

Community College Application Checklist

1. _____ **Complete and submit a community college application online.**

Date submitted: _____

2. _____ **Complete new student Orientation online.**

Date completed: _____

3. _____ **Register for and take Math and English Placement Tests at your community college.**

- ☐ English as a Second Language (ESL) students should ask to take the *ESL assessment*.

Date of testing: _____ Appointment Time: _____

4. _____ **Meet with a College Counselor to pick classes & develop a Student Education Plan.**

- ☐ Bring a copy of your assessment results and transcripts to your appointment.

Date of Appointment: _____ Appointment Time: _____

5. _____ **Complete financial aid forms and apply for scholarships.**

- ☐ Apply for financial aid online using the FAFSA (by March 2nd) – fafsa.ed.gov
- ☐ *If AB540 eligible*: submit the CA Dream Act app *instead* of the FAFSA (by March 2nd) – dream.csac.ca.gov
- ☐ **Complete Board of Governor's Fee Waiver (BOGW) app** – located on the college's financial aid website.
- ☐ Submit completed Cal Grant GPA Verification Form (by March 2nd) – csac.ca.gov
- ☐ Apply for scholarships (visit college's website and financial aid office).

6. _____ **Visit the Financial Aid Office to get your financial aid paperwork processed.**

- ☐ Obtain financial verification forms requested by your college.
- ☐ Complete, sign, and return any financial verification forms to the financial aid office.
- ☐ Make sure to ask the financial aid office if your file is complete.
- ☐ **Submit your Board of Governor's Fee Waiver (BOGW) app to the financial aid office.**

Date submitted: _____

7. _____ **Register for classes online.**

Registration Date: _____ Registration Appointment Time: _____

8. _____ **Pay your registration fees.** *Note: Some colleges require you to pay at the time of registration.*

9. _____ **Apply for college Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS)** which entitle former adult school students to *priority registration, financial assistance* with books/fees, *free tutoring* and more!

- ☐ Complete and submit application on campus in EOPS office.

Date submitted: _____

10. _____ **Prepare for your first day and start attending your classes!**

- ☐ Purchase your books and materials/supplies (ask about return policies for books).
- ☐ Print a copy of your college's academic calendar to keep track of important deadlines.
- ☐ Take note of important deadlines such as when you can "Add" and "Drop" classes.

Financial Aid

Yes! You CAN afford college at a California community college. There are several ways to get financial assistance if you need it, including **federal financial aid, fee waivers, loans, grants, and scholarships.**

Where Can I Get Aid?

You can explore your options before applying for assistance at these popular websites for financial aid information below. You can also contact the financial aid office of the college you wish to attend for more information. When you've seen enough to get started, **go ahead and apply for the most popular forms of financial assistance below, the FAFSA (or, if AB540, the California Dream Act), and the BOG Fee Waiver.**

- **FundYourFuture.org** | A publication of the California Student Aid Commission.
- **icanaffordcollege.com** | Brought to you by the California Community Colleges.
- **FinAid.org** is the national student aid website, which also offers a list of online resources in Spanish.
- **CaliforniaColleges.edu** provides financial information for all colleges in California.
- **Contact a California community college.** The college you want to attend can help you find the financial aid available to you -- **californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu**

How Do I Apply for Financial Aid?

Everyone interested in getting financial assistance to attend a California community college should look at submitting applications for the FAFSA (or, if AB540, the California Dream Act) and the BOG Fee Waiver.

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) makes available several types of loans and grants from the federal government, while the BOG (California Board of Governors) Fee Waiver can waive enrollment fees for qualified students. (The California Dream Act helps AB540 eligible students obtain FREE money from the state of California.)

1. Are you eligible for federal financial aid? Learn the **eligibility requirements.** (icanaffordcollege.com)
2. Financial aid applications can seem overwhelming, but there are **tools and information** to help you get organized. (icanaffordcollege.com)
3. Ready to start your applications? Apply for the **BOG Fee Waiver** (<http://home.cccapply.org/money/bog-fee-waiver>) and complete the **FAFSA application** (fafsa.ed.gov), or if AB540 eligible, the **California Dream Act application** (dream.csac.ca.gov)
4. If you want to get help right now use the **financial aid office locator** to find contact information for the financial aid offices closest to you. (icanaffordcollege.com)
5. What can you expect after you've filed for financial aid? Find out **what's next.** (icanaffordcollege.com)

These are just the most common forms of assistance; there may be more options at the college of your choice. You can apply for financial assistance either before applying for admission to college or after ... but the sooner, the better.