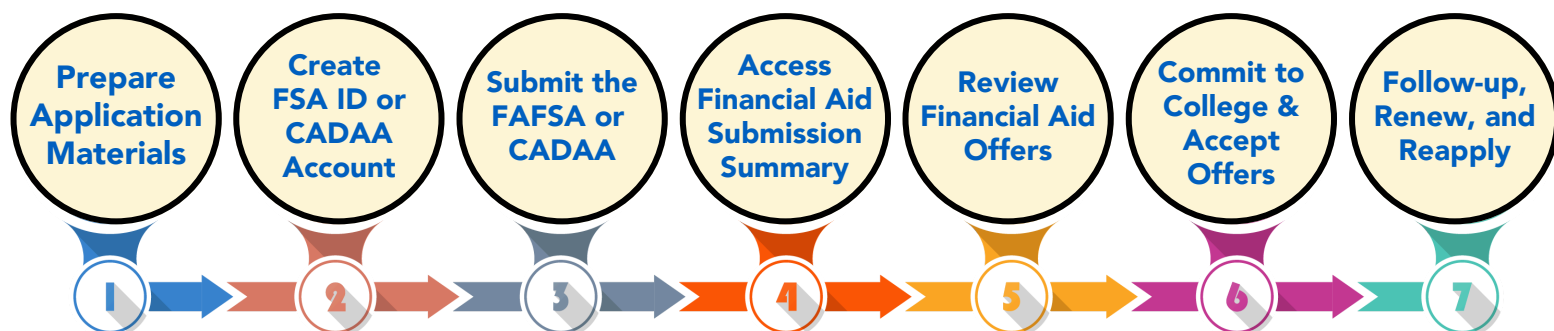


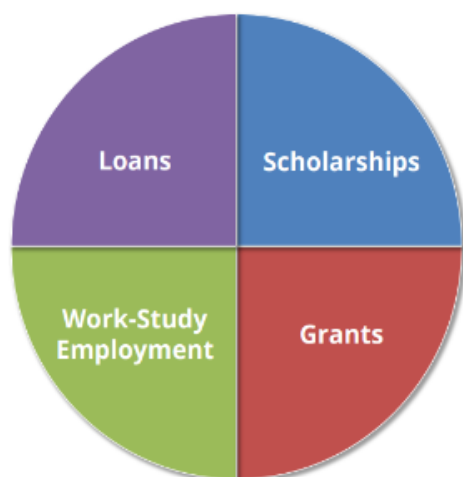


GETTING STARTED WITH FINANCIAL AID



Financial Aid Process for 12th Grade Students

All 12th grade students will submit a financial aid application (either the FAFSA or the CA Dream Act [CADAA]). If a 12th grade student chooses not to submit, the student and parent(s) will need to sign an opt out waiver. [\[CA AB 469\]](#)



Students graduating high school in 2026 will need to complete the **2026-2027** application.

Students should submit the **FAFSA** if they are:

- U.S. Citizens
- Legal Permanent Residents
- Eligible Non-Citizens (per FAFSA definition)
- T-Visa holders

(This is regardless of parent citizenship status)

Students should submit the **CADAA** if they are:

- an undocumented student
- a DACA recipient
- have a U visa
- have Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
- a U.S. Citizen w/ undocumented parent(s)
 - (if they don't feel comfortable disclosing parent's citizenship status on FAFSA)

Parent Involvement in the Financial Aid Process

For the FAFSA application, students will invite "contributors" to complete their financial aid application; contributors will need their own FSA ID login information (regardless of parent citizenship status) to complete and sign their portion of the application.

For the CA Dream Act application, students will need parent financial information to complete their application, and will need parent signatures when they are ready to submit their application.

Who are "Contributors" on the FAFSA?

Are biological or adoptive parents married to each other?

Both parents are contributors and will need to input their information.

Do biological or adoptive parents live together (unmarried)?

Both parents are contributors and will need to input their information.

Are parents separated/divorced and not living together?

