Completing the California Dream Act Application (CADAA):
A Visual Guide For Youth with Experience in Foster Care or Homelessness
This Guide is intended to complement the Financial Aid Guide for California Foster and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth with screen shots of the online California Dream Act Application (CADAA) and detailed step-by-step instructions for youth who have experienced foster care or homelessness.

Please refer to the full Guide for information on the different types of financial aid, what to do after completing the CADAA, and how to maintain financial aid.

While this guide strives to be as accurate as possible, information may change, and errors may occur. Errors can be reported to info@jbay.org.

jbay.org/resources/financial-aid-guide
Who Should Use This Guide

This guide is intended for youth who have experienced foster care or homelessness in California who qualify for “Independent Student Status” on the CADAA. Students who do not qualify for “Independent Student Status,” will need to provide financial information about their parent(s). Information about providing parental information is not included in this guide.

Students who do not qualify as homeless but who cannot obtain parental information can request an exemption for unusual circumstances such as an abusive family, parental incarceration or when parents’ whereabouts are unknown (see section 4(c)). Note that circumstances such as parents not providing financial support or being unwilling to provide information on the CADAA do not alone qualify as unusual circumstances.

If a student is a U.S. Citizen or eligible noncitizen,* they should fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) instead of the CADAA to qualify for both state and federal aid. A Visual Guide to the FAFSA is available at [jbay.org/resources/financial-aid-guide](http://jbay.org/resources/financial-aid-guide).

*See [https://studentaid.gov/help/eligible-noncitizen](https://studentaid.gov/help/eligible-noncitizen) for details
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1. How to Apply for Financial Aid
What is the CADAA?

• The CADAA allows undocumented and nonresident documented students who meet certain eligibility requirements to apply for state financial aid such as the Cal Grant and Chafee Grant.

• Students who complete the CADAA are not eligible for federal financial aid, like the Federal Pell Grant.

• It also allows qualified students to pay in-state resident fees (instead of higher out-of-state fees) at California’s public colleges and universities.
• Free Application for Federal Student Aid
• Available to U.S. Citizens, permanent residents or other eligible non–citizens*
• Apply at FAFSA.gov (mobile option available)
• Available in English or Spanish online
• Used for Federal and State aid

*See https://studentaid.gov/help/eligible-noncitizen for details

• Eligibility: qualified undocumented students, Temporary Protected Status or U Visa*
• Apply at dream.csac.ca.gov
• Available in English only online (paper Spanish application)
• Qualifies students as CA residents and for state aid

*See https://www.csac.ca.gov/post/california-nonresident-tuition-exemption for details
Deadlines

To qualify for state and institutional aid

- 4-year university: April 2 (extended for 2024 only)
- CA Community College: September 2
Who is eligible to submit a CADAA?

Students who meet AB 540 criteria, have Temporary Protected Status or hold a U Visa.

To qualify for AB 540, a student must satisfy **ALL** of the criteria shown:

1. Satisfaction of either of the following:
   A. High school attendance in California for three or more years, **OR**
   B. Attainment of credits earned in California from a California high school equivalent to three or more years of full-time high school coursework and a total of three or more years of attendance in California elementary schools, California secondary schools, or a combination of those schools. **OR**
   C. Attainment of credits earned at a California adult school, **OR**
   D. Credits earned at a California Community College, **OR**
   E. A combination of the schools listed above

2. Graduated or will graduate from a California high school, **OR**
   Attainment of General Education Development (GED), High School Equivalency Test (HiSET), Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC), **OR**
   Attainment of an associate degree from a California Community College, **OR**
   Fulfillment of minimum transfer requirements from a California Community College to a University of California or California State University, **AND**

3. Will register or enroll in an accredited and qualifying California college or university, **AND**

4. If applicable, complete(d) an affidavit to legalize immigration status as soon as you are eligible, **AND**

5. Do not hold a valid non-immigrant visa (F, J, H, L, A, B, C, D, E, etc.)
Does DACA status or having a Social Security Number impact eligibility?

- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status is not required to apply for the CADAA.

- If you received DACA status and were issued a Social Security Number, you must still fill out the CADAA.

