



FINANCIAL AID

TOPICS

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FINANCIAL AID TEAM DELIVERS BIG SUPPORT IN FALL 2025 – MIDTERM MILESTONE UPDATE

The first half of the Fall 2025 semester has been nothing short of busy, and the Financial Aid Office has been hard at work helping students navigate their financial aid journey. From application assistance to one-on-one counseling, our team has provided thousands of students with critical support to help them stay enrolled and on track.

Between August 18 and October 6, 2025, the **Financial Aid team has already had over 6,400 student interactions** across multiple service areas – a testament to our ongoing commitment to student success.

By the Numbers – Fall 2025 (So Far!)

Here's a quick look at what's been accomplished during just the first half of the semester:

- **3,482 students** checked in at the Financial Aid counter to ask about their award status, disbursements, next steps, and more.
- **2,314 students** requested a financial aid callback through our QLess system, receiving timely updates and assistance without having to wait in long lines.

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2025

- **450 students** received in-person help in the Financial Aid Computer Lab, where staff guided them through FAFSA and CADAA applications, Student Forms setup, CCPG application, BankMobile activation, and various other tasks on myGateway such as checking their account balances, showing students where to find their class schedules and their unofficial transcripts.
- **219 students** met with a Financial Aid Counselor to discuss more in-depth topics like Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) disqualifications, receive a Student Education Program Plan (SEPP), and get assistance with the SAP appeal process.

appeal, the Financial Aid team continues to play a vital role in student retention and academic success.

Behind every number is a dedicated team member who made it possible. From the front counter to phone callbacks, lab assistance to one-on-one counseling, the Financial Aid team is proud that our numbers reflect we are going above and beyond for Fullerton College students.

As we move into the second half of the semester, the work continues, and we remain committed to providing excellent service, clear communication, and compassionate support for every student who walks through our doors (or requests a callback or sends an email!).

These numbers represent more than just stats – they reflect real student stories and real moments where our office helped students move one step closer to their goals. Whether it was clearing up confusion about a missing document, walking through an application line-by-line, or helping a student regain their aid through a SAP



Over 64,000 student interactions as of the mid-point of Fall 2025 semester!

2026-2027 FAFSA AND CA DREAM ACT APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!



The 2026-2027 FAFSA and California Dream

Act Applications (CADAA) are now available! If you plan to attend college between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027, apply early to be considered for the maximum amount of financial aid, including grants, scholarships, and work-study. Visit studentaid.gov for the FAFSA or dream.csac.ca.gov for the CADAA.

It's also not too late to apply for the 2025-2026 academic year – both applications remain open until June 30, 2025. If you haven't applied yet, there's still time!

Need help? Students are welcome to stop by our office for in-person assistance in our computer lab, located in Building 100, Room 117.



SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) – CHANGES TO THE APPEAL PROCESS IN FALL 2025

While the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy remains the same, the SAP appeal process has been updated this semester to make it more accessible and efficient for students. These changes are designed to ensure that all students who wish to appeal have the opportunity to do so – especially in light of limited Financial Aid Counseling appointment availability.

Policy Reminder: What is SAP?

Students must meet the following standards to remain eligible for most types of financial aid:

- 2.0 cumulative GPA or higher
- Completion of at least 67% of all attempted units
- Completion of a program within 150% of its published unit length (e.g., 90 units for a 60-unit AA/AS degree)

SAP is reviewed at the end of each semester and applies to all coursework, even if financial aid was not received.

What's New: Streamlined Counseling Requirements

To simplify the process and reduce wait times, only some students are

SAP Requirements

- Complete at least 67% of all attempted units
- Maintain a cumulative 2.0 GPA or higher
- Be below a total of 90 units

required to meet with a Financial Aid Counselor before submitting a SAP appeal.

An appointment is required if:

- The student has attempted 90 or more units, or
- The student is changing from one certificate program to another that is under 60 units

Appointments can be scheduled online (via the link in the SAP disqualification notification) or in person at the Financial Aid kiosks.

An appointment is NOT required if:

- The disqualification is due to a GPA below 2.0, or
- A completion rate below 67%, or
- The student is switching from a certificate program to a 60-unit degree (AA/AS)

Submitting a SAP Appeal

All appeals must be submitted online at <https://fullcoll.studentforms.com>.

Each appeal must include:

- A personal statement explaining why SAP standards were not met
- Documentation of any extenuating circumstances
- A Student Educational Program Plan (SEPP) if required (see counseling requirements above)

Need Help? We're Here for Support!

