

# How Financial Aid Works

Get a PIN for you and your parents at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov) or at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

Send in your Cal Grant GPA Verification form by March 2<sup>nd</sup> to:  
California Student Aid Commission Cal Grant Operations  
PO box 419077  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9077

Fill out your FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) or mail in a blue and purple paper FAFSA by March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Keep a copy for your records!

If you are applying to certain private colleges, you may need to fill out a CSS PROFILE form at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). There is a built-in fee waiver on the form. If your college doesn't require a Profile form, celebrate—that's less work for you!

Apply for private scholarships! Check out scholarships in the 500 Counseling Building and/or go to this website: [www.WestRanchHighSchool.com](http://www.WestRanchHighSchool.com) and click "counseling" then "Naviance Link"—get busy and apply!

You will receive a STUDENT AID REPORT (SAR) from the FAFSA [online in a few days if you filed it online and through the mail in a few weeks if you mailed out a paper FAFSA] and a CALIFORNIA AID REPORT (CAR) from the Cal Grant [through the mail]. Check both forms to make sure they are correct and look for the EFC [Expected Family Contribution] in the upper corner of the first page to see how much your family is supposed to contribute towards the cost of your college.

If there are corrections to be made, fix them online [for the FAFSA, go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) and use your PIN number to access your personal FAFSA; for Cal Grant corrections, use the form they send you with your CAR.]

From every college you list on your FAFSA that admits you, you will receive a FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTER, usually by April. Compare your award letters to find out if you can afford the college that you want to go to. You may need to apply for student loans if your family has not saved money for your college education and the free grant and scholarship money doesn't cover all of your expenses. Send in your Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) by **May 1** for 4 year colleges to let them know that you are coming there. You may have to include a deposit.

Your money from all sources will arrive in an account with your name on it at your college. The college will take out the money you owe them for fees and tuition (and housing if you live on campus) and write you a check for the remainder!

If you have any questions, contact the Financial Aid Office of your college.