (CADAA) are available beginning October 1, 2022. The applications will require 2021 income information.
4. The Department of Education has removed three questions from the 2023-2024 FAFSA as part of a phased approach to implementation of the FAFSA Simplification Act, which passed in December 2020. FAFSA applicants will no longer be asked about the following: (1) gender, (2) drug conviction, and (3) Selective Service. Although the Selective Service question has been removed from the FAFSA form, it remains a requirement for all males to register with Selective Service within 30 days of their 18th birthday. Because this question has been removed, male applicants can no longer register with the Selective Service via the FAFSA form.
5. For students with a previous determination of independence due to homelessness, their answers to the three existing homeless questions on the FAFSA form are eligible for renewal beginning with the 2023-2024 FAFSA.
6. Each time a student logs into StudentAid.gov, they will be asked to provide a one-time code that is delivered via email, text message, or an authenticator app. Two-step verification, a form of multi-factor authentication, helps protect students' StudentAid.gov accounts.
7. The student loan payment pause is extended until the U.S. Department of Education is permitted to implement the debt relief program or the litigation is resolved. Payments will restart 60 days later. If the debt relief program has not been implemented and the litigation has not been resolved by June 30, 2023, payments will resume 60 days after that. Students loan borrowers will be notified before payments restart.
8. Financial aid eligibility for the 2023-2024 academic year is based on income from 2021. If income for you and/or your parent(s) has drastically reduced due to change of employment, reduction in pay, layoffs, etc., please contact the Financial Aid Office to inquire about an Income Adjustment Appeal. Through the appeal process, we may be able reassess your financial aid eligibility which may result in a revised financial aid award for the current academic school year.
9. The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) has a new program, the California Dream Act Service Incentive Grant Program (DSIG), which encourages California Dream Act Application (CADAA) students with a Cal Grant B award to perform community or volunteer service. CSAC will award up to \$4,500 per academic year (up to \$2,250 per semester or up to \$1,500 per quarter) to 1,667 eligible students. The grant will be available to the student for up to 8 semesters or up to 12 quarters while they have an active Cal Grant B award. Students must also meet Satisfactory Academic Progress and complete any necessary verification for their Cal Grant B award.

10. The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) has a new program, Golden State Education and Training Grant Program (GSETGP), that offers one-time grants to eligible California resident workers who lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are enrolling in public education or training programs to learn new skills and get back into the workforce. To be eligible, students must meet income and asset criteria for Cal Grant A award and must have been: displaced from employment due to the COVID-19 pandemic; 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; and not enrolled in a training program, college, or university at the time they were displaced from employment. CSAC will accept 2023-2024 applications through April 1, 2024 or until all funds have been awarded. (CADAA) students with a Cal Grant B award to perform community or volunteer service.

11. The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) has a new program, Learning-Aligned Employment Program (LAEP), that offers eligible students at public colleges and universities the opportunity to earn money to help pay their educational costs while gaining education-aligned, career-related employment. Priority will be given to eligible students who are first-generation college students, current/former foster youth, homeless, or at risk of being homeless. Further priority will be given to eligible students majoring in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) discipline. LAEP is separate from the Federal Work-Study program.

12. As a reminder, the Federal Work-Study (FWS) program provides part-time employment for eligible undergraduate and graduate students with financial need, allowing students to earn money to help pay educational expenses. The program encourages community service work and work related to the student's course of study. To be considered for 2023-2024 FWS, students must submit their FAFSA by the priority filing deadline of March 2, 2023 and submit all required documents by May 30, 2023. FWS awards are not guaranteed, as the funding is limited. Eligible students must accept their FWS award via myGateway, which will then prompt them to create an account on JobX where they can search and apply for FWS positions. Interested students may inquire about FWS by contacting our office.

