Who qualifies for the Cal Grant?

Students must meet specific qualifications for the Cal Grant program:

- US Citizen or eligible Non-Citizen or meet AB 540 criteria
- California Resident or meet AB 540 criteria
- Attend a Cal Grant participating California college or university
- Demonstrate financial need at their college
- Have family income/assets below the published ceilings (see Cal Grant forms page)
- Meet Selective Service Requirements** (includes Dream Applicant students)
- Be in a program leading to an undergraduate degree or certificate
- Not have a BA or professional degree
- Have a valid Social Security Number or meet AB 540 criteria
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards
- Not owe a refund on any state or federal grant or be in default on a student loan
- Must be enrolled at least half time (6 or more units)
- Meet minimum GPA requirements
How do I apply for the Cal Grant?

Applications are available beginning October 1st for the upcoming fall term.

Students must complete 2 steps in the application process

1. Submit the FAFSA or Dream Application (for students who meet AB 540 criteria) online by March 2nd. See our Dream Act page for more information about the Dream Application
2. Have your GPA verified and submitted to CSAC by the March 2nd deadline (see GPA Verification information below)

To Complete the FAFSA or Dream Application, follow the instructions below:

- The FAFSA application is submitted online at www.fafsa.gov.
  - You must submit this application each year you plan to apply for financial aid.
  - The application is available beginning October 1st for the upcoming fall term.
  - Make sure to list your college of choice first on the school section of the application.
  - Application assistance is available in the Welcome Center on the RCC campus located in the Dr. Charles A. Kane Student Services Building.
- The Dream Application is submitted online at https://dream.csac.ca.gov.
  - This application is for students who are not eligible to complete the FAFSA application and/or meet AB 540 criteria for residency.
  - Please visit our Dream Act webpage on our website at www.rcc.edu/services/studentfinancialservices for more information.
  - Make sure to list your college of choice first on the school section of the application.
  - Application assistance is available in the Welcome Center on the RCC campus located in the Dr. Charles A. Kane Student Services Building.
How do I have my GPA verified for Cal Grant eligibility?

The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) will accept the following types of GPA submittal from students:

- High School GPA
- Reestablished College GPA
  - Between 16-24 degree applicable units completed at a California Community College
- College Normal GPA
  - 24 or more degree applicable units completed at a college
- Test Scores
  - GED Scores
  - ACT Scores
  - SAT Scores
  - Scores must be submitted with the CSAC GPA Verification Form

How do I have my GPA submitted?

There are 2 ways that you may have your GPA submitted.

1. Electronically
   a. By High School or College
2. Paper GPA Verification Form RCCD GPA submittal RCC will electronically submit your GPA
   RCCD will automatically submit your GPA by the March 2nd and September 2nd deadlines if:
   - You have attended within the past 3 years AND
   - You have completed at least 16 degree applicable units at RCCD AND
   - You have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0

If you have attended more than 3 years ago and have 16 or more degree applicable units completed at RCCD with a 2.0 GPA, you may submit the GPA verification form to the financial aid office to be completed.

What happens if you don’t have 16 degree applicable units at RCCD and/or a 2.0 GPA?

- You can have your high school submit your GPA
- You can have a previous college submit your GPA if you have 16 degree applicable units completed at that college
- You can take the ACT/SAT and submit those scores
  - For testing dates, locations and information on ACT/SAT tests, go to www.collegeboard.com
For the most current GPA Verification form, visit the CSAC website at www.csac.ca.gov click on the “Students and Parents” tab and download the Cal Grant GPA Verification form.

I have applied? What’s next?

Once you have submitted your application (FAFSA or Dream Application) and had your GPA submitted, the California Student Aid Commission will review your information for eligibility and send your award or denial notice to you via email.

You may also monitor your progress, status and award information online via Webgrants4students at https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov.

I have received notice that I am eligible for the Cal Grant, what do I do now?

To receive your Cal Grant award at RCC, follow these steps:

1. Complete your financial aid file for the academic year you have been awarded. You can view required documents needed to complete your file on My Portal/Web Advisor, under Financial Aid, Required Documents by Year. All RCC financial aid forms are available on our website at www.rcc.edu/services/studentfinancialservices, under “Required Documents by Year”.

2. Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress. If you are not maintaining progress, you may not be eligible for financial aid, including the Cal Grant, for more information about Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards, please visit the RCC Student Financial Services website.

3. Review your Cal Grant status on Webgrants4students at the above website:
   a) Review the awarding school and make sure RCC is listed. If not, you may make a school change via webgrants4students.
   b) Review any pending documents or actions for your Cal Grant award. Some students may have additional documentation needed for their Cal Grant including, but not limited to, verification documents, High School Verification Confirmation, Asset Verification Information, etc...

4. Review your final award notice on My Portal/Web Advisor, under financial aid, for your Cal Grant award. If you have received your final, not tentative award notice and your Cal Grant is not listed, please contact the financial aid office at RCC to inquire on the status.

5. Make sure to choose your method of disbursement via BankMobile. Your choices include the BankMobile Debit Card, Direct Deposit into your personal account or paper check. All students must make a choice in order to avoid delays in receiving their funds. You can find out more information regarding BankMobile Disbursements, by visiting the Disbursement Information section of the Student Financial Services website.

6. Enroll in 6 or more units

I have received notice that I am NOT eligible for the Cal Grant. How do I find out why?
• You may view your award notice and information for Cal Grant on Webgrants4students at [http://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov](http://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov)
• You may also review the disqualification fact sheet.
• For specific information, you may contact CSAC:
  • 1-888-CA GRANT (888-224-7268)
  • California Student Aid Commission Attn: Customer Relations P.O. Box 419026 Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9026
  • By email:
    o Go to [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov)
    o Click on “contact us” at the bottom of the webpage
    o Click on the Customer Relations email link

**What is Webgrants4students?**

Webgrants4students is your online access to your personal Cal Grant award information. This database is maintained by the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) and allows you to manage your Cal Grant account online by allowing you to:

• View updates
• Make school changes
• Make address changes
• Make corrections
• Post a Leave of Absence

To log onto webgrants4students, go to [https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov](https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov). Create an account, keeping your user name and password safe for future use.