The parent who provided more financially over the past 12 months is the Contributor.

Did the parent who provides more financially legally remarry?

Both the parent and the stepparent will need to input their information.

Special Circumstances and Dependency:

Some student situations are more complex, or students may be considered "independent." Students should consult their counselor.

[Click Here to Determine which Parent\(s\) are Included](#)

Preparing for the Financial Aid Applications: Gathering Materials

STEPS TO PREPARE FOR THE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS

Confirm who the "Contributors" will be (FAFSA only)

Make sure student and all Contributors have their own personal and unique email addresses

Gather 2024 Tax Forms for Contributors, and for student if they worked in 2024

Organize other application information and materials (see checklist on the next page for a full list)

Create FSA IDs (FAFSA applicants) for student and Contributors, or CADAA account (CADAA applicants)

Save Login information somewhere safe, and have it ready to go when the applications open

New Message

To

Subject **HOW TO CREATE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS**

1. Choose an email provider (Gmail, Yahoo, iCloud, and more all offer free email accounts)
2. Click "Create an Account"
3. Enter information and preferred email address
4. Create password
5. Save account information somewhere safe
6. [Optional] Most email providers have phone apps that may be useful for users to access their email



Have questions or need support with the **FAFSA**?

Contact the NSHS Counseling Department or the FAFSA Help Center:

Call 1-800-433-3243 or go to

<https://studentaid.gov/help-center/contact>

Have questions or need support with the **CADAA**?

Contact the NSHS Counseling Department or the CADAA Help Center:

Call 1-888-224-7268 or go to

<https://www.csac.ca.gov/contact-us>

Creating Student and Contributor FSA IDs

Before you begin, you will need:

- Student Full Legal Name
- Student Date of Birth
- Student Social Security Number
- Student Mobile Phone Number
- Student Personal Email Address
- Parent(s) Full Legal Name
- Parent(s) Date of Birth
- Parent(s) Social Security Number*
- Parent(s) Mobile Phone Number
- Parent(s) Personal Email Address

* If parent(s) do not have an SSN, they will still create an FSA ID and will be asked to provide other identifying information

FSA ID Link: <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>

STEP 1: Personal Information	Go to https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch and click on "Get Started." Enter your full name exactly as it appears on your Social Security card, your date of birth, and your Social Security Number. If your name is too long, type as much of your name as you can (do not abbreviate).
STEP 2: Account Information	Create a username 6-30 characters in length using a combination of uppercase letters, lowercase letters, and numbers. Enter and confirm your email address (do not use your school email). Create and confirm a password 8-30 characters in length, which must contain uppercase letters, lowercase letters, and numbers.
STEP 3: Contact Information	Enter your permanent mailing address (if you don't have one, you may use your high school's address). Enter and confirm your mobile phone number. It is recommended to check the box allowing for mobile phone account recovery, as it is the easiest way to recover your account if you forget your password.
STEP 4: Communication Preferences	Select if you would like to receive U.S. Department of Education communications via email (recommended) or via postal mail. Select your preferred language (English or Spanish).
STEP 5: Challenge Questions	• Select Challenge Question #1: _____ Answer: _____ • Select Challenge Question #2: _____ Answer: _____ • Select Challenge Question #3: _____ Answer: _____ • Select Challenge Question #4: _____ Answer: _____
STEP 6: Confirm and Verify	Review your information for accuracy and make any necessary edits. Make sure all information is inputted correctly, especially full name, birth date, and social security number. Review FSA's terms and conditions and agree to them by checking the appropriate box.
STEP 7: Account Recovery	Verify your mobile phone number and email address by sending and receiving the six-digit secure code that will be sent to your phone and email. Enter the code in the box provided. Verification methods are required and you must verify both methods chosen in order to complete the FSA ID creation process.
STEP 8: Repeat for Contributors	Repeat these steps for all contributors (see page 1 for more information on who is considered a contributor). If parents already have an FSA ID from when they were a student or for an older sibling, they will not create a new account and will need to login to their pre-existing FSA ID account.

