

GLOSSARY & DEFINITIONS

Academic Year

An academic year is one complete school year at the same school, or two complete, half years at different schools. For schools that have a year-round program of instruction, nine months is considered an academic year.

Acceleration

Acceleration is the demand for immediate repayment of the entire outstanding balance of a loan.

Aid for Military Family Service

Both the federal government and nonprofit organizations offer money for college to veterans, future military personnel, active-duty personnel, or those related to veterans or active-duty personnel.

Annual Taxable Income

Your annual taxable income is the amount of income used to determine how much tax you owe in a given year. This can include wages, salaries, bonuses, tips, investment income, and unearned income.

Award Year

School year for which financial aid is used to fund a student's education. Generally, this is the 12-month period that begins on July 1 of one year and ends on June 30 of the following year.

Capitalization

Capitalization is the addition of unpaid accrued interest to the principal balance of a loan. Over time, this can increase your monthly payment.

Collection Agency

An entity that recovers unpaid debt from borrowers who have defaulted on their loans.

Collection Costs

Expenses charged on defaulted federal student loans that are added to the outstanding principal balance of the loan.

Cookie

Cookies are bits of data that a website transfers to a computer's hard drive. The most common use of cookies is for a website to determine your personal preferences. Some cookies disappear once you close the browser while some remain.

Credit



Credit refers to the amount of money you borrow and your ability to borrow to purchase goods and services. Credit is extended to you from a credit grantor with which you make an agreement to pay back the amount spent, plus applicable interest and fees, within an agreed-upon time.

Debt Collection

Debt collection is the course of pursuing payments of loan debts due by borrowers.

Debt Consolidation

Debt consolidation is a method of debt refinancing that involves taking out one loan to pay off others.

Default

A loan goes into default when you fail to repay the loan as outlined in your promissory note. Most federal student loan default occurs when a payment isn't made in more than 270 days. It can result in legal consequences and a loss of eligibility for additional federal student aid.

Deferment

A deferment is a temporary postponement of payment on a loan that is allowed under certain conditions and during which interest generally doesn't accrue on certain types of subsidized loans.

Direct Consolidation Loan

A Direct Consolidation Loan combines multiple federal education loans into one loan for free. You will have a single monthly payment on the new Direct Consolidation Loan. Apply to consolidate here: <https://studentaid.gov/app/launchConsolidation.action>

Direct PLUS Loan

Direct PLUS Loans are federal loans that graduate or professional students and parents of dependent undergraduate students use to help pay for education expenses.

Direct Subsidized Loan

A Direct Subsidized Loan is a federal student loan where a borrower isn't generally responsible for paying interest while in an in-school, grace, or deferment period. To apply, start by submitting a FAFSA® form: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>.

Discretionary Income

Discretionary income is a factor used in determining a borrower's eligibility for certain repayment plans and/or loan rehabilitation. It's the difference between annual income and a percentage of the poverty guideline for the borrower's family size and state of residence.

Early Action

Early action is a college admission policy that allows applicants to apply and receive notice of their admission early. Applicants accepted under early action are not under a binding agreement to attend that school and may submit applications to other schools.



Early Decision

Early decision is a college admission policy that allows applicants who commit to attend a school to apply and receive notice of their admission early. If an applicant is accepted, he or she agrees to attend that school and must withdraw all other applications.

Educational Service Agency

An educational service agency is a regional public multiservice agency that is authorized by state law to develop, manage, and provide services or programs to local education agencies, such as public-school districts.

Eligible Program

An eligible program is a program of organized instruction or study of a certain length that leads to an academic, professional, or vocational degree or certificate, or other recognized education credential.

Emancipated Minor

An emancipated minor is someone who has been legally deemed an adult by a court in his or her state of residence. If you are an emancipated minor, you are considered an independent student and will not provide information about your parents on the FAFSA® form.

Endorser

An endorser is someone who agrees to repay the Direct PLUS Loan if the borrower becomes delinquent in making payments or defaults on the loan. The endorser may not be the student on whose behalf a parent obtains a Direct PLUS Loan. Apply: <https://studentaid.gov/endorser-addendum>

Endorser Code

An Endorser Code is used to complete a Direct PLUS Loan addendum to the Master Promissory Note. If encountering issues, go here: <https://studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/article/endorser-code-issue-troubleshooting>.

