

Basic Needs Initiative Conference

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Understanding the Basics of Financial Aid

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Application Process

- Starting October 1, 2017 students could submit their FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application (CADAA) for financial aid for fall 2018.
- Both the FAFSA and the CADAA applications, will use income data from **2016!**
- Because of the earlier tax year for income, students won't have to wait for their parents to file their taxes.

Application Timeline

- March 2 is the priority filing date for California for FAFSA and DREAM application
- March 2 is also firm deadline for Cal Grant
- March 2 is CSU priority filing date
- Applying after March 2, while some funding available, reduces the types of aid for which student is considered
- Don't miss the deadline!

Timeline from application to awarding

- Once FAFSA/DREAM submitted, campus receives the information electronically a few weeks later
- Application goes through a series of edits/checks
- FAFSA also checked against certain eligibility requirements
- Campus process includes following up on some of those edits
- That process is called “verification”

Verification

- Students selected to submit documents to verify information reported on their aid application
- Students are notified, usually via email, of a document submission deadline
- Typical documents requested:
 - Tax Transcript
 - Household worksheet
 - Proof of Citizenship and/or US Residency Status

What does it cost?

2017-2018 Cost of Attendance* (9 months)

	At Home	On Campus	Off Campus
Fees	\$7,225	\$7,225	\$7,225
Books/Supp	\$1,827	\$1,827	\$1,827
Room/Board	\$5,197	\$13,320	\$13,521
Transportation	\$1,386	\$1,189	\$1,412
Personal	\$1,450	\$1,450	\$1,450
TOTAL	\$17,085	\$25,011	\$25,435

- Actual costs will vary by CSU campus

What does the student pay directly to campus?

- Actual tuition and fees
- On campus room & board expenses (if applicable)
- Parking (if applicable)
- Cost of books

Each student's expenses will vary based on their individual circumstances. The Cost of Attendance is an estimate of how much it will cost to live for 9-months of enrollment.

Determining Financial Need

- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or DREAM application is used to calculate an Expected Family Contribution (**EFC**).
- The EFC is subtracted from the student's estimated Cost of Attendance (**COA**) to determine financial aid eligibility (**Need**).

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{COA} \\ - \text{EFC} \\ \hline = \text{Need} \end{array}$$

Typical CSU Financial Aid Packaging

For the CSU, grants are awarded first, loans last.

1. Federal, State, and Institutional Grants

- Pell Grant (Federal)
- Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant – SEOG (Federal)
- Cal Grant (State)
- State University Grant (Institution)
- Educational Opportunity Program Grant (Institution)

2. Middle Class Scholarship (State)

3. Work Study (Federal)

4. Loans (Federal)

How financial aid really works

- Each award program has its own terms/conditions
- To the extent possible, campuses will award students the maximum for which they are eligible
- Some awards must be adjusted based on enrollment (Pell, Cal grant)
- Many are limited funds (SUG, SEOG, FWS)
- Financial aid is highly regulated- Federal, state and institution- constraints

Timeline and pitfalls

- Students must respond to requests for information from the school
- Students should check their email and school online portals often
- Respond promptly to requests
- Late response may affect timeliness of award letter

- There is an inherent time lag when students apply for financial aid
- Application → Eligibility review → Award → Disbursement ¹¹

How financial aid is disbursed

- The earliest a campus may apply funds to the student's account is 10 days prior to start of classes
- If aid applied exceeds charges, then the balance is “refunded” to student, usually by EFT to bank account or check
- If all is in place, this happens at start of term
- Student is then responsible for managing that amount for the remainder of term
- If student has a workstudy job, they get paid monthly (pay check) based on hours worked

Other contributing factors

- The reality is that there are not many discretionary funds available
- Financial aid is designed to help with educationally related expenses
- Student's in difficulty should check with financial aid office to see what options there may be
- Satisfactory academic progress (SAP)

Other sources of assistance

- Coordination and communication with campus and external partners (CalFresh, etc.)
- Facilitating student to other resources; both financial and student support services
- Short term loans
- Emergency grants
- Scholarships

Questions??



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