

# 10 things you need to know about the California Dream Act Application

1. The California Dream Act Application allows certain students who meet the requirements below to apply for and receive state financial aid at California public and private colleges and private scholarships administered by California public colleges.
2. Information within the California Dream Act Application is not shared with federal databases. Student and parent information is protected by the same privacy and information security laws and safeguards as with all other state financial aid applicants.
3. Students need to meet the following Assembly Bill (AB) 540 qualifications:
  - Attended a California high school for a minimum of three years; **or**
  - Attainment of credits in California from a California high school equivalent of at least 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.
  - Graduated or will graduate from a California high school or attainment of General Education Development (GED), High School Equivalency Test (HiSET), or Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC), **and**
  - Will register or enroll in an accredited and qualifying California college or university, **and**
  - If applicable, complete an affidavit to legalize immigration status as soon as eligible, **and**
  - Not hold any of the following non-immigrant visas (A, B, C, D, E, F, H, J, etc.)\*\*
  - \*\*If you have Temporary Protected Status or hold a U Visa select you may be eligible.
4. Apply at [www.caldreamact.org](http://www.caldreamact.org), to qualify for:
  - California Community College Board of Governor's (BOG) fee waiver. Check with the college for required forms.
  - A Cal Grant ([Apply by March 2](#)).
  - A Middle Class Scholarship at a University of California (UC) or California State University (CSU) campus. ([Apply by March 2](#)).
  - Other state financial aid awarded by colleges and universities ([Check with your campus](#)).
  - Chafee Grants for foster youth. Find out more at [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov).
5. California students who have applied for or received approval for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) **should complete the California Dream Act Application, NOT the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. Learn more about DACA at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov), [www.e4fc.org](http://www.e4fc.org), or [www.weownthedream.org](http://www.weownthedream.org).
6. After completing the California Dream Act Application, check with your campus financial aid and scholarship office for further details or requirements.
7. Cal Grants are free money for college that does not have to be paid back. You must complete your CA Dream Act Application, and you must submit a school-verified GPA by [March 2](#). Depending on your school choice, you could qualify for \$12,630 annually for up to 4 years of college.
8. Application assistance is available by attending a Cash for College workshop. Find workshops at [www.cash4college.org](http://www.cash4college.org).
9. AB 540 students can apply for private scholarship aid administered by public and private colleges and universities. Check with your campus for program details and application information.
10. The California Dream Act Application may be used by the UC or CSU to administer college loans. Ask your campus for more details.