- If you have a Social Security card, but it says “VALID FOR WORK ONLY WITH DHS AUTHORIZATION” you are not eligible to complete the FAFSA. You must meet the AB 540 criteria on the prior slide to be eligible for the CADAA.

- Your parent’s citizenship status does not impact your eligibility to receive financial aid under the CADAA or FAFSA.
What about Special Immigration Juvenile Status (SIJS)?

- Foster youth who are undocumented immigrants may qualify to receive Special Immigration Juvenile Status (SIJS). Undocumented children who are a dependent of the juvenile court who cannot be reunified with one or both of their parents due to abuse, abandonment or neglect, and for whom it is not in their best interest to return to their country of nationality, may be able to obtain SIJS and apply to become a lawful permanent resident, also known as obtaining your Green Card.

- Students with a pending application for SIJS are not eligible for federal financial aid and should submit the CADAA until they have received permanent resident status (i.e., a Green Card/Alien Registration).

- If an undocumented student in foster care does not have an application for SIJS pending, the child welfare agency should be contacted for eligibility screening.
CADAA Information is Private!

- CADAA information is not shared with the Federal government
- The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) protects the confidentiality of student records
- CSAC has never shared any information about a student’s immigration status, documented or undocumented
- CSAC also complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which protects the privacy of student education records
### What a student needs to apply

1. An email address AND a list of at least one and up to 20 colleges
2. Information about current assets, such as cash and checking/savings accounts
3. Tax return or income information from the “prior-prior” year (2022). If you filed a tax return, also have your Social Security Number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) (optional)
4. Statewide Student Identifier (SSID): a 10-digit number that is given to all students enrolled in a California elementary, middle or high school. This is optional but recommended.
5. School transcript information needed to demonstrate that school attendance satisfies AB 540 criteria
2. Verifying Eligibility
The CADAA must be filled out EVERY year! This is a FREE application.

Returning User: Click “Login.” You can also log in to make corrections or add a new college to your application.

New to the CADAA Process: Select first-time account registration.

VERIFYING ELIGIBILITY
Starting a new CADAA begins with Registration to verify your eligibility for the CADAA.

Click Continue.
The CADAA will confirm your eligibility by asking if you have a Social Security Number (SSN).

If you respond “yes,” you will be asked if you received your SSN through DACA.

If you respond “no” to either question, you meet the first eligibility criteria.
You will then be asked if you meet the AB 540 criteria.

You must be able to answer “yes” to continue.

**VERIFYING ELIGIBILITY**

Do you meet the AB540 criteria list below?

- 1. Satisfaction of either of the following:
  - A. High school attendance in California for three or more years, OR
  - B. Attainment of credits earned in California from a California high school equivalent to three or more years of full-time high school coursework and a total of three or more years of attendance in California elementary schools, California secondary schools, or a combination of those schools. OR
  - C. Attainment of credits earned at a California adult school, OR
  - D. Credits earned at a California Community College, OR
  - E. A combination of the schools listed above
- 2. Graduated or will graduate from a California high school, OR
  - Attainment of General Education Development (GED), High School Equivalency Test (HiSET), Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC), OR
  - Attainment of an associate degree from a California Community College, OR
  - Fulfillment of minimum transfer requirements from a California Community College to a University of California or California State University, AND
- 3. Will register or enroll in an accredited and qualifying California college or university, AND
- 4. If applicable, complete(d) an affidavit to legalize immigration status as soon as you are eligible, AND
- 5. Do not hold a valid non-immigrant visa (F, J, H, L, A, B, C, D, E, etc.)*

*Note: If you have Temporary Protected Status or hold a U Visa select “Yes”
If you meet the eligibility requirements, you will be informed that you are eligible to file a CADAA and can click “Start Application.”
2. Creating an Account
CREATE A USER ACCOUNT

You will need to provide your name and date of birth, and create a User ID, which must be 8 characters.

Your name and date of birth must match your high school or college records. If you use a different name on your college admissions applications than what was used in high school, you should contact your college/university.

Required fields are marked with a red asterisk (*).