CA Dream Act Accounts

Before you begin, you will need:

- Student Full Legal Name
- Student Date of Birth
- Student Mobile Phone Number
- Student Personal Email Address
- Student Mailing Address

* Parent will sign at the end of the student's CADAA application

CADAA Link: <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/landing>

STEP 1: Personal Information	Go to https://dream.csac.ca.gov/landing and click on "Start" under "First Time User." Answer the questions to determine if the CADAA is the correct application. Once at the registration page, enter your full name (type as much of it as you can) and date of birth.
STEP 2: Create Username	Develop a User ID that is 8 characters in length. Acceptable characters are any letters (defaults to uppercase) or numbers, as well as the symbols _ . - @. Ensure that the User ID is available, before proceeding.
STEP 3: Input Address	Enter your permanent mailing address (if you don't have one, you may use your high school's address). Make sure to enter the street address, unit number if applicable, city, state and zip code correctly.
STEP 4: Contact Information	Enter your cell phone number, personal email address, and then confirm your personal email address. Double check to ensure that the information you have inputted is correct and there are no errors.
STEP 5: Complete Registration	Review the information on your registration page one more time to ensure accuracy. Once you have reviewed, check off the "I'm not a robot" box and complete the CAPTCHA. Click on the "Register" button.
PLEASE NOTE:	The Registration page of the CADAA is the first page of the entire application. If students proceed beyond the registration page, they will need additional materials such as tax forms, record of finances, and more (see checklist on the next page for a complete list).

INFORMATION NEEDED FOR THE 2026-2027 FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS

Students must gather all of the materials listed in order to complete their portion of the application

FAFSA STUDENT INFORMATION:

Complete the 2026-2027 FAFSA by going to <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

☐ FSA ID Username

☐ Student Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)

☐ FSA ID Password

☐ Student Mobile Phone # (different than parent's)

☐ FSA ID Backup Code

☐ Student Email Address (personal, NOT school email)

☐ Student Full Name (first, middle, last)
As it appears on Social Security card or legal documents

☐ Student Mailing Address (Street, City, State, Zip)

Student Citizenship Status

- ☐ U.S. Citizen
☐ Permanent Legal Resident
☐ Neither (if so, complete the CA Dream Act, not FAFSA)

☐ Student Cash & Bank Account Balance Totals

☐ Student SSN # or Alien Registration Card #

OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- ☐ Student 2024 Income Taxes and W2s (if you worked)
☐ List of up to 20 Colleges (at least 1 CA school)

☐ Date of Legal Residence in CA (Month & Year)

FAFSA PARENT INFORMATION:

Determine which parent(s) to include by going to <https://studentaid.gov/fafsa-apply/parents>

☐ Parent #1 Full Name

☐ Parent #2 Full Name (if needed)

☐ Parent Email Address (must be a unique email,
that is different than student's and other parent's)

☐ Parent Email Address (must be a unique email,
that is different than student's and other parent's)

CA DREAM ACT (CADAA) STUDENT & PARENT INFORMATION:

Complete the 2026-2027 CA Dream Act Application (CADAA) by going to <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>

☐ Student Full Name (first, middle, last)
As it appears on legal documents

☐ Parent Full Name (first, middle, last)
As it appears on legal documents

☐ Student Email Address (personal, NOT school email)

☐ Parent Email (must be different than student's)

☐ Student Mobile Phone # (different than parent's)

☐ Parent Mobile Phone # (different than student's)

OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- ☐ Student 2024 Income Taxes and W2s (if you worked)
☐ Student Cash & Bank Account Balance Totals
☐ List of up to 20 Colleges (at least 1 CA school)

OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- ☐ Parent 2024 Income Taxes and W2s (if they worked)
☐ Parent Cash & Bank Account Balance Totals
☐ Records of Value of Business, Assets & Investments
☐ Records of untaxed income such as: unemployment benefits, workers comp, disability, or child support

Submitting the Financial Aid Applications

2026-2027 Application Filing Period: October 1, 2025 - March 2, 2026

Student Instructions - Before you begin, make sure that you:

