Cal Grants | Financial Aid Guide

The Cal Grant program makes college affordable for middle and low-income Californians through state funds administered by the **California Student Aid Commission** (CSAC). The aid amounts are set by the state government and are subject to change at any time, but they typically cover UC tuition.

Who is eligible for a Cal Grant?

California residents who have financial need and meet eligibility requirements will qualify for Cal Grants. The main criteria for consideration are:

- GPA (3.0 for Cal Grant A; 2.0 for Cal Grant B)
- Income, assets, and household size
- Financial need

Read CSAC's complete list of **eligibility requirements**, which include:

- Apply for financial aid by the deadline
- Complete GPA verification on time
- Enroll at least half time (6+ units)
- Meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
- Not yet have a professional degree
- Be a California resident and citizen or eligible non-citizen

Enrollment affects grant amount:
Students must be enrolled full-time (12 or more units) to receive the full grant award. Enrollment is confirmed in the fifth week of instruction per term, at which point Cal Grant award amounts will be adjusted for students enrolled in fewer than 12 units:

- 6–8 units = 1/2 the grant amount
- 9–11 units = 3/4 the grant amount
- 12+ units = the full grant amount

How is continuing Cal Grant eligibility determined?

Students' eligibility after their first year in the program is based on financial need and academic level when they were first entered into the program.

- Total Cost of Attendance - Student Aid Index (SAI) = Financial Need
- Academic level is based upon total earned units:
  - Freshmen: fewer than 30 units
  - Sophomore: 30 to 59 units
  - Junior: 60 to 89 units
  - Senior: 90 or more units

What Cal Grants are available?

UC Berkeley administers two Cal Grants:

- Cal Grant A
- Cal Grant B

Each of these Cal Grants has two categories:

- *Entitlement grant*: any student who meets the eligibility requirements will be awarded the grant.
- *Competitive grant*: for students who don't qualify for entitlement, up to 13,000 students state-wide will be awarded based on academic and environmental criteria.

Good news! You are automatically considered for the Competitive Cal Grant program if you do not qualify for the Entitlement Cal Grant award. For more information, refer to the **Cal Grant Program Comparison Chart**.

How can Cal Grant funds be used?

Cal Grant A and B fee funds are only applied toward tuition. Cal Grant B Access funds can be used to cover costs including living expenses, transportation, books and supplies.

Cal Grant A
Pays systemwide registration fees:

21/22 Cohort | $12,570 for 2021–22 academic year or prior

22/23 Cohort | $13,104 for 2022–23 academic year

23/24 Cohort | $13,752 for 2023–24 academic year

24/25 Cohort | $14,436 for 2024–25 academic year

Cal Grant B
Pays systemwide registration fees:

21/22 Cohort | $12,570 for 2021–22 academic year or prior + Access $1,648

22/23 Cohort | $13,104 for 2022–23 academic year + Access $1,648

23/24 Cohort | $13,752 for 2023–24 academic year + Access $1,648

24/25 Cohort | $14,436 for 2024–25 academic year + Access $1,648

*Cal Grant B recipients automatically have their full Access award applied to their student account to pay any outstanding balances. If you would like to request to receive the full disbursement of your Access award for educational expenses not directly charged by UC Berkeley, download the **Cal Grant B Payment Authorization form** and submit it to the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office by either **August 1** (Fall disbursement) or **January 2** (Spring Disbursement). Please note: if we do not receive the authorization form in our office by the listed due dates, your request cannot be processed. You have the right to rescind the authorization up to the deadline date.*

How do students apply for a Cal Grant?

1. Apply for financial aid by the priority deadline: file **FAFSA** or **CA Dream Act Application**.
2. Submit a **Cal Grant GPA Verification Form** by the deadline.
   a. If you are entering as a freshman, submit by March 2.
   b. If you are transferring from a California community college, submit by March 2.
   c. If you are already in college and applying for a new Cal Grant, submit by March 2.

Most public California high schools, community colleges, and universities will automatically submit your Cal Grant GPA electronically. Additional documents may be requested from the Commission after a new Cal Grant is awarded. Failure to provide the documents will result in a loss of the Cal Grant.

When are Cal Grant funds available?

A Cal Grant may be in estimated status until confirmed with CSAC, which typically occurs in August.

- Transfer students may not have their Cal Grant funds posted until eligibility is confirmed with CSAC. Confirmation typically occurs during the fall semester. If determined to be Cal Grant eligible, the Cal Grant may replace a student's Institutional Scholarship/Grant up to the amount of the Cal Grant.
- *Your final amount will be determined after we have verified your eligibility.*