

# Financial Aid & the FAFSA® form

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Create your FSA ID through the FAFSA® prompts. This is your account to log in and sign the FAFSA® form.

<https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id>

Use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college or graduate school.

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

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All financial aid is processed through your school's Financial Aid office. You will work\* with their office (and periodically check your student account) with the evaluation and award letter.

\*Be prepared to turn in documents in case you're selected for "Verification." This is a legal process with financial aid and the financial aid offices. You might need a copy of your taxes (tax transcript and or IRS1040 form), proof of residency, birth certificate, or whichever proof the financial aid office needs to verify information.

Check with your financial aid office on what types of funding are available. There could be school, state, or federal GRANTS that you might qualify for! This is a FREE type of money for school. Some grants can be deposited to you if your tuition is already covered by other things like military TA or similar sources. Your financial aid office will let you know!

# Types of Financial Aid Funds

## Grants



Grants are called "gift aid." They're not designed for you to pay them back. However, if you don't follow the rules, you might have to! See if your financial aid office awards the federal Pell Grant, FSEOG, institutional grants, and even state grants! Who loves FREE money?!

Scholarships are varied. There are so many different types out there. Most require a written statement (an essay or something attesting to your character and or abilities). How many are out there? Hundreds of thousands! Is there a list? There are a lot of databases that list scholarships. Be careful of sites that require a login! And don't pay for FREE information. The Base Education Center, along with your financial aid office, can help you find scholarships!



## Loans



Loans should never be considered while you are on active duty. We know what we have to do with a loan, yes? That's right- we have to pay it back (plus with interest). Please be extremely careful with taking out a student loan. It's one of the hardest types of debt to resolve.

Here in California, the **California Community Colleges** have a tuition waiver called the **California College Promise Grant** (it's a waiver). If you receive this, you get free tuition for the entire school year! You just need to fill out your FAFSA®, plus make sure your admissions or veterans office has proof that you're military here in California. It's not automatic.

*You are rated based on your residency status (all active duty rate in-state tuition being here) PLUS your income and household size. Not all military members receive this waiver.*

## State Aid



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For questions, please reach out:

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