Enrollment Status

Enrollment status is reported by the school you attended, and indicates whether you are, or were, full-time, three-quarter time, half-time, less than half-time, withdrawn, graduated, etc.

Entrance Counseling

Entrance counseling explains your rights and the obligations you agree to meet as a condition of accepting a Direct Loan. More information about entrance counseling is available at: <https://studentaid.gov/entrance-counseling/>.

Exit Counseling

Exit counseling provides important information to prepare you repay your federal student loan(s). Topics include: Contact Settings, My Loans, Preparing to Repay, Determining Your Repayment Strategy. Exit counseling is available at: <https://studentaid.gov/exit-counseling/>.

Extended Repayment Plan

The Extended Repayment Plan allows you to repay your loans over an extended period. Payments are made for up to 25 years. There are specific eligibility requirements to qualify for this plan.

Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program

The Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program was a program that worked with private lenders to provide education loans guaranteed by the federal government. The FFEL Program ended in 2010. All loans are now made through the Direct Loan Program.

Federal Pell Grant program

The Pell Grant is the largest federal grant program offered to undergraduates. It is designed to assist students from low-income households. To qualify for a Pell Grant, a student must demonstrate financial need by completing and submitting the FAFSA® form.

Federal Perkins Loan

A Perkins Loan was available to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students until Sept. 30, 2017; the program has since expired. The Perkins Loan is a subsidized loan, meaning the federal government pays the loan's interest while the borrower is in school.

Federal Student Aid

Federal student aid is aid from the government in the form of grants, loans, and/or work-study to assist students with college or career school. Students have to complete the FAFSA® form to apply for this aid.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) is a grant that is awarded to an undergraduate student who demonstrates exceptional financial need to help pay for their education. Awards can range from \$100–\$4000 and do not need to be repaid.

Federal Work-Study

Federal Work-Study provides part-time jobs for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need. You'll need to be awarded work-study by your school's financial aid office and secure an eligible job. Reach out to your school's financial aid office for more info.

Financial Aid



Financial aid is money to help pay for college or career school.

Financial Awareness Counseling

Financial awareness counseling provides tools and information to help you understand your financial aid and assist in managing your finances. Topics include: Understand Your Loans, Manage Your Spending, Plan to Repay, Avoid Default and Make Finances a Priority.

Forbearance

A forbearance allows you to temporarily stop making your monthly student loan payments or temporarily make smaller payments. Contact your loan servicer to request a forbearance.

FSA ID

An FSA ID consists of a username and password which gives you access to the U.S. Department of Education's online systems and can serve as your legal signature when completing electronic documents.

Full-Time Teacher

A teacher is a person who provides direct classroom teaching or classroom-type teaching in a non-classroom setting, including special education teachers.

Graduate or Professional Student

A graduate or professional student is a student who is pursuing education opportunities beyond an undergraduate (bachelor's) degree. Graduate and professional programs include master's and doctoral programs such as Ph.D., J.D., and M.D., among others.

Graduated Repayment Plan

The Graduated Repayment Plan starts with lower payments that increase every two years. Under this plan, you make payments for up to 10 years (between 10 and 30 years for consolidation loans).

Graduation Rate

A school's graduation rate is the percentage of a school's full-time, first-time degree- or certificate-seeking students who complete their degree or certificate within 150 percent of the published length of the program in which they are enrolled.

Grant

A grant is a monetary gift for people pursuing higher education. It is often based on financial need and does not need to be repaid (unless, for example, you withdraw from school and owe a refund).

Gross Income

Gross income is your total income before deductions.

Guaranty Agency

A guaranty agency is a state or private non-profit agency that helps administer the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program. A guaranty agency insures federal loans by repaying the loan holder when a loan defaults, and then collects the defaulted loan from the borrower.

Half-Time Enrollment

Half-time enrollment is an enrollment status applied to students who are only enrolled in half of the expected full-time course load. Half-time enrollment can affect the cost of attendance (COA), and each school may have different half-time enrollment specifications.

Head of Household

For tax purposes, you might claim head of household if you are unmarried and responsible for more than half of the cost of keeping up your and your dependent's home. Whether you are head of household can affect how you report tax return information on the FAFSA® form.

Homeless

A homeless individual is someone without a home who generally lives in shelters, parks, motels, hotels, cars, or with someone else due to not having anywhere else to go. Homeless individuals can still receive federal student aid.

