

How is a "dependent child" defined?

- A "dependent child" or "dependent children" refers to one or more children under the age of 18 whose parent or legal guardian is the student. To qualify, the child or children must receive over 50% of their support from the student. A parent is defined as an individual with a biological or legally adopted child. A legal guardian is someone other than the child's biological parent who takes on legal responsibility for the child.

Will students who submit the CA Dream Act Application also be considered for SWD?

- Yes, you will be considered for SWD if you submit the CA Dream Act Application.

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

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

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

- 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.

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

- 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.

Does SWD eligibility rollover?

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

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

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

WebGrants4Students

Applicants and current Cal Grant recipients should verify their Cal Grant status on [WebGrants4Students](#). It's essential for students to create an account. All students are encouraged to utilize WebGrants4Students to monitor their application progress. Through WebGrants4Students, students can:

- Confirm if CSAC has received their application data
- Review their award status and access payment history
- Verify their registered address and make updates if needed
- Explore how their Cal Grant may vary if they choose to attend a different institution

Legislation and governmental regulations are constantly reshaping the landscape of student financial aid. The information provided in this brochure is accurate as of April 2026. However, please note that details may change without prior notice.

Contact Information

California Student Aid Commission (CSAC)
Student Support Services
(888) 224-7268
studentsupport@csac.ca.gov
mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov

Financial Aid Office
financialaid.fullcoll.edu



Fullerton College



Cal Grant

2026-2027



Understanding the Cal Grant Program

The Cal Grant is a financial aid program provided by the State of California, available to residents who are attending college or university within the state. Here are the key details:

- **Application Deadline:** The annual deadline for applications is March 2nd for the upcoming academic year.
- **Eligibility Criteria:** The grant is awarded based on financial need, income, and GPA.
- **Required Applications:** To be considered, students must submit a completed FAFSA or Dream Act application along with a GPA Verification before the deadline.
- **Income and Asset Limits:** The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) sets annual income and asset ceilings that apply to both new and continuing students.
- **Basis of Eligibility:** Cal Grant eligibility hinges on residency, demonstrated need, income level, GPA, and additional point-based criteria.

There are two types of Cal Grants:

- **Entitlement Cal Grants** - To qualify for an Entitlement Cal Grant, applicants must meet one of the following: (1) Be a high school senior; or (2) Be within a year of graduation or GED completion; or (3) Be a community college student who graduated from a California high school over a year ago; or (4) Be under 28 and transferring to a 4-year university from a community college. Minimum GPA requirements for new Cal Grant awards:
 - Cal Grant A: 3.0+
 - Cal Grant B: 2.0+
 - Transfer Entitlement Award: 2.4+
 - Cal Grant C: No GPA required, but more points for submitted GPA
- **Competitive Cal Grants** - Limited awards where students compete for funding. The September 2nd cycle described later in this brochure is a competitive cycle. Student applicants who do not meet one of the four 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. Students may request GPA verification up to a week before the deadline.

Types of Cal Grants

There are three Cal Grants: A, B, and C. At Fullerton College, you may use A (only for Students with Dependents or Foster Youth), B, and C.

Cal Grant A - For students attending four-year institutions. If you attend a California community college, such as Fullerton College, you must place your award on reserve status. Cal Grant A for students with dependents or foster you are eligible to receive only the access portion of the award at a community college, including Fullerton College. The award amount is \$1,648 per year full-time.

Cal Grant B - For students attending either a California community colleges or four-year institutions. The award amount is \$1,648 per year full-time.

Cal Grant C - For students in occupational/technical programs, certificate programs, or associate degree. The award amount is \$1,094 per year full-time.

The amount students receive will be based on your cost of attendance, the type of Cal Grant awarded, the type of institution you attend, and the number of units enrolled. Students must be enrolled in 6 or more units at Fullerton College.

It takes two! To be apply for a Cal Grant, students need to complete a two-step process: **(1) submit a financial aid application**, either the FAFSA or the California Dream Act Application, and **(2) have a GPA submission** (GPA Verification Form). Fullerton College facilitates this by automatically sending GPA verification for students who have completed 24 or more units. For those who qualify for a regular GPA (24+ units) or a reestablished GPA (16-23 units) the GPA will be transmitted automatically to the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC), if they have enrollment history at Fullerton College within the past five years. Students who have not been enrolled at Fullerton College in the past five years but have completed the required units can request GPA verification from the Financial Aid Office. It's important to contact our office at financialaid@fullcoll.edu at least two weeks prior to the March 2nd deadline to ensure timely submission. 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 reestablished GPA is applicable only for a Cal Grant B Competitive Award.

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

- If you have 24+ completed at Fullerton College (not including remedial coursework), your GPA will be automatically sent by us to CSAC when you submit your financial aid application (FAFSA or California Dream Act) by March 2nd, without needing the paper GPA Verification Form.

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

- If you have less than 24 units completed at Fullerton College (not including remedial coursework), you must contact your previous school (whether a college or high school) and have them submit your GPA. Depending on the school, your GPA may be submitted electronically or they may require a paper GPA Verification Form. Ensure 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.

What is the difference between a regular California community college GPA and a reestablished California community college GPA?

- Fullerton College will submit a regular GPA to CSAC for students with 24+ completed units for entitlement Cal Grant consideration. For those with 16-23 units, a reestablished GPA will be submitted for competitive Cal Grant consideration.

What if i miss the March 2nd deadline?

- If you miss the March 2nd deadline for the Cal Grant, complete your FAFSA or California Dream Act as soon as possible, as you may still qualify for other state and federal aid. California community college students have a second chance for Cal Grant consideration with a September 2nd deadline. 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 submission. You must also be currently enrolled by September 2nd in order to be awarded and meet the September 2nd deadline.

What happens after the March 2nd / September 2nd deadline?

- After the deadline, you will communicate with the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) about your application status. CSAC will receive your GPA and financial aid application (FAFSA or California Dream Act) results. If you met the priority deadline, you will receive a California Aid Report (CAR) via email from CSAC, indicating whether you have been awarded a Cal Grant and the necessary steps (if any). If you are not awarded a Cal Grant, you may receive further correspondence from CSAC. Timely follow-up on communications is essential. Ensure the CAR's information is accurate, and contact CSAC for corrections. Fullerton College must be listed on the CAR to receive payment, and a completed financial aid file is necessary to receive your Cal Grant. Additional information can be accessed on [WebGrants4Students](#).

What if i currently have a Cal Grant?

- If you currently have a Cal Grant, submit your FAFSA or Dream Act Application annually and complete your financial aid file. As long as you are meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) at Fullerton College, your Cal Grant will be included in your financial aid award. If your Cal Grant is on reserve, contact CSAC to activate your awards after submitting your FAFSA or California Dream Act Application and completing your financial aid file. The necessary form was sent with your California Aid Report (CAR) or you may access it online at [WebGrants4Students](#).

How long may I receive my Cal Grant?

- 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 two 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 the minimum financial need continues to exist.

Students with Dependents (SWD) or Foster Youth

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 \$4,000 for eligible Cal Grant C recipients. The award amounts will be prorated to be considered with your enrollment status: full-time, three-quarter time, half-time. Students are required to confirm they have dependents under the age of 18 to CSAC on [WebGrants4Students](#). Contact CSAC directly for question or assistance in completing this step.