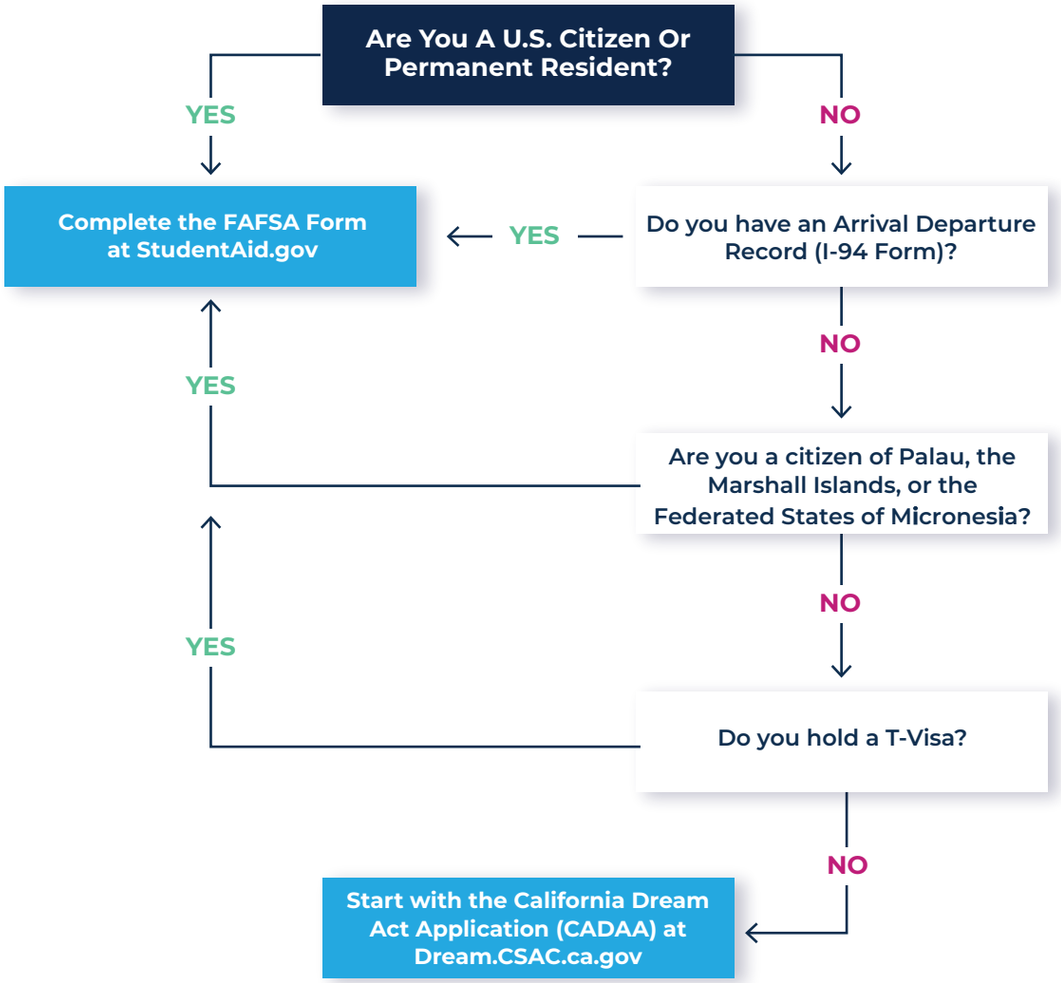
DO I FILL OUT A FAFSA OR A CADAA?



DEFINITIONS

FAFSA:

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

CADAA:

California Dream Act Application, A financial aid application for undocumented students (with or without DACA).

Permanent Resident:

Holders of a Permanent Resident Card (Form I-151 or I-551C), formerly known as an “Alien Registration Card” or “Green Card.” Card will have an “A” followed by 9 or 10 numbers.

T-Visa:

Issued to certain victims of human trafficking and their immediate family members to assist law enforcement in an investigation of human trafficking.

Arrival-Departure Record:

Known as the I-94 form, issued by a Customs Officer to visitors entering the United States (US).

FINANCIAL AID FAQs

Q WHAT IS A CSAC ID AND DREAM ACT ID?

A The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) assigns these unique identification numbers to students for the purpose of processing student information for its various financial aid programs. You will need your CSAC ID or Dream Act ID for various financial aid purposes, so save this number!

Q WHEN WILL I KNOW IF I'VE RECEIVED A CAL GRANT?

A After you submit your financial aid application, you can track the status of your Cal Grant online by using the WebGrants 4 Students site: https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/. Log on to set up your personal, confidential account. To be considered for a Cal Grant, you must submit a FAFSA or CADAA and your school must electronically submit a verified Cal Grant GPA by the March 2 Cal Grant deadline.

Q WHAT HAPPENS IF I'M "DISQUALIFIED" OR DETERMINED TO BE "INELIGIBLE" FOR A CAL GRANT?

A You can always reapply the next year when your circumstances change, or if you feel like you were not awarded due to an error or unusual circumstance, you can always file an appeal to the financial aid office of the college you plan on attending. The appeal process will vary from college to college, so you will need to contact the financial aid office and ask for guidance on how to proceed. It is highly likely that they will ask you to submit supporting documentation validating your appeal. Please allow 6-8 weeks for a decision to be made.

To learn more about the Cal Grant appeal process, visit:
CSAC.ca.gov/Appeals

To learn more about the CADAA, visit:
CSAC.ca.gov/California-Dream-Act

Q WHEN WILL I RECEIVE MY CAL GRANT FUNDS?