Income-Based Repayment (IBR) Plan

Income-Based Repayment (IBR) Plan

Eligible loans: Direct loans and FFEL Program loans other than those in default, PLUS loans made to a parent borrower, or Consolidation Loans that repaid a Direct or Federal PLUS Loan made to a parent borrower. Consolidating a Federal Perkins Loan may make you eligible.

Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR) Plan

Eligible loans: Direct loans other than those in default and parent PLUS loans. Consolidating a Federal Perkins Loan, FFEL Program loan or Direct PLUS Loan made to a parent may make you eligible.

Independent Student

For the 2022–23 award year, an independent student is either born before Jan. 1, 1999, married, a graduate/ professional student, a veteran, a member of the armed forces, an orphan, a ward of the court, someone with legal dependents (not a spouse), an emancipated minor, or someone who is or at risk of being homeless.

Interest

Interest is a loan expense charged for the use of borrowed money. Interest is paid by a borrower to a lender. The expense is calculated as a percentage of the unpaid principal



amount of the loan. You can find your federal student loan interest rate(s) by logging in to StudentAid.gov and reviewing your Aid Summary page.

Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant (IASG)

You may be eligible for the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant (IASG) if your parent or guardian died as a result of military service performed in Iraq or Afghanistan after the events of 9/11, and you are not eligible for a Federal Pell Grant.

IRS Data Retrieval Tool

The IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT) allows students and parents who filed a U.S. tax return with the IRS to access the IRS tax return information needed to complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form and Income-Driven Repayment (IDR) plan requests by transferring the data directly into their forms. If you're eligible to use the IRS DRT, we highly recommend using the tool for several reasons:

1. It's the easiest way to provide your tax return information.
2. It's the best way of ensuring that your FAFSA form and/or IDR plan requests have accurate tax information.
3. Using it on your FAFSA form will mean you won't need to provide a copy of your or your parents' tax returns to your college.

Job Placement Rate

A school's job placement rate is the percentage of graduating students who obtained employment either in the recognized occupation for which they were trained or in a related, comparable, recognized occupation within a determined period after receiving their degree/certificate.

Judgment Lien

A judgment lien gives a creditor the legal right to keep property when the owner fails to pay a debt. It can only be granted by a court. A student (or parent in the case of a parent borrower) with a judgment lien will not qualify for federal student aid.

Legal Guardianship

Legal guardianship is a designation by a court that authorizes someone to care for an individual in place of parents. Having a legal guardian qualifies you as an independent student, such that you do not have to report your parents' income on the FAFSA® form.

Lender

A lender is the organization that made the loan (borrower's school, bank, credit union, etc.).

Litigation

Litigation is the act or process of bringing or contesting a legal action in court.

Loan

A loan is money borrowed from the federal government or a private source like a bank or financial institution, and must be paid back with interest.

Loan Discharge

Loan discharge is the removal of a borrower's obligation to repay a loan under certain circumstances including but not limited to death, disability, bankruptcy, fraud, and identity theft.

Loan Forgiveness

Student loan forgiveness is offered to encourage certain types of employment. A loan may be fully or partially forgiven after a certain number of years of qualifying employment.

Master Promissory Note (MPN)

An MPN is a legal document that contains the Borrower's Rights and Responsibilities and Terms and Conditions for repayment. Direct PLUS and Direct Subsidized / Unsubsidized loans have different MPNs. Access the MPN at: <https://studentaid.gov/mpn>.

Merit-Based

Merit-based means that something is based on a student's skill or ability. For example, a merit-based scholarship might be awarded based on a student's high grades.

New Borrower

Someone who has no outstanding balance on a Direct Loan or Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program loan when he or she receives a Direct Loan or FFEL Program loan on or after a specific date.

Offset

An offset is when a payment from the U.S. Department of Treasury (such as an income tax refund) is reduced or stopped to pay off a delinquent debt. The remainder of a refund will be processed; an offset shouldn't delay it unless the entire refund is applied to the debt.

Ombudsman Group

The Ombudsman Group is dedicated to helping resolve disputes related to the federal student aid programs, including Direct Loans, Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program loans, Perkins Loans, and grant programs: <https://studentaid.gov/feedback-ombudsman/disputes/prepare>

Out-of-State Student

An out-of-state student is a student who is attending a college or career school outside of his or her state of legal residence.

Partial Financial Hardship

Partial financial hardship is an eligibility requirement under the Income-Based Repayment and Pay As You Earn repayment plans. For more information, go to

Repayment Plans.

Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Plan

The Pay As You Earn Plan is a repayment plan with monthly payments that are generally equal to 10% of your discretionary income, but never more than the 10-year Standard Repayment amount.

Payroll Deductions

Payroll deductions are amounts of money withheld from your paycheck by your employer.

PLUS Credit Counseling

PLUS credit counseling helps graduate/professional students and parents of eligible dependent undergraduate students understand the obligations associated with borrowing a PLUS loan and assists them in making careful decisions about taking on student loan debt.

Postbaccalaureate Teacher Certification Program

A postbaccalaureate teacher certification program is a program that enables those who hold at least a bachelor's degree to earn teacher certification at the elementary or secondary level. Program specifics can depend on the school and state where the program is available.

Prepaid Tuition

A prepaid tuition plan, also known as a section 529 plan, lets you lock in future tuition rates at in-state public colleges at current prices and is usually guaranteed by the state in which the plan was established.

Principal

Principal refers to the sum of money lent, on which interest is paid.

Proprietary School

A proprietary school is a private, for-profit school that provides education and training.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Help Tool

This tool will help you understand the following about the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program: what is required to participate, if an employer qualifies, which loans qualify, and what actions to take. The PSLF Help Tool is available at: <https://studentaid.gov/pslf/>

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program

The PSLF Program forgives the remaining balance on your Direct Loans after you have made 120 (10 years) qualifying monthly payments under a qualifying repayment plan, while working full-time for a qualifying employer.

Regular Student

A regular student is one who is enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an institution for



the purpose of obtaining a degree, certificate, or other recognized education credential. To be eligible for federal student aid, you must generally be a regular student.

Rehabilitated Loan

Loan rehabilitation is one method of getting your student loan out of default. To begin the rehabilitation process, you must contact your loan holder. For more info about getting out of default: <https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/default/get-out>

Repayment

Repayment is paying back money you borrowed by making scheduled payments to a loan holder or servicer.

Retention Rate

A school's retention rate is the percentage of its first-time students who are seeking bachelor's degrees who return to the institution to continue their studies the following fall.

Revised Pay As You Earn (REPAYE) Plan

The REPAYE Plan is a repayment plan with monthly payments that are generally equal to 10% of your discretionary income.

Room and Board

Room and board is generally the cost of housing and food while attending college or career school.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Satisfactory academic progress is the process a school uses to determine if a student is meeting all of his or her educational requirements and is on target to graduate on time with a degree or certificate. This process may vary across schools.

Scholarships

Scholarships are gifts that don't have to be repaid and are designed to help students pay for an undergraduate degree. They can be a one-time gift or are renewable, depending on the scholarship.

School Closure

A school closure occurs when an institution no longer provides educational services to students. Read about recent closed school

Announcements: <https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/closed-school>.

Service Obligation

A TEACH service obligation is an agreement to teach full-time, in a high-need field, at an elementary/secondary school/educational service agency for low-income students, and for at least four out of eight academic years following their ending of the grant assisted study.

Standard Repayment Plan



The Standard Repayment Plan is the basic repayment plan for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) and Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Programs. Payments are fixed and made for up to 10 years (10–30 years for Consolidation Loans).

Standardized Test

A standardized test is a test that is designed to assess individuals against a common standard. For example, the SAT and ACT are standardized tests that some colleges require for consideration for admission.

State Aid

State aid, such as Cal Grants and NY TAP, is financial assistance that a state offers to eligible residents. We don't administer state aid programs. Contact your state grant agency for more info: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/contacts/state/index.html>

Student Fraud

Student Fraud is any situation where an individual falsifies information in order to qualify for student aid. Examples of student fraud include using false information on the FAFSA, such as income or marital status, or reporting an invalid high school diploma.

Student Loan Debt Burden

Student loan debt burden is the percentage of a borrower's monthly income that is dedicated to his or her student loan payments. The smaller this percentage, the lower the debt burden.

Teach-Out Process

A teach-out process provides for the equitable treatment of students and a reasonable opportunity for students to complete their program of study if a school ceases to operate before they have completed their program of study.

Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant

The TEACH Grant funds students who are completing/plan to complete coursework that is required to be a teacher, and who agree to teach full-time in a high-need field at an educational service agency or school for low-income students for at least four years.

Total and Permanent Disability (TPD) Discharge

A total and permanent disability discharge relieves you from having to repay your federal student loan(s) and/or complete your Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant service obligation. Learn more at: <https://disabilitydischarge.com/>.