Tip! If “Auto Hint” is turned on in the upper right corner, an explanation of what to include for each field will be shown. If this is off, you can click the next to the field for information.
Student Address: Do not provide a temporary mailing address. If you don’t have a permanent mailing address, ask your college’s financial aid administrator for help.
Phone Number: Providing a phone number is not required, but is recommended.

Email Address: You must provide an email address, as this is used for communication from CSAC and your college.

Double-check the email address to make sure there are no typos. Avoid using high school emails that can expire.

**TIP!** Emails from CSAC may go to your junk or spam folder, so be sure to check these folders and add csac.ca.gov as a “safe sender.”
1. You will see a pop up indicating that your account has been created.

2. You will receive an email message to confirm your email address. Click on the link in the email message to activate your account. You must activate your account within 24 hours.

3. You will be asked to create a password and can then log in to the account.
Go to DREAM.CSAC.CA.GOV and log in with your username and password to begin your application.

A code will be sent to the email address that you provided to be entered.
You will then be asked to provide answers to three security questions, which can be used to recover your account if you forget your password.
Write down these items somewhere safe or save these items with your mobile device so you don’t forget:

- Username
- Password
- Email Address & Password
- Challenge Questions & Answers
Select the school year that you plan to attend college. If you select the wrong year, your financial aid will not be processed.

Most students will want to complete the CADAA for next fall, which is the academic year on the left.

If you are applying for an upcoming summer session, it is recommended that you complete applications for both years. Schools have the option of using either the prior or upcoming year’s financial aid for summer. Once you’ve picked a college, check with the financial aid office about summer financial aid.

The application will ask you to confirm your selection.
Read the instructions and then click on the OK button.
3. Personal Identifiers
Your CADAA will auto-populate your name and date of birth. If you have a valid Social Security Number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) you can enter it.

Entering your valid SSN or ITIN can help CSAC and campuses match your information to your GPA record.

Leaving this question blank will not impact your eligibility for state aid.
You will be asked about your citizenship status. If you indicate that you are a citizen or eligible non-citizen, you will be redirected to the FAFSA.

Indicate whether you have a valid U Visa.

A "U Visa" is a type of nonimmigrant visa for victims of certain crimes who have suffered mental or physical abuse and are helpful to law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of such criminal activity. If you have a U Visa, contact your campus which can provide guidance on how you can establish residency for in-state tuition purposes.
Your contact information will auto-populate on the next screen.

You have the option of indicating if you would like to receive notifications via text message.

CONTACT INFORMATION

TEST EMAIL
555-1212

TEST EMAIL

MAIN STREET

Woud you like to Opt-in to receive text messages from CSAC on important financial aid reminders and updates? You may Opt-out at any time. Yes No

TEST EMAIL @GMAIL.COM

Re-enter Email Address
DEBBIE.RAUCHER@GMAIL.COM

628 MAIN STREET

OAKLAND

CALIFORNIA

94610
The student is asked about their gender identity.

Selecting “prefer not to answer” does not impact eligibility for aid. The answers are not shared with the colleges and are for research purposes only.
The student is asked their race/ethnicity and can select all that apply. Selecting “prefer not to answer” does not impact eligibility for aid. The answers are not shared with the colleges and are for research purposes only.
The student is asked what the primary language spoken in their home is.

Selecting “prefer not to answer” does not impact eligibility for aid. The answers are not shared with the colleges and are for research purposes only.

If the student selects “other” they can manually input the language. Students can select one option only.
Enter the state where you reside and the date you began living in that state (month and year only – MM/YYYY).

If you have lived in the same state since birth, enter your date of birth.

You must be a California resident to qualify for California student aid such as the Cal Grant, Middle Class Scholarship and in-state tuition.
4. Student Personal Circumstances
Martial Status

- You are asked your marital status. Your status is “single” if you are not legally married, even if you live with or have a boyfriend, girlfriend, partner, or significant other.
- If you are married, your spouse must provide income information. The screens for this process are not included in this guide.
Student College or Career School Plans

Indicate what your grade level will be when the 2024/2025 school year begins.

**TIP!** Students who took “dual enrollment” courses in high school should select “First Year (freshman).”

**TIP!** For returning students, this is based on units completed, not the number of years enrolled. For example, if degree completion requires 60 units, a student entering their second year who had completed less than 30 units, would select “First Year (freshman).”

