

CA Dream Act

What is the California Dream Act?

The Dream Act is really two laws that were passed in 2011 and allow **AB 540** students to apply for and receive several types of financial aid, including:

- Board of Governors Fee Waivers
- State financial aid like Cal Grants and Chafee Grants
- Assistance from EOPS, CARE or CalWORKs
- Privately-funded scholarships

What is an AB 540 student?

You are an AB 540 student, and exempt from paying non-resident enrollment fees, if you meet all of the following criteria:

- Attended a California high school for at least three years;
 - Graduated from a California high school, got a GED or passed the California High School Proficiency Exam;
 - Are registered or enrolled at a California community college;
- AND**
- If required, complete an affidavit saying you have filed (or will file when you are eligible to do so) for legal immigration status.

Available Types of Aid:

Several types of state and institutional aid are available to AB 540 students as a result of the California Dream Act.

Check out the chart below for additional information, eligibility and application timing.

Grant/Scholarship	Eligible to Apply	Who do I contact, or where do I apply?	What is it?	Type of Application Required
Privately Funded Institutional Scholarships	Beginning January 1st of each year	Scholarship or Financial Aid offices	Helps pay for education-related expenses	Institutional application(s)
Board of Governors Fee Waiver	Beginning Fall semester	Financial Aid office	Waives community college enrollment fees for eligible students	BOG Fee Waiver Form or California Dream Application*
Assistance from EOPS, CARE or CalWORKs	Beginning Fall semester	EOPS/CARE or CalWORKs offices	Varies; may include services such as tutoring, book vouchers or other types of financial aid for those who meet specific eligibility requirements	Institutional application(s)
Cal Grant A or Cal Grant B Community College Transfer Entitlement	October 1st – March 2nd prior to Fall semester	Financial Aid Office, or California Student Aid Commission	Grant award covering tuition and education-related expenses when transferring to an eligible Baccalaureate degree granting institution.	California Dream Application*
Cal Grant B -Entitlement	October 1st – March 2nd prior to Fall semester	Financial Aid Office, or California Student Aid Commission	Grant award covering education-related expenses for recent high school graduates	California Dream Application*
Cal Grant C	October 1st – March 2nd prior to Fall semester	Financial Aid Office, or California Student Aid Commission	Grant award covering education-related expenses for occupational or career technical programs.	California Dream Application* , Cal Grant C Supplemental Application
Chafee Grant	Apply as soon as possible (awards are limited)	College Financial Aid office or the California Student Aid Commission	Grant award covering education-related expenses for foster youth	California Dream Application* and Chafee Grant Application

* To apply for any or all of the financial aid programs requiring the California Dream Application, you only need to complete and submit ONE application.