

CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT MAP 2021-22: STEPS TO SUCCESSFULLY APPLY

PHASE 1 October 1 - March 2

Student enters or creates a user name and password at caldreamact.org WRITE THEM DOWN and SAVE this information!

Student completes 2021-22 California Dream Application online at caldreamact.org. Make sure to select the correct aid year. Student must include:

- » School code for ALL schools they are considering
- » Parental information
- » Income (taxed & untaxed)
- » Assets & Investments
- » Household size

Social Security Number is NOT REQUIRED

Parent information is **REQUIRED** unless:

- » student is 24 years old or
- » was born before 1/1/98
- » is married, has children, dependents other than children, is an orphan, ward of the court, veteran or on active duty or in graduate school

Student submits their DREAM application by **3/2/21** AND immediately checks the app status on the confirmation page tab.

Parent obtains a personal identification number (P.I.N.) and signs the application (the P.I.N. is unique to each student).

California Student Aid Commission (CSAC):

1. Calculates the Estimated Family Contribution (EFC)
2. Sends DREAM App to all schools listed.
3. Selects specific students for income verification.
4. Identifies any errors or missing information on the DREAM App

CSAC contacts students who need to resolve any missing or erroneous information.

Student must:

1. Correct DREAM App & provide necessary information
2. Re-sign & resubmit DREAM App including the parent signature, if required.

PHASE 3 March - May

School will receive all DREAM applications that are complete, with a valid EFC.

WARNING Incomplete DREAM App
School contacts students under 24 who did not include parent information. Documentation is required before financial aid can be awarded.

School informs students who are required to submit income verification documents.

Student & Family, if chosen, must complete and submit (a) an income verification form AND (b) 2019 Tax Return TRANSCRIPT(s), if required to file taxes per the IRS tax code.

School sends a financial aid offer to students who met the income guidelines, priority deadline, AB 540/SB 68 status, and all other eligibility the CA College Promise Grant, State University Grant (CSU), the University Grant (UC), Cal Grants, and/or other institutional aid (if available).

CA College Promise Grant
Students at California Community Colleges may be eligible for the CA College Promise Grant switch without filing the CA Dream Application.

You're ready to start Phase 4!

PHASE 2 October 1 - March 2

Student applies for the Cal Grant at csac.ca.gov

1. Submit Dream App
2. Verify your high school or community college sent your GPA (electronically)
3. If school did not send GPA, student prints out Non-SSN GPA verification form, has school fill it out, then student mails form to CSAC by **3/2/21** and request proof of mailing from US Postal Service

Student creates account on mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov

Student checks status of GPA submission, Cal Grant & Middle Class Scholarship (MCS)

Student ensures the proper school is listed and all holds are cleared, including confirmation of CA High School graduation or GED

School verifies student meets ALL Cal Grant eligibility: income, assets, financial need, AB 540/SB 68 status, entitlement, & class level. MCS eligibility is also verified.

PHASE 4 May - September

Student logs onto student portal at each school to review and accept each financial aid offer. Follows up with CSAC, if necessary.

Student calculates each college's costs and develops a per semester/quarter and per year budget, including any scholarships.

Student accepts financial aid, informs school of any pending scholarships, and confirms tuition is deferred, so classes will not be dropped.

Student submits AB 540/SB 68 affidavit and necessary documents. **School** confirms student meets AB 540/SB 68 eligibility.

Students who are male and over 18 years old must show their proof of registration for the selective service.

School will send the student:

- a) Available funds after tuition and fees are paid (via direct deposit, check or credit);
- OR
- b) A bill for the balance that is still outstanding.

Student ensures they are enrolled in proper number of units and there are no holds on their financial aid record.

Student checks if there are any scholarship restrictions regarding tuition; financial need; unit requirement; or others, per the organization

School disburses grants and/or scholarships to pay tuition and other outstanding balances.

OPTIMAL TIMELINE

PHASE 1	Apply for Dream Act October 1 - March 2
PHASE 2	Apply for Cal Grant October 1 - March 2
PHASE 3	Claim your financial aid March - May
PHASE 4	Use your financial aid May - September

Click on the star to access its related resource