Financial Aid at Sac State

A helpful guide for new and continuing students



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Student Services

Start at the Student Service Center! We provide services for enrollment, student records, transcripts, financial aid, scholarships and more!

Located in Lassen Hall, Room 1000
Phone: 916-278-1000 | www.csus.edu/ssc

Areas we support:

- **Admissions & Outreach**: admissions@csus.edu
- **Bursar's Office**: bursar@csus.edu
- **Financial Aid & Scholarships:** csus.edu/faid
- **University Registrar**: registrar@csus.edu

Campus Contacts

- **Academic Advising** (General Education): advising@csus.edu
- **Career Center:** careercenter@csus.edu
- **Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)**: eop-01@csus.edu
- **Federal Work-Study:** sacstatefws@csus.edu
- **New Student Orientation:** orient.reservations@csus.edu
- **Scholarship's Office:** scholarshipfaqs@csus.edu
- **University Housing Services:** housing@csus.edu

Follow the Student Service Center @sacstatessc

We are on Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, YouTube, LinkedIn and Facebook.

Choosing the Right Financial Aid Application

Types of Financial Aid Applications

Students should only apply for ONE application that best fits their situation. Do not apply to both.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

For students who are U.S. citizens or permanent resident and have a valid social security number.

- Apply at studentaid.gov
- Review the full list of eligibility requirements at studentAid.gov

California Dream Act Application (CADAA)

For eligible students who are not U.S. citizens or permanent resident, including students with AB 540 or DACA status.

- Apply at dream.csac.ca.gov
- Review the full list of eligibility on mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov

After the student applies, Sac State's Financial Aid office notifies the student through their My Sac State account if there are any additional task items needed.



Priority Filing

FEDERAL SCHOOL CODE 001150

Financial aid applications usually open on October 1. Apply by March 2, CA Priority Deadline, each year to be considered for all aid offers.

The application will cover the fall, spring, and summer semesters. Even if the student plans to attend one semester, it's still a good idea to apply by the priority deadline to be considered for state funds.

Apply for Sac State Scholarships

Open to all students from October 1 through March 2. Apply on csus.academicworks.com. *Winners are notified in the summer before the start of the fall semester.*



Understanding Financial Aid at Sac State

Awards, Payments & Refunds

After the student applies, they are notified by Financial Aid office of their next steps on their My Sac State, student account.

How do I get awarded?

Students will receive an award notification email when their awards are posted. Awards can be viewed in the *Student Center> Accept/Decline Award Link*.

- **Fall admits** receive a *provisional award offer* which estimates potential aid before official awards are finalized. Provisional awards are view-only and cannot be accepted. When official awards are available, the student will be notified to accept/decline their awards.
- **Spring admits/transfers** are typically awarded in November-December
- **Continuing students** are typically awarded in the summer, after the spring grading period.

How does financial aid pay my charges?

Disbursements are processed **automatically** about 10 days before the semester begins. Accepted aid is applied to outstanding charges first. You must be enrolled at least half-time to qualify for a disbursement and full-time to receive 100% of their accepted aid. It's the student responsibility to clear any financial aid holds to ensure a timely release of aid.

How do I get a financial aid refund?

Refunds are issued when there are remaining funds **after** all current charges are paid on the account. Remainder aid is deposited to the bank account listed on file 2 to 3 days after charges are paid. Disbursement and refund activity can be found on the *Student Center > Account Activity page*.
Please note: Not all financial aid students receive refunds. It's important to plan your college costs with your aid with an advisor!

- **Paper check** is only used for Parent PLUS loans refunds because eRefund is unavailable to parent borrowers; allow additional delivery time via postal mail.



Grants, Scholarships & Loans

Grants and scholarships will be automatically accepted as part of a student's financial aid offer.

Student loans will appear in "offer" status, if eligible. Students may choose to accept or decline their loan offers. Loans are additional resources available to eligible students and may be requested at any time during the academic year.

Tracking Your Next Steps

Financial Aid Checklist for All Students

Use this quick checklist after submitting your FAFSA or California Dream Act Application.

- ☑ **Apply or renew your aid application and include Sac State school code 001150.** FAFSA: studentaid.gov or CADAA: dream.csac.ca.gov
- ☑ **For NEW students who applied for FAFSA: Confirm your SSN in *Student Center > Personal Information*.** If your SSN is incorrect, submit a *Student Personal Information Change* through OnBase Forms at csus.edu/ssc/forms
- ☑ **If you are a Cal Grant recipient**, it is your responsibility to list Sac State as the primary school on your WebGrants 4 Students (mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/) account we can receive your award information.
- ☑ **Review Student Center for Holds, To Do List items and messages.** It's important to check your student account regularly—before, during, and after each semester. The Financial Aid office usually communicates with you through your CSUS email. Instructions for task items are listed in the description of the To Do List or Hold.

FAFSA APPLICANTS ONLY

Verify your SSN

Students with a Social Security Number (SSN) **must** report their number on their My Sac State, Student Center in order for the Financial Aid office to process their application. Students can make this update on their *Student Center > Personal Information* section. Then, select Demographic data to show the "Add SSN" option if an SSN is needed. *You only need to make this update once.*

If the SSN is incorrect, then the student must submit a *Student Personal Information Change* form through OnBase Forms (onbaseform.csus.edu/apps/forms).

Financial Aid Fee Deferment

A financial aid fee deferment **postpones** your registration fee deadline while you await financial aid and prevents late fees through the second week of the semester. If eligible, it is automatically found on your *Student Center > Holds*.

NOTE: This informational hold does not prevent registration. Complete any required financial aid task items on your Student Center before the semester begins to help ensure timely aid disbursement.

Spring Transfers: Additional Steps

For Spring Transfers

The following steps below are crucial for our newly admitted spring transfers.

☑ Attended another school before Sac State?

If you attended another school in the fall and received aid prior to transferring, you must close out your financial aid file at your previous institution after accepting your admission to Sac State. Students are not permitted to have two active financial aid applications within the same semester. Students may need to contact their previous school for closing instructions or to confirm file closure. It will delay financial aid disbursements at Sac State if not completed.

☑ Transfer your financial aid to Sac State

If you are already receiving financial aid, it is your responsibility to add Sac State's federal school code 001150 to your financial aid application so we can receive your application. Your financial aid application does not automatically transfer to Sac State.

☑ Are you a Cal Grant recipient?

If you are a Cal Grant recipient, it is your responsibility to list Sac State as the primary school on your *WebGrants 4 Students* (mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov) account we can receive your award information. Without this update, we will not be able to determine the student's Cal Grant and/Middle Class Scholarship eligibility. If you have questions about your WebGrants account, please contact the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) at 888-224-7268 (toll free).

Plan Ahead for a Smooth Start in Spring



You can complete these additional steps before you are officially admitted to Sac State! We encourage you to take care of these updates at least one semester ahead. This gives Sac State enough time to review and update your student records, helping avoid delays and making sure your financial aid is ready when you begin classes in January.

Don't wait until the last minute! Completing these steps early will help you stay on track, avoid potential delays, and start your semester feeling prepared.