

California Dream Act Application

California Dream Act Application

for AB 540 Eligible Students

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

www.caldreamact.org



This application is used to determine the eligibility of AB 540 students for California student financial aid for the 2016-17 school year. The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) will process this application. Any aid offered can only be used at eligible California institutions. The information on this form will be used to determine eligibility in the Cal Grant program. Ask your college whether they will be using this application for financial aid programs other than the Cal Grant program. The California Dream Act Application can be completed online at www.caldreamact.org.

The California Dream Act Application is not an application for federal financial aid. Students eligible to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), must use that application which is available on-line at www.fafsa.gov. **Students should not complete both applications.**

California Dream Act Application or FAFSA? Carefully read the statements below **before** starting this application.

You must submit the FAFSA if:

You are a United States citizen, a U.S. national or a Lawful permanent resident with an I-151, I-551, or I-551C (Permanent Resident Card).

You must file the California Dream Act Application if:

You are a person who meets all of the following eligibility criteria:

- You are not eligible to file the FAFSA
- You attended at least three full years in a California public or private high school, or you graduated from a California high school with the equivalent of 3 or more years of credits and have 3 or more years of cumulative attendance at a California elementary or secondary school
- You graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent prior to the start of the college term, for example earning a GED from the California GED Office or California high school Proficiency Exam (CHSPE), and
- If you are without lawful immigration status, you will file an affidavit with your college stating that you have filed an application to legalize your immigration status, or will file an application as soon as you are eligible to do so. Students who have completed the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) process should file the Dream Act Application even if they have a Social Security number.

Submit the FAFSA if you meet the following requirements:

You are a United States Citizen, U.S. national, or lawful permanent resident, or

- You are in one of the following categories:
 - Persons with an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) showing one of the following designations:
 - "Refugee"
 - "Asylum Granted"
 - "Cuban or Haitian Entrant"
 - "Conditional Entrant" (granted before April 1, 1980)
 - Victims of Human Trafficking, T-Visa holder (T-2, T-3, or T-4, etc.) or letter/certification from the Office of Refugee Resettlement
 - Parolees (with evidence from USCIS that you are in the United States for other than a temporary purpose and intend to become a U.S. Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident)
 - A "qualified" Battered Immigrant as described at <http://ifap.ed.gov/dpclatters/GEN1007.html>
 - A citizen of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, or Swain's Island.

For help with filing this application, go to www.caldreamact.org

Do you hold a United States VISA?

The following students cannot receive federal financial aid through the FAFSA or state financial aid through the California Dream Act Application and should contact their campus financial aid department for assistance: Non-immigrants granted one of the following visas: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, TN, TD, V, TROV, and NATO.

Please note: Holders of T-Visas should file the FAFSA and holders of U-Visas must file the California Dream Act Application.

Applying by the Deadlines

Submit this application as early as possible, but no earlier than January 1, 2016. The Cal Grant deadline is March 2, 2016 but we will process your application for other college programs as late as June 30, 2017. We will send this information to the colleges you list on this application. Your college may require additional forms and need your correct, complete information by any deadline that they may have. Check with your college to determine their application deadlines and filing requirements. The Cal Grant program requires a school certified GPA. Check with your high school counselor or a college financial aid administrator to see if they will be submitting your GPA. If they are not submitting your GPA for you, go to <http://www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=1177> to download the GPA form. If you are filing close to a deadline, we recommend you file online at www.caldreamact.org. This is the fastest easiest way to apply for Dream Act assistance.

Using Your Tax Return

If you (or your parents) are required to file a 2015 income tax return with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), we recommend that you complete it as soon as possible or after January 1, 2016. If a return has not yet been filed, you can submit your California Dream Act Application using estimated tax information, and then correct that information after you file your return. Do not miss any of your college deadlines or the March 2, 2016 Cal Grant deadline.

Filling out the California Dream Act Application

If you or your family experienced significant changes to your financial situation (such as loss of employment), or other unusual circumstances (such as high unreimbursed medical or dental expenses), complete this form to the extent you can and submit it as instructed. Consult with the financial aid office at the college(s) you applied to or plan to attend.

Mailing your California Dream Act Application

After you complete this application, make a copy of pages 3 through 8 for your records. Mail the original, signed application (pages 3 through 8) to: California Student Aid Commission, Cal Grant Operations, P.O. Box 419077, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9077. After your application is processed, the Commission will send the results to the colleges listed on the application. If you provide an e-mail address, the Commission will be able to contact you if we need more information. To make changes to your CA Dream Act Application, go to www.caldreamact.org or call 888-224-7268.

Turn to page 3 to begin the California Dream Act Application. You can file the California Dream Act Application online at www.caldreamact.org. Please note that form instructions are on pages 9 and 10.

