



CHANGES TO FINANCIAL AID REGULATIONS & PROCESSES

2026-2027

- 1** The 2026-2027 FAFSA and California Dream Act Application (CADAA) opened on October 1, 2026. Students may submit the 2026-2027 financial aid applications until June 30, 2027.
- 2** The state Cal Grant priority deadline for new Cal Grant consideration is March 2, 2026.
- 3** The maximum Pell Grant award for the 2026-2027 academic year remains at \$7,395 for eligible students, while the minimum award remains at \$740.
- 4** The 2026-2027 FAFSA and CADAA require student and parent income for 2024. If you or your parents have experienced a significant reduction in income due to job changes, reduced hours, layoffs, or other circumstances, please contact the Financial Aid Office about a Special Circumstances Appeal. Your eligibility can be reassessed using updated income information, which may result in a revised financial aid offer.
- 5** The parent/contributor invitation has been simplified for the 2026-2027 academic year. Students only need a parent/contributor email address to send the invitation. A unique invitation code will be sent for the parent/contributor to complete their section of the financial aid application.
- 6** The Financial Aid Office is getting ready for a new verification site. The old site of fullcoll.studentforms.com will be retired soon to make way for Dynamic Verification to go live on April 1, 2026. Please stay tuned for more information.
- 7** Take classes that count for financial aid! Starting in Fall 2027, a new federal rule called Course Program of Study (CPOS) will affect financial aid eligibility at Fullerton College. Under CPOS, students will only receive financial aid for classes that count toward their declared major, degree, or certificate. Courses outside their program won't count toward financial aid enrollment, which could reduce aid such as Pell Grants, federal loans, and Cal Grants. How to prepare: (1) Confirm your major/program matches your academic goals; (2) Create or update your Student Educational Program Plan (SEPP) with a counselor; (3) Register only for courses that apply to your program plan; and (4) Stay updated through the Financial Aid Office and workshops. The rule takes effect in the 2027-2027 financial aid year, so students should start planning now to remain fully eligible for aid.

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FAFSA students who are in a *mixed status family may be facing a tough decision about applying for financial aid this year. FAFSA students are considered for all federal and state aid programs. For the 2026-2027 academic year, FAFSA students in mixed status families may choose to submit the CA Dream Act Application (CADAA) instead of FAFSA. CADAA students are considered for only state aid programs. You can learn about the differences and similarities of the FAFSA and CADAA here: [Which Is The Correct Financial Aid Application For You – FAFSA or CADAA?](#) You may also read more about what it means for a FAFSA student to submit a CADAA on the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) website: <https://www.csac.ca.gov/cadaa-msf>. Please contact the Financial Aid Office for additional information and support.

**Mixed status family means the student is a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen and the parent (for dependent students) or spouse (for independent students) does not have a social security number (SSN).*

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The Workforce Pell Grant is a new federal financial aid program beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year that allows students to use Pell Grant funds for short-term job training programs, not just traditional college degree programs. It is designed to help individuals quickly gain skills for in-demand careers. Eligible programs must be offered by accredited institutions and lead to employment in fields such as healthcare, information technology, or skilled trades. Like the regular Pell Grant, the Workforce Pell Grant does not need to be repaid, though award amounts may be smaller because the programs are shorter. Students must still complete the FAFSA and meet Pell Grant eligibility requirements to qualify. More information will be available once the approved Workforce Pell Grant programs have been finalized.

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Starting in Fall 2026, the new Bachelor of Science in Drone and Autonomous Systems program at Fullerton College will require updates to the type of financial aid programs offered. Eligible students enrolled in this specific bachelor's program may now qualify for two additional types of aid: Cal Grant A and the Middle Class Scholarship (MCS). These aid programs were not previously available because they apply specifically to bachelor's degree programs. To be considered, students must submit either a 2026-2027 FAFSA or CADAA.

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Beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year, federal loan eligibility will be prorated based on enrollment level. Borrowers taking fewer than 12 units will receive reduced loan amounts proportional to their unit load and must be enrolled in at least 6 units (half-time) to qualify. If units are reduced after loan disbursement, a balance will be owed, or an adjustment made to a future loan in the same academic year. Additional guidance from the Department of Education is forthcoming.