



-CHANGES-



to Financial Aid Regulations and Processes 2024-2025

1. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the California Dream Act Application (CADAA) are normally available beginning October 1. For the 2024-2025 award year, the applications were delayed and released in late December 2023. To accommodate the delay, the state Cal Grant priority deadline has moved from the usual March 2nd date to April 2nd. Also, the in-house priority verification deadline has moved from the usual May 30th deadline to June 30th. The applications will require 2022 income information.
2. Contributor is a new term introduced on the 2024-2025 FAFSA. Contributor refers to anyone required to provide information on the FAFSA such as the student, the student's spouse, a biological or adoptive parent, or the parent's spouse. Contributors will be invited to complete their portion of the FAFSA and will need a StudentAid.gov account.
3. After students submit their FAFSA, they will receive a FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS), formerly known as a Student Aid Report (SAR). The FSS is a paper or electronic document from the U.S. Department of Education's office of Federal Student Aid that lists answers to the questions on the student's FAFSA and gives basic estimates about the student's eligibility for federal student aid. It is not a financial aid offer. Student's may access their FSS on their StudentAid.gov dashboard.
4. Beginning in the 2024-2025 award year, the Student Aid Index (SAI) will be used to calculate federal student aid eligibility, including the Pell Grant. Students may have a negative SAI for Pell Grant eligibility. The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) will no longer be used.
5. The maximum academic year Pell Grant award is \$7,395 for eligible students.
6. Students will be awarded the maximum Pell Grant eligibility based on their 2024-2025 FAFSA. The disbursement of the Pell Grant will be based on actual enrolled units. For financial aid purposes, full-time enrollment is considered 12 or more units. If a student enrolls in less than 12 units, the Pell Grant disbursement will be adjusted according to enrolled units. For example, the Pell Grant disbursement for 7 units will be one amount, 8 units another amount, 9 units another amount, and so on. Students may contact our office for specifics about their award offers.
7. Students with a previous determination of independence due to homelessness or approval of unusual circumstance appeals (previously known as dependency override appeals) will continue to be considered independent moving forward. However, it is the responsibility of students to inform the Financial Aid Office of any updates or changes in their circumstances. Students who indicate having special circumstances on their FAFSA/CADAA will provisionally be considered independent, but will not be officially independent until they go through the unusual circumstance appeal process.
8. New Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy effective July 1, 2024. The full SAP policy will be available on our website (<https://financialaid.fullcoll.edu/resources/#publications>).

9. Financial aid eligibility for the 2024-2025 academic year is based on income from 2022. If income for you and/or your parent(s) has significantly reduced due to change of employment, reduction in pay, layoffs, etc., please contact the Financial Aid Office to inquire about a special circumstance appeal (formerly known as an income appeal). Through the appeal process, your financial aid eligibility will be reassessed based on the lower income which may result in a revised financial aid offer for the current award year.

10. Awards for most federal student aid programs are based on students demonstrated financial need for assistance. The Cost of Attendance (COA) is used to establish a student's financial need, as it sets a limit on the total aid that a student may receive. The COA at Fullerton College will vary depending on the student's status of living at home with parent or living off-campus. The COA reflects a 9-month timeframe, but will be adjusted based on actual enrollment. The COA includes living expenses (food and housing), miscellaneous personal expenses, books, course materials, supplies, equipment, transportation, tuition and fees. In the event a student receives financial aid up to their COA and requires an increase to their COA to receive additional aid, such as scholarships, students may inquire about a special circumstance appeal. Through this appeal, a student's COA may potentially be increased to allow for the awarding of additional aid.

11. The 2024-2025 FAFSA no longer asks students to select a housing status, such as living at home with parent or off-campus. Previously, the student's housing status helped schools determine a student's Cost of Attendance (COA). Now, schools will use a student's dependency status (dependent or independent) to determine a student's COA for the academic year. For dependent students, a message will be posted in myGateway to instruct students to contact the Financial Aid Office if their COA is incorrect.

12. The Federal Work-Study (FWS) program provides part-time employment for eligible students with financial need, allowing students to earn money to help pay educational expenses. The FWS question has been removed from the 2024-2025 FAFSA. To be considered for 2024-2025 FWS, students must submit their FAFSA by the priority filing deadline of April 2, 2024 and submit all required documents by June 30, 2024. FWS awards are not guaranteed, as the funding is limited. Eligible students must accept their FWS award via myGateway, which will prompt them to create a JobX account where they can search and apply for available FWS positions. Interested students may inquire about FWS by contacting our office.

13. Learning-Aligned Employment Program (LAEP) is a California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) program 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.

14. Students interested in accepting loans may do so by submitting an online Direct Loan Request Form on their Student Forms account (<https://fullcoll.studentforms.com>). The Student Forms account must be activated yearly. To learn about loans, students may read our Federal Direct Loan publication located on our website (<https://financialaid.fullcoll.edu/resources/#publications>) or contact our office.