Transfer Rate

A school's transfer rate is the percentage of its full-time, first-time students who have transferred to another institution.

Transfer Student

A transfer student is a student who has completed some academic credits at a college



or university and has requested to enroll at a different institution.

Tuition

Tuition is the amount of money you owe for receiving instruction, materials, and/or supplies, or for the rental or purchase of equipment, for a course of study at your institution.

Undergraduate Student

An undergraduate student is a student who is enrolled in an undergraduate course of study at a college/university or career school that usually doesn't exceed four years and leads to an undergraduate degree or certificate.

Unsubsidized Loan

An unsubsidized loan through the Direct Loan Program offers students a low, fixed interest rate and flexible repayment terms. It is not based on financial need. To apply for federal student aid, start by submitting a FAFSA® form: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>.

Untaxed Income

Untaxed income is income you don't pay taxes on, such as Supplemental Security Income, child support, or federal or public assistance.

Verification

When you have been asked to submit more documents because certain questions on the FAFSA needs to be verified. Some verifications can be the following: income tax, dependency, legal status, loan default, etc.

Veteran's Benefits

Benefits you get from being associated with the VA.

William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program

The Direct Loan Program is the federal student loan program under which eligible students and parents borrow directly from the U.S. Department of Education at participating schools. Loans include Direct Subsidized, Direct Unsubsidized, Direct PLUS, and Direct Consolidation Loans.

Withholding

A withholding is an amount of money that an employer takes out of your wages and pays to the government. If too little is withheld, you will owe additional taxes. If too much is withheld, you receive a refund.



FINANCIAL AID 101

By: Kieu Vo



AGENDA



- Financial Aid Overview
- Financial Aid Process
- State Grant
- Dates and Deadlines

MUST KNOW VOCABULARY

FAFSA

- www.fafsa.gov same as www.studentaid.gov
- An application that must be submitted to be eligible for federal aid.

FSA ID

- You need to create it to begin the FAFSA application. Keep it safe, as you'll need it annually.

Student Aid Report (SAR)

A summary of the information submitted on your FAFSA, showing your eligibility for federal financial aid.

MUST KNOW VOCABULARY

Student Aid Index (SAI)

- The Student Aid Index (SAI) is a number, ranging from -1500 to 999999, used to determine a student's financial need based on FAFSA data. A lower or negative SAI indicates higher financial need, increasing eligibility for need-based aid like Pell Grants. It accounts for family financial resources, tax info, and assets, while deducting basic living expenses

Cost of Attendance (COA)

- The cost of attending school consists of both **direct** and **indirect** expenses. **Direct** costs include tuition, books, and supplies, while **indirect** costs cover accommodations, transportation, and other personal expenses students incur throughout their enrollment.

