

Frequently Asked Questions

Q How is a “dependent child” defined?

A A “dependent child” or “dependent children” means a child or children, as applicable, under 18 years of age whose parent or legal guardian is the student and if the child or all the children collectively receive more than 50 percent of their support from the student. A parent is defined as someone who has a biological and/or legally adopted child. A legal guardian is defined as someone other than the child's biological parent who accepts legal responsibility for the child.

Q Will students who complete the CA Dream Act application also be considered for SWD?

A Yes, you will be considered for SWD if you complete the CA Dream Act Application.

Q Which FAFSA or CA Dream Act transaction will be used to determine initial eligibility?

A The most recent, complete FAFSA or CA Dream Act transaction with an official Student Aid Index (SAI) will be used to determine initial eligibility.

Q Will CSAC reconsider a student for SWD if there are changes that now make the student potentially eligible for SWD?

A Yes, if you have a Cal Grant award, CSAC will reconsider you for SWD. These changes must be indicated on the FAFSA or CA Dream Act application, so that you can be reprocessed using the latest transaction.

Q Can SWD be awarded to students who have the same dependent child/children under the age of 18?

A Yes, if both students meet the criteria for Cal Grant eligibility, they will be eligible for the SWD grant if they both have enough unmet need.

Q Does SWD eligibility rollover?

A No, SWD eligibility is based on the corresponding Cal Grant award year.

Q Once certified, does the SWD certification rollover into the next academic?

A No, the certification is only valid for the current academic year. You will have to recertify every year.

WebGrants 4 Students

Applicants and current Cal Grant awardees should check their Cal Grant status on the web using WebGrants 4 Students at <https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/>. Students will need to create an account. All students are encouraged to use WebGrants 4 Students to track their application status. 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 March 2025. However, information is subject to change without notice.

For more information on Cal Grant:

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

**Fullerton College
Financial Aid Office**
Building 100, Room 115
<https://financialaid.fullcoll.edu/>



Cal Grant

*What it is
and
How to Apply*

Fullerton College 2025-2026

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.

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
- ▶ A college student attending a community college and have graduated from a California high school more than a year, 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.

Types of Cal Grants

There are three Cal Grants: A, B, and C. You may only use A (Student with Dependents or Foster Youth only), 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 A for students with dependents or foster youth are eligible to receive the access portion at a community college, including Fullerton College.

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, certificate program, or Associated Degree.

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 \$1,094 per year full-time. Cal Grant B is awarded in the amount of \$1,648 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!

In order to be considered for Cal Grant, students must complete their financial aid application (FAFSA or California Dream Act Application) and have a GPA Submission (GPA Verification Form). Our office will automatically send the GPA Verification for students who have completed 24 units or more at Fullerton College. Those who qualify for either a regular GPA (24 or more units) or a re-established GPA (16–23 units) will have their GPA automatically transmitted to the state, provided they have enrollment history at Fullerton College within the past five years. Students who have not been enrolled for five years but have completed the required units may request the Fullerton College Financial Aid Office to send their GPA verification to the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC). **Contact the Fullerton College Financial Aid Office at financialaid@fullcoll.edu no later than two weeks prior to the submission deadline (March 2nd).** A college GPA is calculated based on all completed college coursework, excluding nontransferable units and courses that do not count toward GPA calculation. **Students should note that a re-established GPA is applicable only for a Cal Grant B Competitive Award.**

Q Do you have 24 or more completed units (degree applicable/transferable) at Fullerton College?

A If you have 24 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 financial aid application (FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application, as applicable) by March 2nd.

Q Do you have less than 24 completed units (degree applicable/transferable) at Fullerton College?

A If you have less than 24 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 What is the difference between Regular CA Community College GPA & Reestablished Community College GPA?

A If you have 24 or more units completed at Fullerton College, then 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.

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.

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

A After the deadline, you will communicate directly with the Cal Grant administrator, not Fullerton College, regarding any questions pertaining to your application status. CSAC (California Student Aid Commission) will receive your GPA and results from your financial aid application (FAFSA or CA Dream Act 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. You must ensure that any communication from CSAC is followed up in a timely fashion. 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 you have been awarded a Cal Grant, a completed financial aid file at Fullerton College is needed in order to receive payment. You can also access information on WebGrants4Students (<https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/>).

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. If 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 CA 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/>.

Q How long may I receive my Cal Grant?

A 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.

Cal Grant B Eligibility Expansion for Foster Youth

The 2018-2019 Budget Act increased the Cal Grant B lifetime eligibility for current and former foster youth. Foster youth students may renew their Cal Grant B awards for a total of the equivalent of eight years of full-time attendance in an undergraduate program, provided that minimum financial need continues to exist.

Students With Dependents (SWD) or Foster Youth

Eligibility

If you are attending a UC, CSU or CCC and have dependent children, receiving more than half of their support from you and who are under the age of 18, you might be eligible to receive an access award of up to \$6,000 for eligible Cal Grant A or B or up to \$4000 for eligible Cal Grant C recipients. The award amounts will be prorated to be consistent with your enrollment status: full-time, three-quarter-time, half-time.

Students are required to confirm if they have dependents under the age of 18 to CSAC by logging into WebGrants4Students. If you have difficulties logging into the WebGrants4Students account, please visit the CSAC website for assistance.