The Financial Aid staff are here to help every step of the way. Students who need assistance with submitting their SAP appeal or uploading documents can receive in-person support at the Financial Aid Computer Lab during our open business hours. Also, as part of our Financial Aid Friday workshops, we will host workshops on the topic of SAP. Our next SAP workshop will be on November 14, 2025.

STAY AID ELIGIBLE: TAKE CLASSES THAT COUNT

What Is CPoS?

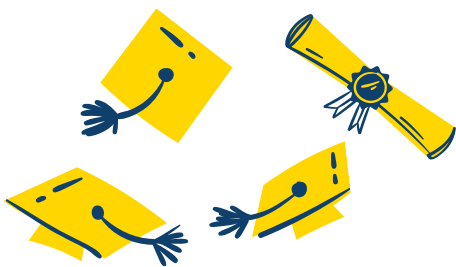
Course Program of Study (CPoS) is a federal regulation that requires students to take classes that apply to their officially declared major, degree, or certificate program in order to qualify for financial aid. Under CPoS, if a course does not count toward a student's program of study, it may not be eligible for Pell Grants, Federal student loans, Cal Grant, Student Success Completion Grant (SSCG), and more.

This means students will need to stay on track with their academic plan - both to graduate on time and to receive their full financial aid package.

Why It Matters

In the past, students could take a variety of courses, even those not related to their major, without losing financial aid eligibility. With CPoS, financial aid will now be calculated based only on classes that directly support a student's educational goal.

If a student enrolls in courses outside of their declared program, those units won't be counted toward their financial aid enrollment status. This could result in receiving less financial aid if not enrolled in courses directly related to the student's program.



How Students Can Prepare

Although CPoS won't officially begin until Fall 2026, there are steps students can take right now to stay ahead:

1. Review and Update Program of Study

Students should check their declared major or program to ensure it reflects their current academic and career goals. If it needs to be changed, they should meet with an academic counselor as soon as possible.

2. Follow an Updated Educational Program Plan

Having a current Student Educational Program Plan (SEPP) is critical. This plan outlines the courses needed to complete a student's program and ensures those courses are eligible for financial aid under CPoS rules.

3. Be Strategic During Registration

Before registering for each semester, students should confirm that all selected courses align with their SEPP. Courses that aren't part of the plan may not be covered by financial aid.

4. Stay Informed

The Financial Aid Office will continue to share updates as more guidance is released. Students should keep an eye on their email, check the Financial Aid website, or stop by in person closer to the start of the fall 2026 semester.

When It Starts

CPoS will be implemented beginning Fall 2026, for the 2026-2027 financial aid year. While that may seem far off, preparing early will help students avoid last-minute surprises and stay fully eligible for aid.

More Information Coming Soon
Details are still being finalized, and the Financial Aid Office is working and partners are working diligently to ensure a smooth rollout. In the coming months, the Financial Aid Office will provide additional information and resources to help students understand how CPoS will affect them.

Fall 2026 may be around the corner, but with the right steps now, students can stay on track and make the most of their financial aid. Stay tuned for more CPoS news!



NO SUMMER SLOWDOWN: FINANCIAL AID OUTREACH POWERS INTO FALL 2025

Summer may have come and go, but the Financial Aid Outreach team has remained busy on and off campus getting our incoming and continuing Fullerton College students financial aid ready for Fall 2025 – Spring 2026 academic year. Changes in financial aid may be ongoing and more of the norm, therefore, the Financial Aid Outreach team continues to work with partners on and off campus to keep the information consistently updated during presentations, workshops, and tabling events to ensure students and staff alike are informed on current eligibility and processes.

START sessions with High School Outreach kicked off the Summer to Fall transition with over 1700 in attendance. Financial Aid Outreach presented in the Fullerton College campus theatre "Next Steps for Financial Aid" prior to students going to different stations depending on where they were in the registration process. Students that still needed financial aid assistance went to dedicated Financial Aid workshops where the Financial Aid Outreach team was able to help students complete pending financial aid files, complete the application process itself, set up their Student Forms account and BankMobile refund preferences, and how to find their Financial Aid award letters on their myGateway accounts.

With 25 events already on the books, Financial Aid Outreach has already serviced 2,511 individuals with 21 additional events scheduled through the end of Fall and counting.

The team takes a proactive approach during these events to ensure a smooth process navigating the application process through the verification process and all the way until students are disbursed any awarded grants.