Students should answer “No” regarding whether they will have their first bachelor’s degree unless they have already COMPLETED a bachelor’s degree program.

At the start of the 2024-25 academic year, what will your grade level be in college?  
- First Year (Freshman)

Will you have earned your first bachelor’s degree by the start of the 2024-25 school year?  
- Yes  
- No
The “Student Personal Circumstances” section is used to determine if a student is independent. Students who qualify as independent do not need to provide information about their parents and eligibility for financial aid is based on the student’s income only (and spouse if applicable).

Students should select all that apply.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>STUDENT PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The following questions will help determine your dependency status, for financial aid purposes. The financial aid administrator at your school may require you to provide proof that you meet any of these conditions. Select all that apply or select None of the Above.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- You are currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training.  
- You are a veteran of the U.S. armed forces.  
- You have children or other people (excluding your spouse, if you have one) who live with you and receive more than half of their support from you now and between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.  
- At any time since you turned 13, you were an orphan (no living biological or adoptive parent).  
- At any time since you turned 13, you were a ward of the court.  
- At any time since you turned 13, you were in foster care.  
- You are, or were, a legally emancipated minor, as determined by a court in your state of residence.  
- You are, or were, in a legal guardianship with someone other than your parent or stepparent, as determined by a court in your state of residence.  
- None of the Above.  

a) Current & Former Foster Youth
Current & Former Foster Youth

To qualify as a **ward of the court** or in **foster care**, a student must have been a dependent of the court and lived in an out-of-home placement at any point on or after their 13th birthday. No guidance is available regarding the difference between being in foster care and being a ward of the court, and so students can check either or both. While this includes foster youth who are under the jurisdiction of the probation system, someone who is incarcerated is not considered a ward of the court for CADAA purposes.

To qualify under the legal guardianship criteria, you must have a guardianship in place currently or when you turned 18. Both kinship guardianships and non-related legal guardianships qualify.
How is foster youth status verified?

Each college determines if it will require verification of foster care status. Financial aid offices can automatically verify foster care status through a data match with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS); however, this doesn’t always happen, and a letter or other acceptable documentation (see next page for options) may be required.

Once verified, status does not need to be redetermined in subsequent years if at the same institution.
Who can provide verification?

**College financial aid administrators (FAA) must accept any of the following:**
- Court order or official State documentation that the student received Federal or State support in foster care;
- Verification of eligibility for a Chafee Grant;
- A phone call, written statement, from:
  - A State, county, or Tribal agency administering a program under part B or E of title IV of the *Social Security Act*;
  - A State Medicaid agency; or
  - A public or private foster care placing agency or foster care facility or placement.
  - An attorney, or Court Appointed Special Advocate
  - A financial aid administrator who documented the student’s circumstance in the same or a prior award year.

**To Get a Foster Youth Verification Letter:**
- **Current foster youth**: Contact your social worker or Independent Living Program (ILP) representative.
- **Former foster youth**: May also contact the Office of the California Foster Care Ombudsperson: 877-846-1602.
- **Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM)**: Youth served by a URM program should contact the program to obtain verification.
b) Unaccompanied Homeless Youth
Unaccompanied Homeless Students

Students are then asked about their homelessness status.

At any time on or after July 1, 2023, were you unaccompanied and either (1) homeless or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? *  

- Yes
- No

Section 4 of 5

Previous Save Application Save & Logout Logout Next
**Definition of Homeless Youth on the CADAA:**
A student must be Unaccompanied **AND** either Homeless **OR** Self-Supporting & at risk of being homeless

- **Unaccompanied** = Not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian

- **Homeless** = Lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing (Learn more on the next page)

- **Self-supporting AND at risk of being homeless** = When a student pays for his own living expenses, including fixed, regular, & adequate housing **AND** when a student’s housing may cease to be fixed, regular, & adequate; for example, a student who is being evicted and has been unable to find fixed, regular, and adequate housing

**Note:** A student living in any of these situations and fleeing an abusive parent may be considered homeless even if the parent would provide support and a place to live.
“Lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing” includes students who:

1. are staying with other people temporarily due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (i.e., couch-surfing)
2. are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
3. are living in emergency shelters
4. are living in their car, sleeping outside, or staying somewhere not normally meant for human habitation.
If you select “yes,” you will then be asked who will provide a homeless youth determination.

