

FINANCIAL AID FACT SHEET

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

- The 2024-2025 Better **FAFSA** will open **December 2023**.
- The term “EFC” (Expected Family Contribution) will be replaced by “**Student Aid Index (SAI)**”
- The number of questions on the Better FAFSA has been **reduced!**
- The application will be translated into **more languages** - at least 11 languages!
- **New formulas** will expand Pell Grant eligibility to more students and link eligibility to family size, household income, and their state’s poverty level.
- **Selective service:** Students no longer must register for the Selective Service in order to complete the FAFSA, and the question will be **removed** from the application.

WHAT CAN I DO BEFORE STARTING MY APPLICATION?

- Beginning with the 2024-2025 FAFSA, applicants must have an **FSA ID** to apply for federal student aid, including parents without a Social Security Number.
- Students and parents with a SSN can begin creating their FSA ID now!
 - Instructions for parents without an SSN are coming soon!

Create your FSA ID NOW!
StudentAid.gov

ATTEND A **CASH FOR COLLEGE** WORKSHOP!

We're here to help students and parents!
Visit <https://cash4college.csac.ca.gov/> to find a workshop near you. Get help from local Financial Aid Representatives (Spanish/English/Vietnamese speakers available) to help fill out your Financial Aid Application - **FAFSA** or **CADAA**!

IMPORTANT DATES

- Begin applying for financial aid in **December 2023**.
- The Cal Grant priority deadline will be extended from March 2nd to **April 2nd**.



FAFSA



CADAA

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FAFSA FORM

VS. CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT (CADAA)

- Who Should Apply: U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or lawful permanent resident.
- What You Need To Apply: Social Security number or Alien Registration number (if you are not a citizen), Permanent Registration Card (if applicable), 2022 Federal income tax returns, W-2s and other records of money earned, date of birth.

- Who Should Apply: Undocumented Individuals, DACA Individuals, U Visa Holders, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), AB 540 Eligible Students.
- What You Need To Apply: Statewide Student Identifier (SSID), 2022 Federal income tax returns, W-2s and other records of money earned, date of birth.

FAFSA TERMS YOU SHOULD KNOW!

- **Contributor** is any individual required to provide consent and approval for Federal Tax Information (FTI) along with their signature on the FAFSA form, including the student; the student's spouse, a biological or adoptive parent; or the parent's spouse (stepparent).
- **Family Size** is the term that captures the appropriate number of family members & dependents in the applicant's household.
- **Direct Data Exchange (DDX)** is the secure tool that will automatically take income tax information from the IRS and place it on your FAFSA form. Every contributor on the FAFSA is required to consent to DDX, even if they didn't file taxes, for the student to be eligible for federal financial aid.
- **Student Aid Index (SAI)** is an eligibility index number that a college's or career school's financial aid office uses to determine how much federal student aid the student would receive if the student attended the school. This number results from the information that the student provides in their FAFSA® form.
 - Note: The SAI can be a negative number (down to -1500) which can be used by institutions in determining students who have the most financial need.
- **Special Circumstances** are special/extenuating situations (such as loss of a job) that impact student's financial condition and support a financial aid administrator adjusting data elements in financial aid calculations.