- Gather all the materials listed on the checklists provided
- Have your FSA ID or CADAA login information ready to go
- FAFSA Applicants: Ensure that your Contributors have a personal email address and an FSA ID
- CADAA Applicants: Ensure that you have required parent information, including an email address

FAFSA Link:

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

CADAA Link:

<https://dream.csac.ca.gov/landing>

TIPS WHEN COMPLETING THE APPLICATION:

1. Make sure that you are completing the **2026-2027** application for Fall 2026 enrollment.
2. Launch your FAFSA or CA Dream Act through your [CaliforniaColleges.edu](https://california.colleges.edu) account.
3. Complete all information in its entirety and review all information for accuracy (making corrections after submission can be challenging and time consuming, and may impact financial aid).
4. If you're not sure about specific information, consult with a parent, counselor, or one of the application help lines, who can assist you and clarify any questions.
5. Make sure to save your progress if you aren't able to complete the application in one sitting.
6. If you do have to return to your application, do so within a week or two - don't forget to finish your application or wait too long.
7. Input parent information accurately (FAFSA applicants - Input Contributor information accurately).
8. Once completed, make sure all required signatures are included in the application.
9. All Contributors **MUST** submit their portion for the application to be **COMPLETE**.
10. Make sure that the application is submitted; you should receive some form of confirmation page.
11. Apply early - more aid is awarded to students who submit early in the filing period.
12. If you need support, please reach out to a counselor or to the application helplines.

What's Next After the Applications are Submitted?

1. After a couple weeks, students can log in to view their Financial Aid Submission Summary.
2. Students should check their college student portals for any pending financial aid tasks. Students will receive instructions on how to create their college student portals after they apply to specific schools.
3. After a few weeks, students can review their financial aid offers on Webgrants 4 Students accounts (<https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/>) as well as on their college student portals.
4. When students are ready to commit to a school (before May 1st), they will review and accept financial aid awards on their college student portals, and will ensure that their Webgrants account has the correct school listed.
5. Once students graduate, they will need to confirm their high school graduation on Webgrants accounts.
6. Students will need to connect with their school's financial aid office for disbursement details.
7. To renew financial aid, students must submit a financial aid application every year that they plan to attend college.



FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION STUDENT & PARENT WORKSHOPS



WORKSHOP DETAILS:

The NSHS Counseling Department will be hosting a series of Financial Aid Application Workshops this Spring, to support students and families in completing their financial aid applications.

All 12th grade students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) should plan to attend one of our workshops to ensure that the applications can be submitted on time for students to receive financial aid next school year.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Students and families will need to bring application materials to the workshop, which include:

- **CHARGED CHROMEBOOK**
- 2024 Income Tax Returns
- Social Security Numbers (if they have one)
- Other Income Records
- Assets Records
- List of Colleges
- Full Legal Names
- Dates of Birth
- Contact Information
- Email Address
- Mailing Address
- Other Personal Information

Materials checklists can be found on the [NSHS Counseling Page](#)

FAFSA / CA DREAM ACT SUPPORT:

If you need to contact FAFSA or CA Dream Act regarding your application, please call their help line:

FAFSA Support:

1-800-433-3243

<https://studentaid.gov/help-center/contact>

Monday-Friday 5am-7pm
Saturday 8am-2pm

CADAA Support:

1-888-224-7268

<https://www.csac.ca.gov/contact-us>

Monday-Thursday 8:30am-4pm
Friday 8:30am-3pm

TUESDAY

December 2
from 6-8 pm
at NSHS

TUES & THURS

**January 20 &
January 22**
all Seniors in Gov /
Econ Classes

WEDNESDAY

January 28
from 4-6 pm
at NSHS

TUESDAY

February 10
from 6-8 pm
at NSHS

TUESDAY

February 24
from 8:30-3:30
at NSHS

If you have any questions, please contact the
NSHS Counseling Department at (831) 796-7500 ext. 2617