FAAs must accept documentation, including a documented phone call from these entities unless there is “documented conflicting information.”

If you don’t have verification from one of the listed entities, select “none of these apply.”

If “None of these apply,” you can complete the CADAA but must contact the financial aid office for a determination.

FAA’s MUST make a determination based on a written statement, or documented interview, with a student.

Financial aid administrator's determination of homelessness must be made without regard to the reasons why the student is unaccompanied and/or homeless.
c) Unusual Circumstances
Student Unusual Circumstances

Students may complete the CADAA as a “provisionally” independent student if they believe they may qualify for independent status due to unusual situations such as parental abandonment, abuse, neglect, legally granted asylum, or student or parental incarceration or institutionalization (see next page).

Provisional independent provisions may be helpful for youth who are neither homeless nor former foster youth, but who nonetheless have extenuating circumstances that preclude being able to obtain parental information.

If a student has “unusual circumstances, they will be “Provisionally Independent.” The student can sign and submit their CADAA without providing parental income information but will need to contact their school to see what supporting documentation they need to submit. A financial aid administrator at the school will review and make a determination regarding a dependency override. Colleges have discretion to use professional judgement when evaluating whether to consider unusual circumstances.
"Unusual circumstances" are situations that prevent you from providing **parental information** (when required) on the California Dream Act Application (CADAA). The answer to this question can assist the college(s) you select to help you finalize your CADAA application and will often require submission of supporting documentation of your circumstances directly to your college's financial aid office.

You may be experiencing unusual circumstances if:

- You left home due to an abusive or threatening environment.
- You are abandoned by or estranged from your parents.
- You are separated from your parents, or your parents are displaced in a foreign country.
- You are a victim of human trafficking.
- Your parents are incarcerated, and contact with your parents would pose a risk to you; or
- You are otherwise unable to contact or locate your parents.
5. Student Demographics
Parent Education Status

You will be asked if one or both of your parents attended or completed college. This information is used to identify first-generation college students and is for statistical purposes only.

Selecting “don’t know” does not impact eligibility for aid.
High School Information

You are asked about what your high school completion status will be when you start the 2024–25 school year. Options are a high school diploma, state recognized high school equivalent (e.g., GED), homeschooled, or none of the above).

You can also provide your Statewide Student Identification Number (SSID). This is not required; however, it will help CSAC to match your application to your GPA record in order to qualify for a CalGrant. The 10-digit number is shown on high school transcripts.
High School Selection

If you select that you will have a high school diploma, you will be shown fields that allow you to search for your high school by name, state and city.

Note: The purpose of this question is so that high schools can track how many students file the FAFSA and CADAA. High schools do not receive your financial or other information.
High School Selection

When you click the “Search” button, all schools that meet the criteria will appear and you select the correct option from the list.
High School Equivalency Information

If you select “state recognized high school equivalent,” you will be asked the type of credential (GED, HiSET, TASC or other) and the issuing state.
Family Size

Provide the number of people in your family. This includes yourself, spouse and dependent children, if they live with you and you currently provide more than half of their support and will continue to do so between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025. This should also include other family members who live with you for whom you will provide more than half of their support between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.

Then, provide the number of people included in your family number who will be in college (including yourself).
6. Student Financials
Federal Benefits

• You will be asked if you received certain public means-tested benefits at any time in 2022 or 2023.

• Click the icon to learn more about each benefit.

• Receiving these benefits does not reduce the amount of aid you qualify for.
Tax Filing Status

Indicate if you filed a tax return for 2022 (or plan to file one) and if you earned income in a foreign country in 2022, or you were employed by an international organization that did not require you to file a tax return. If you indicate that you filed a 2022 tax return, you will be asked your filing status (single, married, etc.).

