

# Cal Grant Money for College

College is now more affordable than ever for students with good grades and financial need. The best part is that Cal Grants cost nothing to apply for and do not have to be repaid!

Students who meet the following criteria are guaranteed grants:

## **Cal Grant A Entitlement Awards**

Requirements include financial and basic eligibility, a minimum 3.0 grade point average (GPA), and graduation from high school in 2002-03 or later. This Entitlement Award provides for full fees at the California State University and the University of California, as well as tuition support at private California colleges and universities.

## **Cal Grant B Entitlement Awards**

Requirements include financial and basic eligibility, a minimum 2.0 GPA, and graduation from high school in 2002-03 or later. This Entitlement Award provides up to \$1,551 for books and living expenses for the first year. Beginning with the second year of Cal Grant B benefits, this award also helps pay for tuition and fees at public or private four-year colleges or other qualifying institutions.

## **California Community College Transfer Entitlement Awards**

Students who meet financial and basic eligibility requirements, have a minimum 2.4 GPA from a California Community College, and graduate from high school in 2001-02 or later are eligible for this award when transferring from a community college to a four-year institution. This Entitlement Award is offered to California Community College students who were not awarded a Cal Grant within a year of graduating from high school, but meet certain eligibility requirements at the time of transfer from a California Community College to a qualifying institution offering baccalaureate degree programs.

## **Other Cal Grant Programs**

Students who are not eligible for a Cal Grant Entitlement Award may compete for a Cal Grant Competitive Award.

## **Cal Grant A and B Competitive Awards**

These awards are similar to the Cal Grant A and B Entitlement Awards, except that they are not guaranteed. Each year, 22,500 awards are available. Of these, 11,250 awards are available to students who do not qualify for an Entitlement Award, but who file by the March 2 deadline and meet Competitive eligibility criteria. Community College students can compete for the remaining 11,250 awards during the September 2 application period.

Cal Grant A Competitive Awards are intended for students with a minimum 3.0 GPA and who are from low and middle-income families. The awards provide grant funds to help pay tuition and fees at qualifying institutions offering academic programs of at least two years in length. Cal Grant B Competitive Awards are intended for students with a

minimum 2.0 GPA and who are from disadvantaged and low-income families. The awards are used for tuition, student fees and access costs in a for-credit instructional program of not less than one year in length. The first year's Cal Grant B Award is for access costs only, including living expenses and expenses for transportation, supplies, and books. Beginning with the second year of Cal Grant B benefits, this award also helps pay for tuition and fees at public or private four-year colleges or other qualifying institutions.

### **Cal Grant C Awards**

Cal Grant C Awards are available to assist students with tuition, fees and training costs for occupational or vocational programs. The \$576 Cal Grant C Award provides for books, tools and equipment. Students planning to attend a school other than a California Community College may also receive up to \$2,592 in assistance. To qualify for Cal Grant C Awards, students must meet basic eligibility requirements and be enrolled in a vocational program that is at least four months in length.

### **How to Apply for a Cal Grant**

To apply for a Cal Grant, students must do two things: submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); and file a Grade Point Average (GPA) Verification Form, or make *sure* their high school has filed the GPA on their behalf. Both forms must be submitted, or post-marked, no later than March 2.

Each January 1 starts the application period when students can file a FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) or file a paper FAFSA. Students may obtain a paper FAFSA from their high school counselor or college financial aid office.

### **Basic Cal Grant eligibility requirements**

All Cal Grant applicants must:

- Be California residents
- Be U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens
- Meet U.S. Selective Service requirements
- Attend a qualifying California postsecondary institution
- Be enrolled at least half-time
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined at the school of attendance
- Have family income and assets below the established ceilings
- **Not** be in default on any student loan
- **Not** owe any federal or state grant refund