Types of Federal Financial Aid

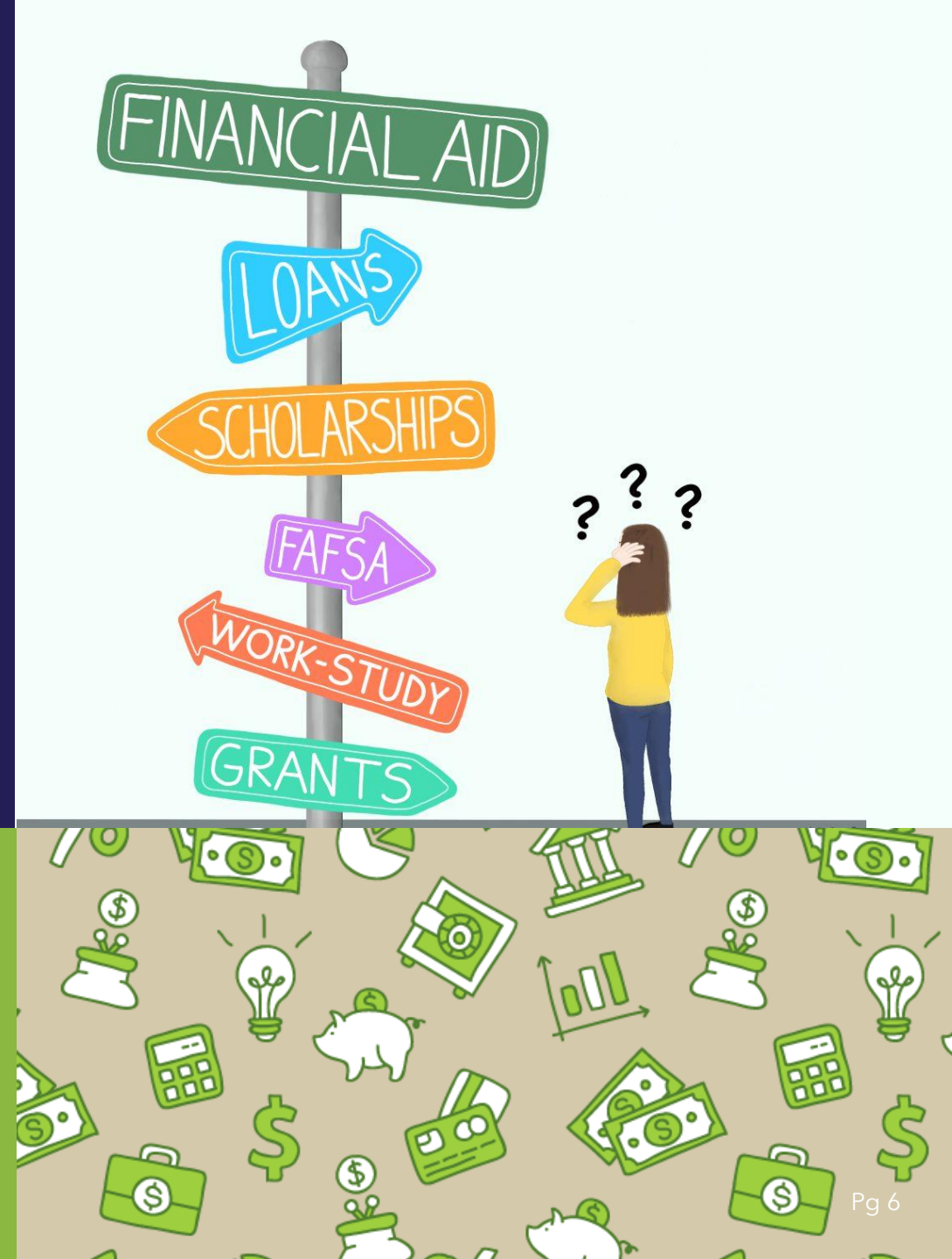
AID	AMOUNT	NOTES
Federal Pell Grant	Up to \$7,395.00	Lifetime Eligibility of 600% (100% per year)
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	Up to \$4,000.00	Priority to Pell eligible students
Federal Work Study	Varies by school	On-and off-campus employment
Federal Direct Student Loan (Subsidized and Unsubsidized)	\$3,500 to \$12,500 (undergrad level)	Subsidized: Govt. cover the interest during periods of enrollment
Federal Parent PLUS Loan	Up to \$20,000 less any other financial aid	Applied by the parents

FINANCIAL AID PROCESS

Step-by-step

Fill out the
FAFSA

THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID



ICOHS

FINANCIAL AID

SERIES #3



A Vocational Training College

How do I apply
for financial aid?

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR 2025–2026

Take Ownership

Funding is limited in California

Find a school that can help you get a high-paying job

FINANCIAL AID STEP-BY-STEP

1. Get Prepared

2. Complete FAFSA® Form

**3. Review Student Aid
Report**

4. Respond to Aid Officer

5. Receive Aid

Which of a Dependent Student's Parents Needs an FSA ID?

If parents are
married

+File taxes together =
only one parent
needs an account

OR

+ Didn't file taxes together =
Both parents
need account

If parents are
unmarried
+ living together

Both parents
need accounts

If parents are
divorced/separated
+ NOT living together

The parent who provided
more financial support
in the last 12 months needs
an account

OR

If that parent remarried OR
+ DIDN'T file taxes together
=
both the parent and step-
parent need accounts

May be an INDEPENDENT STATUS

Students under age 24 are dependent and must provide parent information, unless they answer “yes” to any one question in the Personal Circumstances section.

For the **2025-2026 award year**, an independent student is one of the following:

- Born before January 1, 2003
- Married (but not separated)
- Graduate or professional student
- Veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces
- Member of the U.S. Armed Forces
- In a court-ordered legal guardianship
- Court-ordered emancipated minor
- Orphan or ward of the court
- In foster care
- Has legal dependents other than a spouse
- Emancipated minor
- Someone who is unaccompanied and homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless
naehcy.org
- Dependency override in unusual circumstances

Parents need to complete FAFSA with conditions below

Parent information is required for dependent students **even if** the:

Student

- Is financially self-sufficient
- Isn't claimed on the parents' federal income tax returns
- Does not live with the parents

Parents

- Refuse to complete FAFSA
- Live in another country
- Are foreign citizens
- Are undocumented

Other Conditions...

