



Checklist for Applying for Financial Aid

1. Complete Financial Aid Forms (October 1- Mar 2)

- Complete **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid): www.fafsa.gov (1-880-433-3243)
 - FSA ID gives you access to Federal Student Aid's online systems and can serve as your legal signature: <https://fsaid.ed.gov>
- Complete **CSS Financial Aid Profile** if required by a private college: www.collegeboard.org
- Cal Grant GPA Verification Form** (Most high schools submit electronically, check your school!)

2. Review Student Aid Report (SAR) (Will be emailed to you in a few days if you file online)

- Check** the report for accuracy. Identify any errors.
- Make **corrections** immediately at www.fafsa.gov

3. Provide all requested information. Colleges may ask for:

- Copies of tax forms, documentation of residency, foster/independent status

4. Receive a California Aid Report (CAR) *A notice from CA Student Aid Commission informing you that:

- You are eligible for a Cal Grant: A, B, or C
- You are not eligible for a Cal Grant because _____. *Check and find out why (Review SAR)
 - Was income reported correctly on FAFSA? Was the gpa calculated incorrectly?

California Student Aid Commission 1-888-224-7268

5. Set up a Web Grants for Students account

- Set up a "Web Grants for Students" account at <https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/>
- You can find out your Cal Grant eligibility, update your address, or make a school change.
- You will be required to verify your high school graduation date to release your Cal Grant.

6. Review financial aid award letter from college

- This letter tells you the specific award amounts that the college is offering you.
- Many colleges prefer to post this information on your portal. Check each portal carefully and often!

7. Accept/decline financial aid offers

- Call your college's financial aid office if you are uncertain about which offers to **accept** or **decline**.
 - *Loans: you can always request a reduced amount.

Each year in college you will have to file a FAFSA Renewal: shorter and faster than 1st year!