



# Understanding My Cal Grant Fact Sheet

This Cal Grant fact sheet provides important information about maintaining your Cal Grant award. Failure to follow these procedures could result in your award being cancelled and/or the repayment of funds you have received.

**This Cal Grant award offer may be reduced or withdrawn based on the final State Budget. Schools must determine final eligibility and award amounts before disbursing Cal Grants.**

## General Cal Grant Requirements

### **As a Cal Grant recipient you MUST:**

- The Cal Grant award process is not complete until you receive your first payment! In some circumstances, if you do not receive payment the first year you are awarded a Cal Grant, your award offer will be withdrawn.
- File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (Dream Application) every year.
- Meet income and asset ceilings, and minimum need criteria every year.
- Meet the eligibility requirements to receive a Cal Grant award every year.
- Attend school at least half time (6 or more units).
  - 6-8 units = 50% or ½ time
  - 9-11 units = 75% or ¾ time
  - 12 or more units = full time
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress.
- Attend a Cal Grant Eligible School. If the school you plan on attending is not listed as a Cal Grant eligible school, you may submit a school change by
  1. Going to WGS at [www.webgrants4students.org](http://www.webgrants4students.org),
  2. Creating an account (if you have not already done so),
  3. Selecting “submit school change” option.

## To Manage Your Cal Grant

### **To successfully manage your Cal Grant, you MUST:**

- Log on to [www.webgrants4students.org](http://www.webgrants4students.org) and create your online WebGrants for Students (WGS) account to
  - ✓ Understand and manage your Cal Grant award.
  - ✓ Update your address or school of attendance. The California Student Aid Commission communicates with students using their e-mail address on file so it is critical that you keep this information updated.
  - ✓ Post a leave of absence.
  - ✓ Allow a third party (such as a parent or guardian) access to your Cal Grant information.
  - ✓ Satisfy outstanding requirements.
- Make sure your school financial aid award letter reflects your Cal Grant award. If it does not, contact the financial aid office at your school and notify them of your Cal Grant award status.
- Contact your financial aid office if your financial circumstances have changed since you filed your FAFSA or Dream Application. *CSAC does not make any updates to financial information reported on the FAFSA or by the student.*
- To be eligible for a Cal Grant renewal award, you must
  - ✓ Have remaining Cal Grant Program eligibility.
  - ✓ Have received Cal Grant payments or requested a leave of absence for all prior terms.
- If you have a Cal Grant and plan on transferring from a CCC to a 4-year college, you should manage your Cal Grant to ensure you have remaining Cal Grant eligibility when you transfer.
- If you do not have a Cal Grant award and plan on transferring from a CCC to a 4 year college, you should apply for a Cal Grant the January prior to the academic year you plan on transferring. If awarded, you must transfer to the 4 year college and receive payment or you will be withdrawn from the program.

## Cal Grant Program Information

### **Cal Grant A**

- Provides grant funds to help pay tuition and fees at qualifying institutions offering degree programs of at least two years in length.
- Does not pay at a California Community College (CCC). The awards are held in CCC Reserve status and are renewed for up to two consecutive years while attending a CCC. Your Cal Grant funds may become available to you when you transfer to a Cal Grant eligible 4-year college if you meet all the renewal requirements at the time of transfer.

### **Cal Grant B**

- Provides grant funds to help pay for your tuition, student fees and other educational costs in a for- credit instructional program of not less than one academic year in length.
- Pays up to \$1,648 per academic year for access costs such as living expenses, transportation, supplies and books.
- Pays tuition and fees for students attending a Cal Grant eligible 4-year college, beginning in their second year.
- Pays access costs of up to \$1,648 at a CCC until you transfer to a tuition/fee-charging school and become eligible for both tuition/fees and access costs.

## Summer School Payments

- Consult with the financial aid office at your school to discuss your payment options for summer school.
- Amounts are based on the regular school year grant and may not be sufficient to meet all of your summer tuition/fee charges.
- Summer school payments will reduce your total program eligibility for Cal Grant benefits, so monitor your remaining program eligibility each year.

## Disbursement and Payment Information

- Your school is responsible for verifying that you meet certain Cal Grant Program eligibility requirements and may require you to provide documentation before disbursing funds to you.
- Your school will determine your actual Cal Grant award amount based on

- School of attendance
- Financial need
- Cost of attendance
- Enrollment status
- CSAC disburses Cal Grant funds directly to your school and does not pay funds directly to the student.
- CSAC will **never** request your bank or credit card information to process Cal Grant funds.
- You will **never** have to pay to receive your Cal Grant award and we never call students to request personal identifying information. Never send money to anyone claiming to require money to disburse your financial aid.
- Check with your school financial aid office to find out about their financial disbursement schedule and procedures.
- As a Cal Grant recipient, you may receive up to the equivalent of four years of full-time grant payments. The duration of your eligibility will be based on your educational level at the time you receive your first Cal Grant payment. Your eligibility will be reduced by each term that you receive payment.
- There are different ways your school can pay you and you have choices in the disbursement method of your Cal Grant award and your other financial aid. Make sure you make the best choice to get the full amount of your awards.

## Contact Information

If you have any questions about the Cal Grant, please contact the California Student Aid Commission.

By e-mail: [studentsupport@csac.ca.gov](mailto:studentsupport@csac.ca.gov)

By phone: (888) 224-7268

By mail:

California Student Aid Commission  
Cal Grant Program  
PO Box 419028  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9028

For technical assistance, please call: (888) 294-0148