For students not able to finish during the START sessions or that needed additional

support, Future Hornet Sessions throughout the month of August up until census date in September brought additional opportunities for Financial Aid Outreach to get students on track to receiving their financial aid on time. These workshops allowed space for students to ask further questions about their financial aid and even catch some errors early on to be able to resolve timely for the first Fall disbursements.

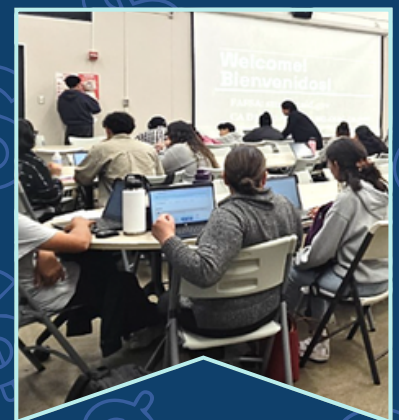
The Financial Aid Outreach team continues to collaborate with other programs on campus tailoring the needs of the population of students they serve. Grads2Be invited the team for a workshop focused on FAFSA and CADAA explaining differences between the two applications and the eligibility for different types of awards available. Additionally, the team has been providing financial aid training presentations for the Student Success Advocates to better service our students and help overcome barriers students may face when planning to continue their education.

Our partners from the Fullerton Joint Union School District held their College Fair at Sonora High School. Financial Aid Outreach met with 77 individuals that night looking at

community colleges as an option for their family members or themselves in the coming years. Junior high and high school students had the chance to start looking at the financial aid options that may be available to them after high school and take home flyers with important information such as steps to financial aid and how to contact the Financial Aid Office for further information. La Habra High School also has a dedicated Financial Aid Night coming up for their students where Financial Aid Outreach will provide a presentation and workshop to follow.

A new addition this Fall for the team is the **Financial Aid Fridays workshop series** scheduled for every Friday during the Fall term. With topics specifically designed to tailor the requests and demand the Financial Aid Outreach team sees when servicing students at events, such as Satisfactory Academic Progress, Cal Grant and Student Success Completion Grant, Changes in Financial Aid, and Financial Literacy just to name a few.

These ongoing efforts to continue improving outreach and in-reach efforts while collaborating with partners on and off campus are a part of the Financial Aid Outreach team's goal in helping students enroll and stay enrolled to finish their academic goals. While the Fall 25' semester may be in full swing, the 2026-2027 FAFSA and CADAA application now being open brings more opportunities for the team to assist students at events looking to continue their education.



FINANCIAL AID FRIDAYS: SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH FINANCIAL AID AND WELLNESS EDUCATION AT FULLERTON COLLEGE

NEW!

At Fullerton College, we are committed to removing barriers to higher education and ensuring that every student—regardless of background or circumstance—has the knowledge, resources, and support to succeed academically and financially. Navigating college finances can be one of the most difficult challenges students face, especially for those unfamiliar with the financial aid process or personal financial management. We recognize that a student's ability to afford and complete their education is directly linked to their understanding of financial systems.

To address this need, Fullerton College is proud to present Financial Aid Fridays—a series of workshops designed to educate and empower students in all areas of financial aid, financial literacy, and academic progress. These workshops not only provide information but also aim to reduce barriers, promote financial wellness, and help students reach their educational goals. By breaking down complex topics into clear, actionable steps, we're helping students take full advantage of the financial resources available to them.

Financial Aid Fridays workshops cover a variety of important topics, including:

- **General Financial Aid** – An overview of the financial aid process, including how to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or the California Dream Act Application (CADAA), and information on federal and state grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study opportunities.
- **Financial Literacy & Wellness** – Budgeting, saving, and banking strategies that help students manage money effectively and create financial stability during college.
- **Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)** – Understanding the academic requirements needed to maintain financial aid eligibility, how GPA and course completion are evaluated, and how to file an appeal if necessary.
- **Cal Grant & Student Success Completion Grant (SSCG)** – Guidance on state-specific financial aid programs, including eligibility criteria, application processes, and award amounts.
- **California Dream Act (CADAA) Workshop** – A dedicated session for undocumented students, providing information about available aid, eligibility, and the application process under state law.
- **FAFSA & CADAA Updates** – Upcoming changes to the financial aid process for the 2026–2027 academic year, including new deadlines, policy updates, and application tips.

- **Financial Aid Changes & Policy Updates** – A broader look at what’s new in financial aid regulations to help students and families plan for the future.

