



OPERATIONS MEMO

Update from the California Student Aid Commission

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



November 15, 2016

GOM 2016-34

TO: Financial Aid Administrators

FROM: Catalina G. Mistler 
Deputy Director, Program Administration & Services Division

SUBJECT: 2017-18 Cal Grant Award Offers and College Claiming Process

This Operations Memo from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) is pleased to announce the initial 2017-18 Cal Grant selection process for the High School Entitlement (E1) award cycle.

2017-18 Preliminary E1 Award Offers

- Following the early opening of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the California Dream Act Application (CADAA) on October 1, the Commission ran its initial E1 award cycle on November 9, 2016.
- Approximately **28,000** preliminary awards were offered to current high school seniors and 2016 high school graduates. Over **1,100** of the preliminary awards were offered to California Dream Act students.

New Student Confirmation Process

- The selected E1 students will receive a paper [Cal Grant Eligibility Notification](#).
- Students are encouraged to create a WebGrants for Students (WGS) account at www.webgrants4students.org for additional information regarding their Cal Grant award offer.
- The Commission will continue to process students in the weekly award cycle.

College Claiming Process

- The 2017-18 WebGrants Display Rosters will not be available until **May 2017**.
- Beginning December 2, 2016, institutions can begin identifying Cal Grant eligible students by utilizing the Award Status Extract Process to assist with the financial aid packaging process.
- Beginning in January 2017, institutions will be able to access the Student Award Detail and the Student Grant Record Changes screens.
- Beginning in February 2017, students will be able to confirm their school of attendance. As students complete this step, the 2017-18 award amounts for new recipients at Cal Grant eligible institutions will be reflected on the students' California Aid Report and their WGS account.

- Beginning in May 2017, institutions will be able to claim Cal Grant eligible students by submitting School Change Upload files. The WebGrants Display Roster will populate with Cal Grant eligible students that have confirmed their college of attendance at WGS and as institutions submit School Change Upload files.

Live Training Webinars

- Commission staff will be conducting four live webinars during the month of December to provide a more detailed overview of the College Claiming Process. Please visit the Commission's [training website](#) to register.

Cal Grant Eligible Institutions

- A list of 2017-18 [Cal Grant Eligible Institutions](#) will be available at the Commission's homepage within the next couple of weeks.
- If a student lists an ineligible institution as their first choice on their FAFSA, the system will default to the next eligible institution for Cal Grant consideration.
- Students who only list ineligible institutions on their FAFSA will receive an "Application on hold" notification requesting they select an eligible institution on the Application Correction screen in WGS. The student will be reprocessed once they select an eligible institution.
- The CADAA does not permit students to choose an ineligible institution.

For further details, you may reference the [Cal Grant Awarding Process handout](#) and the [Early FAFSA/CADAA portal](#) also available in the Commission's homepage.

Need to contact us?

- Institutional Support phone number: (888) 294-0153
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Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school!