- If parent information is not provided, the most financial aid that the student can get is unsubsidized Federal Direct Loans unless the college financial aid administrator performs a dependency override
- Dependency overrides are rare and generally involve an involuntary dissolution of the family relationship, such as:
 - Both parents incarcerated or institutionalized
 - An abusive home environment
 - Abandonment
 - Parent whereabouts unknown
 - Death of the custodial parent

How to Appeal for More Financial Aid

Appeal for more financial aid if the family's financial circumstances have changed (including mid-year) or differ from the typical family Special circumstances include documented:

- Changes to family income, assets, etc.
- Recent unemployment
- Dislocated worker
- High unreimbursed medical/dental expenses
- High dependent care expenses
- Housing change due to homelessness
- One-time events (e.g., a bonus) that do not reflect ability to pay

After submitting the FAFSA, discuss special circumstances with the college financial aid office

CAL GRANT



STATE GRANT: CAL GRANT

What is the Cal Grant?

- The Cal Grant is a need-based financial aid program in California
- It provides grants to help students pay for college tuition and related expenses.
- Administered by the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC).

Types of Cal Grants

- Cal Grant A: Covers tuition at public and private universities.
- Cal Grant B: Provides a living allowance and tuition assistance.
- Cal Grant C: Supports students in vocational and career technical programs.

Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a California resident.
- File the FAFSA by March 2.
- Maintain a minimum GPA 2.0
- Meet financial need criteria and enrollment status requirements.

How To Apply: Cal Grant

STEP 1: Submit The FAFSA

Deadline: May 2

Include all the school you are planning to attend in California even if its just your backup school.

STEP 2: Submit the GPA Verification Form

Ensure your school sends your GPA verification to the California Student Aid Commission.

STEP 3: Create A WEBGRANTS 4 Students Account

Students can create a WebGrants 4 Students account after their FAFSA is submitted. Students can check the status of their state financial aid awards.

DATES & DEADLINES



- Important dates and deadlines you should know

DATES & DEADLINES

**PRIORITY
DEADLINE
MARCH 2**

**SCHOOL
DEADLINE
VARIES
CHECK WITH YOUR
SCHOOL**

DATES & DEADLINES

CAL GRANT

www.csac.ca.gov

March 2nd

The most important deadline for Cal Grants is March 2. Be sure you submit your FAFSA and your verified Cal Grant GPA by the March 2 Cal Grant application deadline.

September 2nd

If you'll be attending a California Community College in the fall and missed the March 2 deadline, you have a second deadline of September 2.

October 1st

The FAFSA and CA Dream Act Application open for the following school year. Be sure to submit your application and GPA by the March 2 deadline.

**Keep in mind that your college may have earlier deadlines for its financial aid programs, so be sure to check with each college you're considering. Also, deadlines for private scholarships may be earlier in the year.*

Once you submit your financial aid application, there might be additional actions required of you from CSAC. Please be sure that your email is up to date so that you can complete the actions in a timely manner.

Q&A

QUIZ

Does the FAFSA need to be submitted every year to qualify for aid?

YES

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) must be completed annually to remain eligible for financial aid since aid is awarded based on each academic year's financial need and available funds

Do both parents need to create an FSA ID if they are married and filed taxes together?

NO

If both parents are married and file taxes jointly, only one parent needs to create an FSA ID to complete the FAFSA for a dependent student

**Are students under 24
automatically
considered independent
for FAFSA purposes?**

NO

Students under the age of 24 are generally considered dependent unless they meet specific criteria such as being married, a veteran, or having legal dependents, among others

Can students appeal for more financial aid if their family's financial situation changes?

YES

Students can request a financial aid appeal if their family experiences a significant change in income, assets, or circumstances that is not reflected in the FAFSA data, such as unemployment or medical expenses

**Is financial aid
automatically disbursed
as soon as a student is
accepted to a college?**

NO

Financial aid disbursement depends on the school's schedule. Students need to meet certain criteria like attending classes and maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to receive aid



Thank you

Kieu Vo | www.icohs.edu | info@icohs.edu