A Your Cal Grant funds will first go to your school, so you should contact your school's financial aid office for information on its disbursement policies and schedules. Since the school is responsible for payments, you will need to work with your school's financial aid office to resolve issues with payments. If the school determines that a student is not eligible, they have the authority to withdraw the award. Note: To receive a Cal Grant payment, you must be attending at least half-time, provide all necessary documentation to your school, and maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) as reported by your school.

Q WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE FEDERAL PELL GRANT AND CAL GRANTS?

A Pell Grants are federal grants and Cal Grants are state grants. Both are for students with financial need. Some Cal Grants have a minimum GPA requirement while Federal Pell Grants do not. You could qualify for both a Pell Grant and a Cal Grant. To apply for a Pell Grant, you must submit the FAFSA. For the Cal Grant, you must submit either the FAFSA or CADAA, and your school must electronically submit a verified Cal Grant GPA by the March 2 Cal Grant deadline.

To learn more about the Federal Pell Grant, visit:
StudentAid.ed.gov/SA/Types/Grants-Scholarships/Pell

Cal Grant FAQ:
CSAC.ca.gov/Post/Cal-Grant-FAQ-0

To learn more about the Cal Grant GPA requirements, visit: CSAC.ca.gov/Pod/Cal-Grant-GPA-Information

CHECK THESE COMMON MISTAKES

ARE YOU COMPLETING AN APPLICATION FOR THE CORRECT ACADEMIC YEAR?

The year of the application corresponds to the academic year you will be attending college.

ARE YOU ENTERING THE CORRECT BASIC DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION?

Make sure things like your name and date of birth are spelled and entered correctly. Use your legal name that matches a valid form of identification (i.e., SSN, Driver's License, state-issued ID, birth certificate) on all college forms and applications – please do not use a nickname.

ARE YOU LISTING THE CORRECT FINANCIAL INFORMATION?

It's easy to make mistakes in this section. You'll need to know the amount you and/or your parents made and how much you paid in taxes from the correct year. Use the information on you and your parent(s) prior-prior year tax forms. Read all questions carefully. Remember, if you are a foster youth you may qualify as an Independent Student and will not be required to provide your parent's financial information.

DID YOU REMEMBER TO SIGN AND SUBMIT THE APPLICATION BEFORE MARCH 2ND?

Remember that "saving" your application is not the same as "submitting" your application. If you're filing as a dependent student, both you and a parent(s) must sign.

FAFSA | CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION

PRO TIP: Save your IDs and Passwords in a secure device or location.

FSA ID | CADAA USER ID _____

DREAM ACT ID _____
Assigned to you on the 'Confirmation' page of the CADAA - For Undocumented Students

PASSWORD HINT _____

SECURITY PASSWORD HINT _____

STUDENT EMAIL ADDRESS _____

PARENT EMAIL ADDRESS _____

ADDITIONAL NOTES _____

I COMPLETED MY APPLICATION - NOW WHAT?

1 MAKE SURE YOUR APPLICATION WAS SUCCESSFULLY SUBMITTED

Free Application for Federal Student Aid - After you submit the FAFSA, you should receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) within 3-5 days via e-mail. If you don't get this e-mail, log back into your FAFSA account to check for errors and make corrections if needed. If you need additional help, call FAFSA **1-800-433-3243**.

California Dream Act Application - After you submit the CADAA, you will get a system generated e-mail that states your application was processed. If you don't get this e-mail, or think there is an issue with the application, contact Student Support at the California Student Aid Commission for assistance **1-888-224-7268**.

2 CREATE A WEBGRANTS 4 STUDENTS ACCOUNT

If you have a Cal Grant or other state financial aid, you should have a WebGrants 4 Students (WGS) account. If you will be a high school graduate this year who is receiving a Cal Grant for the first time, you must have a WGS account to get paid at your college. It's easy to create one! Just go to: **MyGrantInfo.CSAC.ca.gov**

Please wait about a week after you complete your FAFSA or CADAA before you create an account. This account will allow you to claim your Cal Grant award which includes confirming your college of attendance (starting in February) and by certifying your high school graduation. Save your login information as a contact in your phone.

3 FINAL STEPS

Make sure you listed all the colleges you applied to on your financial aid application, so those colleges receive your information. You can add and remove schools as needed. Be sure to include at least one school in California.

Contact or visit the financial aid office of the school you will be attending to make sure you have completed all steps to receive your financial aid. If the office contacts you, respond promptly.

If you applied to more than one school, compare your financial aid offers. Aid amounts vary by school and are greatly impacted by the cost of tuition and fees.

If you or your family have experienced any recent major life or financial changes, be sure to talk to your college financial aid office for assistance.

FAFSA HELP
Free Application for Federal Student Aid
1-800-4FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)

CADAA HELP **This is not DACA*
California Dream Act Application
1-888-224-7268

StudentSupport@CSAC.ca.gov
CSAC.ca.gov

WHAT IS A CAL GRANT AND HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE ONE?

A Cal Grant is free money from the State of California to help you pay for college. It's money that you don't have to pay back. If you qualify for a Cal Grant award, you will receive a Cal Grant Eligibility Notification via e-mail. If you haven't received a notification by June 30th, please log into your WebGrants 4 Students account and check your status under the Cal Grant menu.

CSAC CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION

GET YOUR SHARE OF FINANCIAL AID

MAKE ATTENDING COLLEGE A REALITY

cash4college.csac.ca.gov