



**OCEAN
DISCOVERY
INSTITUTE**
young lives transformed through science

FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP, PART I

Isabel Herrera & Claudia Rodriguez | December 6, 2023

FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP SERIES



Government Aid

Institutional Aid

Scholarships

TODAY'S GOAL

To understand how financial aid works, specifically federal (FAFSA) and state (CalGrant) aid, and to begin the steps needed to qualify for maximum aid.

TODAY'S AGENDA

- Financial Aid & FAFSA Overview
- Cal Grant
- What to Expect Next
- Wrap Up

FINANCIAL AID & FAFSA OVERVIEW

CLAUDIA RODRIGUEZ

OCEAN LEADER SINCE 2004



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,
COLLEGE ADVISEMENT



FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID

FAFSA Overview

- Never pay for FAFSA help or filing
- Must fill out FAFSA to have access to any other financial aid sources (i.e.: state aid, institutional aid)
- Must first create an FSA ID for student AND parent (known as “Contributor”)
- Parents will be cued to add their financial data to the student’s FAFSA through an email link using their parent FSA ID
 - Email MUST be different from student email
- Apply every year you need student aid, and must maintain at least part-time status in order to qualify for most types of financial aid

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID

- FAFSA calculates “Student Aid Index” (SAI)
 - Can be a negative number
- The “SAI” is how schools determine financial aid packages based on their cost of attendance
- #1 error in filling out the FAFSA is mismatching NAME and SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER from school records
- FAFSA does NOT share application information with any agency other than the schools you indicate you want your information sent to.
 - Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
 - There is no penalty for being honest and accurate

CAL GRANT

California Student Aid Commission (CSAC)

FILLING OUT THE CAL GRANT APPLICATION

- All that is required to apply is your GPA and FAFSA.
 - Hoover sends GPAs – no student action needed.
 - Must complete FAFSA before receiving a tentative award.
- Commission produces a “California Aid Report” or “CAR” that summarizes tentative award. To access this information, simply create an account with WebGrants 4 Students at <https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/>
 - Will use language like “preliminary” or “not yet awarded”
 - Submit CAR to Isabel
- Can be eligible for multiple awards.
- Financial awards only available toward California colleges

TYPES OF AWARDS

Eligibility: GPA + FAFSA

Cal Grant A

GPA Minimum:
3.0

Award Coverage:
- Up to 4 years of
tuition & fees

Cal Grant B

GPA Minimum:
2.0

Award Coverage:
- Tuition & fees
for years 2-4
- Access Award
for up to 4 years
(~\$1, 672)

Cal Grant C

No GPA
Requirement

Vocational/
technical/
occupational
programs

ADDITIONAL CSAC AWARDS

- **Middle Class Scholarship** – MCS provides undergraduate students with family income up to \$184,000 and assets up to \$184,000 a scholarship to attend University of California (UC) or California State University (CSU) campuses.
- **California Chafee Grant** – available to any applicant who is or was in foster care between the ages of 16-18.
- **Law Enforcement Personnel Dependents Grant** – provides need-based educational grants to dependents and spouses of employees who lost their lives in the line of duty or were totally disabled
- **Golden State Teacher Grant** – for students who are currently enrolled in a teacher preparation program to earn a credential in the high need field of special education

WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT?

FINANCIAL AID AWARD

- Receive your *FAFSA Submission Summary* from the Office of Federal Student Aid (email confirmation or FAFSA account) – this is where you find your **SAI**. Send to Isabel.
- Receive your *California Aid Report* from the California Student Aid Commission. Send to Isabel.
- FSA and CSAC send your SAI and preliminary award, respectively, to each school indicated on your FAFSA, and the financial aid award itself comes from each college; every school will offer a unique award package.

FINANCIAL AID AWARD

- Schools cannot offer a financial aid award package until they have your FAFSA.
- You are not required to accept the award in its entirety; you can pick and choose the aid you want to receive; awards include:
 - Grants
 - Loans
 - Scholarships
 - Work study*

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

After the FAFSA: What Happens Next

Grants

- Pell Grant
- CalGrant
- State University Grant (SUG)

Loans

- Subsidized loans
- Unsubsidized loans
- Parent PLUS loan

Scholarships

- Stephen Efron
- Promise Scholarship
- SDF Common Scholarship Application

QUESTIONS?

Refer to Ocean Discovery's [Financial Aid Guide](#) on our [College Access Mentor Program page](#) to get guidance on how to proceed with funding your college options as the next phase of the CAMP journey.

WRAP UP

NEXT STEPS

- December 13th last OL Wednesday of 2023
 - Mentor attendance optional
- Determine what needs to be accomplished over winter break.
- Start FAFSA and submit ASAP.
 - FAFSA will open on **December 31**
 - Upcoming OL Wednesdays available to support FAFSA completion
 - Attend a Hoover event for additional support as needed
 - December 13th – Hoover FSA ID Parent Workshop (morning and evening options available)
- Next workshop: Financial Aid Workshop Part II, **January 10, 2024**
 - College-specific scholarships and the CSS Profile
- EOP deadlines, <https://www2.calstate.edu/attend/student-services/eop/Pages/eop-campus-status.aspx>
- Create college portals for ALL the schools you applied to
- Community Scholars Initiative Application (San Diego Foundation)
 - Ocean Leader Scholarship
 - Separate from SDF's Common Scholarship Application
 - Both open mid January



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THANK YOU.

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