**STUDENT TAX FILING STATUS**

Did you, or will you, file a 2022 IRS Form 1040 or 1040-NR? (click on the information icon for instructions)* ☐ Yes ☐ No

Did you earn income in a foreign country in 2022, or were you employed by an international organization that did not require you to file a tax return? (click on the information icon for instructions)* ☐ Yes ☐ No

What is (or will be) your filing status on your 2022 tax return? (click on the information icon for instructions)* ☐ -- SELECT --
Income – Tax Filers

If you indicated that you filed a tax return, you will be asked to provide information from your tax return shown here and on the following page. The help buttons provide the line on your 2022 Federal income tax return where the information can be found.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What was your income earned from work in 2022?</td>
<td>$ 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxable earnings from need-based employment programs, such as need-based</td>
<td>$ 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>employment portions of fellowships and assistantships.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your tax-exempt interest income</td>
<td>$ 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your untaxed portions of IRA distributions</td>
<td>$ 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your IRA Rollover into another IRA or qualified plan</td>
<td>$ 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your untaxed portions of pensions</td>
<td>$ 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your pension rollover into an IRA or other qualified plan</td>
<td>$ 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)</td>
<td>$ 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your Income Tax Paid</td>
<td>$ 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STUDENT 2022 TAX RETURN INFORMATION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For tax year 2022, did you receive the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)? (click on the information icon for instructions)*</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your IRA deductions and payments to self-employed SEP, SIMPLE, and qualified plans (click on the information icon for instructions)*</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your Education Credits (American Opportunity and Lifetime Learning credits) (click on the information icon for instructions)*</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you file a Schedule A, B, D, E, F, or H with your 2022 IRS Form 1040? (click on the information icon for instructions)*</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your Net Profit or Loss from IRS Form 1040 Schedule C (click on the information icon for instructions)*</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your amount of college grants, scholarships, or AmeriCorps benefits reported as income to the IRS (Optional) (click on the information icon for instructions)*</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your amount of Foreign Earned Income Exclusion (click on the information icon for instructions)*</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Income – Non Tax Filers

If you did not file a tax return, you will be asked the questions below. Earned income is typically defined as a combination of any income from employment and contract work (e.g., Uber, DoorDash, etc.). If you participated in a need-based employment program, enter the amount of your earnings that was from this program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT 2022 TAX RETURN INFORMATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What was your income earned from work in 2022?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(click on the information icon for instructions)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Taxable earnings from need-based employment programs, such as need-based employment portions of fellowships and assistantships. |
| (click on the information icon for instructions)* |
| $0 | 00 |
Tax Return Information

If you indicated that you did not file a tax return, you will then see the notice below.

Based on the answers you have selected, you are not required to answer any questions in this section.
If your income or circumstances have changed, submit the CADAA form and then contact your financial aid office to request an adjustment to the income that is used to calculate your eligibility.

• Examples of special circumstances may include the following:
  ➢ significant changes to your financial situation, such as loss of employment or pay cuts
  ➢ tuition expenses at an elementary or secondary school
  ➢ high amounts of medical or dental expenses not covered by insurance
  ➢ a family member who recently became unemployed or furloughed
  ➢ Suffered from a natural disaster such as mudslides, tornados, hurricanes, earthquakes, or COVID-19 pandemic
  ➢ Volatile income that varies from one year to the next, especially if self-employed
  ➢ other changes in income or assets that may affect your eligibility for federal student aid

• Your school may ask you to document your special circumstances so that they can consider making an adjustment to your CADAA information.
Student Assets

When asked about current student assets, student financial aid, such as grants or scholarships received for the current term, does NOT need to be reported.

Only those assets indicated here must be reported.
7. College Selection
California Dream Act Service Incentive Grant (DSIG) Program

You will be asked if you are interested in being considered for the California Dream Act Service Incentive Grant (DSIG) Program. This program provides grants upon completion of community or volunteer service. Selecting “yes” does not obligate you to participate. More information is available at www.csac.ca.gov/dsig.
You will then indicate which college(s) you want your application sent to. You can search for a school by entering the college name or school code. The search function will look for the terms in any part of the college name.
College Selection

After selecting "Search," select the correct school from the search results. You can select to send your FAFSA information to a maximum of 20 schools. A minimum of one school is required to proceed.

