

# 10 things you need to know about the California Dream Act

1. The California Dream Act allows certain students who meet the requirements below to apply for and receive state financial aid at California public and private colleges and private scholarships administered by California public colleges.
2. California Dream Act Application information is not shared with federal databases, student and parent information is protected by the same privacy and information security laws and safeguards as all other state financial aid applicants.
3. Students need to meet the following Assembly Bill (AB) 540 qualifications:
  - Attend a California high school for a minimum of three years;
  - Graduate from a California high school or pass the California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE) or get a General Equivalency Diploma (GED);
  - Enroll in an accredited and qualified California college or university; and,
  - If applicable, fill out an affidavit to legalize immigration status as soon as eligible.
4. AB 540 students can apply for private scholarship aid administered by public and private colleges and universities. Check with your campus for program details and application information.
5. Beginning January 2013, apply at [www.caldreamact.org](http://www.caldreamact.org), for:
  - California Community College Board of Governor's (BOG) fee waiver. Check with the college for required forms.
  - Cal Grants that can be used in the 2013-14 academic year. Apply by the Cal Grant March 2 deadline.
  - Other state financial aid awarded by colleges and universities. Apply by the March 2 priority deadline.
  - Chafee Grants for foster youth and submit a Chafee Grant application, [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov).
6. After completing the California Dream Act Application, check with your campus financial aid and scholarship office for further details or requirements.
7. Cal Grants are free money for college that does not have to be paid back. Students may receive up to \$12,192 annually for up to 4 years of college. Amount varies depending upon the college of attendance.
8. Submit a verified GPA form by the Cal Grant March 2 deadline. Check with your school about submitting your GPA form.
9. Get help applying at a Cash for College workshop. High school seniors could qualify for an extra \$1,000 scholarship. Find workshop locations at [www.calgrants.org](http://www.calgrants.org).
10. The recent federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) does not prevent students from applying for California Dream Act financial aid. California students who have applied for or received approval for Deferred Action should complete the California Dream Act Application, not the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Learn more at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov), [www.e4fc.org](http://www.e4fc.org), or [www.weownthedream.org](http://www.weownthedream.org).



[caldreamact.org](http://caldreamact.org) 1-888-CA-GRANT



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