

CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT CHANGES

The 2024-25 California Dream Act Application (CADAA) will incorporate some of the changes from the new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) is working on enhancements to the application, to make it easier for students to apply for financial aid.

WHAT ARE THE CHANGES?

- The **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)** will be changed to the **Student Aid Index (SAI)**. SAI will be used when referring to the amount that families *may be able* to contribute towards the student's education. This will also include a change in the financial aid calculation for students.
- CSAC is working to build the parental signature into the original submission, which may eliminate the separate PIN creation process that students and parents have done in the past.
- Students will now be able to submit **both their CADAA and their AB540 affidavit forms** (also known as the nonresident tuition exemption form) at the same time.
- There will be overall enhancements (per the recommendations of California higher education work groups) to reduce challenges for undocumented students accessing financial aid.

WHAT WILL STAY THE SAME?

- Unlike the new FAFSA, which will have the number of questions reduced, the CADAA will **keep the same number of questions as before**.
- The CADAA will have similar income requirements and questions as it has in the past.
- The new FAFSA has updated terminology, using "contributor" to describe anyone required to input their information into the FAFSA, including the student, parent(s), guardian(s), or spouse. The CADAA will keep the language as **"student"** and **"parent"**.
- Data sharing with the IRS will be available for the FAFSA, but not for the CADAA. CADAA filers will need to manually input their financial information. The new FAFSA requires the applicant and each contributor to individually consent to the direct data exchange with the IRS. Students filling out the CADAA do not have to complete this requirement. CADAA filers also do not need to create an FSA ID, while FAFSA filers do.

BENEFITS

#1: A Better Application

The new CADAA will be more enhanced, and the application process will be more streamlined, making it an easier user experience for students.

#2: Expands Eligibility

The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) hopes to expand eligibility for California student aid, as the underlying calculation of the family's ability to contribute will change. This will allow more students to qualify for more financial aid.

TERMINOLOGY

CADAA

Student Aid Index (SAI)

Student and Parent(s)

Family Size

Student Aid Report (SAR)

FAFSA

Student Aid Index (SAI)

Contributor(s)

Family Size

FAFSA Submission Summary

COMMON CADAA MISTAKES

- If the name, date of birth, and/or social security number you reported on the CADAA does not match what is on your school record, you will need to resolve the discrepancy before we can review your application and financial aid eligibility.
- Compare the information you entered on the UC Application and the CADAA to your social security number. *Make sure they are an exact match.*
- If your name, date of birth, and/or social security number are incorrect:
 - You'll need to submit a CADAA Name/Date of Birth Change Request.
 - You'll also need to submit a correction with UC Davis Admissions.
- If your name, date of birth, and/or social security number are correct:
 - Contact the Social Security Administration to ensure that the discrepancy is resolved.

DOCUMENTS NEEDED

- Student's name, permanent mailing address, and citizenship status
- Student's Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), Statewide Student Identification number, Social Security number, or Alien Registration number (if you have one)
- Parent's federal income tax return from tax year 2022 (if any contributors got an extension, complete soon to help with the process). If they didn't file taxes, you can use information from their W-2 forms
- Student's 2022 federal income tax return, or evidence of income earned (W-2 form or pay records)
- Records of child support received and federal benefits (SNAP, WIC, TANF, etc.) received
- Current balances of cash, savings, and checking accounts
- Net worth of investments, rental properties, businesses, and farms
- Your school code

HOW TO FILE

Apply by the April 2, 2024 priority deadline.

CADAA Application:

dream.csac.ca.gov

WebGrants 4 Students:

mygrantinfo.csac.ca.go



WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER FILING

Once completed, you will receive an email confirmation that you have successfully submitted your financial aid application.

You will need to log in to CADAA to view your Student Aid Report (SAR) or to check the status of your application.

- The SAR provides you with a Student Aid Index (SAI) amount for 2024-25. Financial Aid and Scholarships will use the SAI to determine the types of aid you for which you qualify.
- You also can print your SAR via the CADAA website (look for the "Cal SAR" tab in your online Dream Act application).

You can submit corrections to your application online through the CADAA website.