Schools may have similar names so take care to select the correct school.
College Selection

The colleges you select will display below the search tool. If you make a mistake, you can delete a college from the list using the icon. Each UC and CSU college must be listed separately.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Name</th>
<th>USDE Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIV</td>
<td>00115400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO</td>
<td>00450200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC BERKELEY</td>
<td>00131200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8. AB 540 Affidavit
The following questions part of this "AB 540 Affidavit" subsection must be completed for campuses to determine if you are AB 540 eligible and thus, be exempt from paying non-resident tuition. To learn more about the AB 540 criteria, visit https://www.csac.ca.gov/post/california-nonresident-tuition-exemption. It is recommended, although not required, that you have your transcripts and school attendance records available to accurately complete the following set of questions about your eligibility for the Non-Resident Tuition Exemption (AB 540). Please note that your college is responsible for verifying your AB 540 eligibility, which may require submission of transcripts or other documentation to determine your eligibility. Check with the college’s Admissions Office after you submit your CA Dream Act Application and before the term starts.

I have graduated or will graduate (before the first term of enrollment at the college/university) with a California high school diploma or the equivalent (i.e., California-issued GED, HiSET, TASC, or CHSPE).  

- Yes
- No

I completed or will complete (before the first term of enrollment at the college/university) an associate degree from a California Community College.  

- Yes
- No

I completed or will complete (before the first term of enrollment at the college/university) the minimum requirements at a California Community College for transfer to a California State University (CSU) or University of California (UC).  

- Yes
- No
I have 3 years of attendance at a California high school.

I have 3 or more years of high school coursework and 3 years of attendance in California elementary schools, California secondary schools, or a combination of California elementary schools and secondary schools.

I attended or attained credits from a California high school, California adult school, and/or California Community College equivalent to 3 years or more.
AB 540 Affidavit

You then must provide information about all the schools you attended that are necessary to satisfy the requirements from the questions asked on the previous page. It is recommended that you have your academic transcripts/school records available to help you answer the questions.

Information must be entered manually (there is no search function) and so make sure to enter school names accurately.

After providing the requested information, click “Add” to save the school information. You can continue to add as many schools as necessary.
8. Review & Signature
Spouse and Parent Information

If you are an independent, unmarried student, you will see a notification that you can skip sections for spouse and parent information.

Based on the answers you have selected, you are not required to answer any questions in this section.

You are considered an "independent" student. You are not required to answer the parental questions.
Signature

The final page consists of your signature and submission. If there is any invalid or missing data, you will need to correct the errors before you can submit the application. Any incomplete sections will be marked with a red exclamation point. 🚫
Signature

You must agree to the statements shown in red on the final screen. Once these boxes are checked, your name will appear in the signature box and you can click “Submit” to submit your application.
Confirmation

• Once you have submitted your application, you will see a Confirmation Page that shows that your CADAA has been submitted.

• It provides your CA Dream ID number and the date the CADAA was submitted.

• Save or print a copy of the Confirmation Page.

• The Confirmation Page may identify actions you will need to take to ensure that your Dream Act eligibility can be determined. Pay close attention to any items that require follow-up.
Review CalSAR

• Within 24 hours from when you submit your application, a California Student Aid Report (Cal SAR) will be available. The Cal SAR summarizes the information you submitted on the CADAA. Review it to confirm that there aren’t any errors.

• After your CADAA is processed, the Cal SAR will include your Student Aid Index (SAI). The SAI is used to determine eligibility for student aid. It is not how much aid you are eligible to receive.

• Save or print a copy of the Cal SAR.
10. After the CADAA
Apply for a Chafee Grant if Eligible

- Eligibility: Current or former foster youth who were dependents or wards of the court between 16-18
- Up to $5,000 for up to 5 years until age 26.
- Can be used at public or private colleges, universities or career and technical schools in California or out of state.
- Must be enrolled at least half-time.
Chafee Grant Application Tips

- A separate application is required for first-time applicants in addition to the CADAA/CADAA (chafee.csac.ca.gov)
- Apply as soon as possible.
- Planned School of Attendance refers to one college the student plans to attend. If the school isn’t listed, contact CSAC. If the school changes, the student must inform CSAC in order to receive the award.
- Depending on the availability of funding, students may be wait-listed.
Create a Webgrants 4 Students Account at: mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov

- Wait until their CADAA is processed. It can take 1-2 weeks for the CADAA to process and link to WebGrants.

