

# Financial Aid Tips & Resources

Apply Between December 2024 and March 2<sup>nd</sup> To Maximize Award Eligibility

## FAFSA or Dream Act? Which Application Do I file?

### Submit the FAFSA if you (the student) are...

A U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident (Green Card Holder) even if your parent(s) are not citizens or permanent residents

### Submit the Dream Act Application if you (the student)...

Don't have a Social Security Number or you have a **DACA** issued Social Security Number

**And** Meet the following requirements:

- Graduated or will graduate from a California high school
- Has or will have attended a CA high school for at least 3 years or completed equivalent
- Has attended total of 3 years at CA elementary, middle, or high school and earned credits in CA HS equivalent to 3 years.

### Helpful Websites

#### FSA ID (FAFSA Applicants Only)

<https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>

#### Applications

[studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)  
[Dream.csac.ca.gov](https://dream.csac.ca.gov)

#### Estimating Aid Eligibility

<http://netpricecalculator.collegeboard.org/>

#### Student Loans and Repayment Calculators

[Studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action](https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action)

## What Information Do I Need to Apply for Financial Aid for 2025-26?

- ✓ FSA ID (FAFSA Applicants Only)
  - Parent and Student Need one
  - Email Address (Parents and Students can't use the same email)
  - Social Security Number
    - Parents without an SSN will still need to create an FSA ID
- ✓ Driver's License (if you have one)
- ✓ Giving consent to have your federal tax information transferred directly into your FAFSA from the IRS. \*By not giving consent, you will be ineligible for Federal Student Aid
- ✓ List of colleges
- ✓ Parents' Marital status
- ✓ Parents' Birth dates
- ✓ 2023 tax returns (if needed)

## Parent & Guardian: Whose information do I provide?

### Parents Divorced?

Use the financial information for the parent you live with more than 50% of the time or who financially supports you more than 50%. If the parent you are with more than half time or provides more than half of the support is remarried, you must include stepparent's income information.

### Parents unmarried but live together?

Provide information for both of your parents if they live in the same household.

### Don't live with your parents?

You still must input their income and SSN unless you have a legal guardian established in a California Court, have been in foster care any time since age 13, or legally emancipated. Notarized documents don't establish legal guardianship.