These workshops are open to all students but are especially valuable for first-generation college students, low-income students, undocumented students, returning students, and those who may be at risk of losing aid due to academic performance. By addressing the specific needs of these populations, Fullerton College continues to uphold its mission of equity, access, and student success.

College affordability remains one of the biggest barriers to higher education. Financial uncertainty often forces students to take on excessive debt, work long hours, or even pause their studies. Many students are unaware of the aid they qualify for or how to maintain it. Through these workshops, Fullerton College provides accurate, timely, and accessible information to help students reduce financial stress, improve retention, and stay focused on their educational goals.

Financial Aid Fridays are not just about compliance—they are about empowerment. When students understand how to manage their finances and access the resources available to them, they gain confidence, independence, and the freedom to focus on what matters most: their education. These workshops serve as a bridge between students and the tools they need to thrive—financially, academically, and personally.

At Fullerton College, we believe financial literacy and access to aid are not privileges but essential components of student success. Financial Aid Fridays reflect our ongoing commitment to education, outreach, and compassionate guidance for all students.

Join us for Financial Aid Fridays and take control of your financial future—because when students are financially informed, they are empowered to succeed.

NOTE: Workshop dates and topics can be found on the Financial Aid Fridays flyer on the next page.

FRIDAYS

FINANCIAL

AID

Financial Aid Fridays

Join us throughout the semester for a series of free workshops focused on financial aid, literacy, and wellness. Each session covers a different topic to help you stay informed, financially healthy, and on track for success!

 **TIME:** 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

 **LOCATION:** Financial Aid Computer Lab - Building 100, Room 117

 **No registration required – Walk-ins welcome!**

 Visit financialaid.fullcoll.edu for more information.

SEP

19

GENERAL FINANCIAL AID

Application process and types of aid

SEP

26

FINANCIAL LITERACY & WELLNESS

Budgeting basics, saving strategies, and banking

OCT

3

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP)

Learn about SAP and the appeal process

OCT

10

CAL GRANT & SSCG

Eligibility criteria and amounts

OCT

17

CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT APPLICATION

CADAA application process and types of aid

OCT

24

FAFSA & CADAA UPDATES

Get ready for the 26/27 school year

OCT

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FINANCIAL AID CHANGES

What's new for the upcoming 26/27 school year?

NOV

7

GENERAL FINANCIAL AID

Application process and types of aid

NOV

14

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP)

Learn about SAP and the appeal process

NOV

21

FINANCIAL LITERACY & WELLNESS

Credit, debt, and spending wisely



Fullerton College

APPLY NOW: 2025-2026 CCCSFAAA SCHOLARSHIP

The California Community Colleges Student Financial Aid Administrators Association (CCCSFAAA) is offering twenty \$500 scholarships to community college students across California – two from each of the ten CCCSFAAA regions.

Eligibility:

- Enrolled in 6+ units for Spring 2026
- GPA of 2.5 or higher
- At least \$1,000 in unmet financial need

- Applied for State and/or Federal Financial Aid



Deadline: Friday, January 9, 2026

Don't miss this opportunity for extra financial support! Visit the CCCSFAAA website to learn more and apply today: <https://cccsfaaa.memberclicks.net/Scholarship>.

NEED FINANCIAL AID HELP? CHECK OUT OUR OFFICE HOURS – NOW OPEN LATER ON TUESDAYS!

We are located in Building 100, Room 115. Students can stop by the Financial Aid Office during the following times:

Fall 2025 Office Hours

Monday: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM (**NEW Extended Hours!**)

Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Thursday: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Friday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

The Financial Aid Office is here to support students every step of the way – whether it's applying for aid, checking on file status, or asking questions about disbursements. To better serve students this term, we've extended our Tuesday hours until 6:00 PM to help those who are on campus later in the day! We know that not every student has a schedule that fits neatly into a 9-5 window. Whether juggling classes, work, or other responsibilities, many students are still on campus during the evening. Our new Tuesday extended hours (5 PM –

6 PM) are designed to make financial aid services more accessible to all students.

Stop By for Help With:

- FAFSA or CADAA questions
- Student Forms account setup
- Financial aid file status
- Understanding award letters
- BankMobile setup
- General financial aid guidance

Can't make it in person? No problem! Students can request a Financial Aid Callback using our QLess system on our [Contact Page](#). Students may also email their questions directly to their assigned Financial Aid Technician. Students can find their Financial Aid Technician information on our [Contact Page](#).

We're here to make the financial aid process easier and that starts with being available when students need us. Don't hesitate to stop by, especially during our new Tuesday evening hour!