- If there are issues, contact the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC):
  - (888) 224-7268 or 1-800-735-2929 (TTY)
  - studentsupport@csac.ca.gov
WebGrants To Do’s for Students

1. Check award status for Cal Grant, Middle Class Scholarship and Chafee Grant
2. Verify if there are any “pending” items or forms that still need to be completed
3. Confirm that school of attendance is accurate
4. Verify that your GPA has been received. If not, contact high school/college counselor or CSAC
5. Enter high school graduation date (available on the 1st day of the month of graduation month)
6. If you applied for Chafee Grant, check that “Department of Social Services Record” is verified.
If an Award Status is pending, students should click on their “To Do” list to determine next steps. If the Award Status is “Not Awarded,” click on “Reason” to learn more and consult with the financial aid office or CSAC if you believe there is an error.
Example: Award Pending for Chafee Grant

Note that the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) verification for the Chafee grant only happens monthly and may therefore not appear immediately

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chafee Grant Application Status (2019-2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FAFSA</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chafee Application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Social Services Record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incomplete</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Remember:

• Continue to check your email and college student portal weekly. The college will communicate with you if they need more information. Even after college starts, continue to check it often.

• Respond promptly to any information requests, such as a verification of foster youth or homeless youth status or additional income verification.

• Update all your accounts if your address, email or phone number changes (e.g. WebGrants, college portal, CADAA, etc.)

• Apply for other scholarships and campus support programs such as NextUp, Guardian Scholars, EOP, EOPS, or Disability Student Services.

• Maintain your grades and don’t drop too many classes. Once you receive financial aid, there are academic requirements you need to meet to keep receiving it. Check online for your college’s “Satisfactory Academic Progress” policies.

• Reapply for aid by submitting the CADAA every year!
11. Resources
Help with the CADAA

• Live Help built into CADAA (Turn on “Auto Hint”)
• California Student Aid Commission (CSAC)
  • 1-888-CA-GRANT (1-888-224-7268)
  • If hearing impaired: 1-800-735-2929 (TTY) or 1-800-735-2922 (Voice)
  • StudentSupport@csac.ca.gov
• IRS Get a Tax Return Transcript – 1-800-908-9946
JBAY Financial Aid Resources

- Financial Aid Guide (English & Spanish)
- FAFSA/CADAA Visual Guides
- High School Counselor Toolkits
- Recorded Webinar

jbay.org/resources/financial-aid-guide/
JBAY’s Step-by-Step Postsecondary Education Planning Guides for Foster Youth
jbay.org/resources/ed-planning-guide/

- Available in English and Spanish for adult supporters of youth in grades 6-12 and for youth in grades 9-12.
- Includes downloadable checklists & student spotlight videos!

Visit cacollegepathways.org for comprehensive college planning information for current and former foster youth.
Resources for Homeless Youth

- School House Connection
  www.schoolhouseconnection.org/CADAA/
  ✓ Sample Verification Letters
  ✓ Screening tools
  ✓ Flowcharts
  ✓ And more!

- National Center for Homeless Education
  nche.ed.gov/higher-education/

Other Resources

- ICanGoToCollege.com
  ICanGoToCollege.com

- National College Attainment Network
  www.ncan.org/page/better-CADAA

- Financial Aid for Justice-Involved Youth
  ylc.org/resource/financial-aidfor-jj-youth
Resources for Undocumented Students

CSAC Resources: www.csac.ca.gov/undocumented-dreamer-students

Immigrants Rising: immigrantsrising.org

Golden Door Scholars: www.goldendoorscholars.org

MALDEF: www.maldef.org/resources/scholarship-resources/
Resources for Undocumented Students

Cal State University (CSU) resources: www.calstate.edu/attend/student-services/resources-for-undocumented-students

University of California (UC) resources: undoc.universityofcalifornia.edu

California Community College (CCC) resources: www.cccco.edu/Students/Support-Services/Special-population/Undocumented-Students