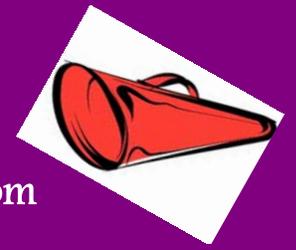


High School Shout Out !!



News and Updates for High School Counselors from
the California Student Aid Commission

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA

NOVEMBER, 2010

**A MESSAGE
FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
DIANA FUENTES-MICHEL**



The California Student Aid Commission recognizes that the continuing economic recession facing California has created multiple challenges for high school counselors. Our staff is in communication daily with high school counseling staff who have inherited the realities of this fiscal crisis. We are acutely aware that many talented individuals are coping with increased workloads, staff reductions and budget cuts, yet still remain committed to their passion to maintain student financial aid services.

This inaugural edition of our new monthly publication was created for high school college advisors, counselors and outreach staff who provide guidance to their students as they navigate the often confusing process of applying for and receiving financial aid to pay college expenses. To that end, those critical steps that are necessary to secure college financial aid will be discussed in each edition of “**High School Shout Out!!**” along with reminders of key application and submission dates that must be completed to secure assistance.

We hope you will find this communication helpful, and welcome your feedback and suggestions!

IDENTIFYING SOURCES OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID IN 30 SECONDS!

There are five main sources of financial aid:

1. *Aid from the federal government;*
2. *Aid from state government;*
3. *Aid from private sources (both national and local sources);*
4. *Aid from colleges;*
5. *And, aid from a student’s personal family resources.*

Each avenue has its own application processes and deadlines. Students need to explore all of these options to maximize their likelihood of securing funding for college.

2011-12 CAL GRANT GPA VERIFICATION FOR HIGH SCHOOLS

We are pleased to announce the early start of the grade point average (GPA) season for the 2011-12 award year. You can view the Commission Operations Memo on this issue at:

<http://www.csac.ca.gov/secured/operationmemos/2010.asp>

Electronic GPA Submission

The Commission is now accepting Cal Grant GPA uploads from schools for the 2011-12 academic year. Since high school GPAs do not include senior year grades for graduating seniors, schools are encouraged to prepare and upload their 2011-12 GPAs as soon as possible. We strongly encourage schools to upload GPAs electronically to increase the probability that more of your eligible students will receive a Cal Grant award.

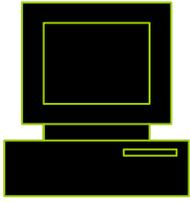
Schools can use WebGrants to directly key the GPAs into the Commission’s system. In contrast to completing multiple paper forms, directly keying GPAs on WebGrants is quicker, more secure, and saves the student or school the cost of postage for mailing the paper form. The direct online method is easiest if the school has a relatively small number of GPAs to enter.

ON-LINE CAL GRANT GPA SUBMISSION TRAINING

If you have not already registered, the Commission is pleased to announce that for the fifth straight year the Commission will hold webinars on how to submit Cal Grant GPAs. Instruction will be provided on using WebGrants, the Commission’s on-line data and information portal for high schools. You can register at <http://www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=988>

With a WebGrants account, in addition to submitting GPAs, high schools can access several useful reports to track their GPA submission and the Cal Grant award offers made to their students.

Counselor’s can also use WebGrants to update their institution’s demographic information with the Commission and assist high school graduates in confirming their high school graduation, a requirement for the High School Entitlement Cal Grant program.



CREATING A "WEBGRANTS 4 STUDENTS" ACCOUNT

For the first time, students can now create a WGS account with a submitted GPA to the Commission. In the past, students could create an account only upon completing a FAFSA, but this new capability will allow students to check in on their Cal Grant status early on, including unfulfilled requirements.

To establish a WGS account, go to
www.webgrants4students.org
and follow the instructions!

LOS ANGELES USD PILOT GPA PROJECT

The California Student Aid Commission has been working with the Los Angeles Unified School District on the development of a new method for the submission of on-line Cal Grant GPAs. Successful implementation of this pilot program would allow high schools and school districts to upload Cal Grant GPAs without having the student's Social Security number. Instead of the SSN, other data from the student's FAFSA and GPA files would be used to match these files together.

The Commission anticipates that, when implemented, this new method of GPA submission will be much easier for schools to use. This pilot is still in the testing phase. The Commission will share more on this project as further information is available.

CSS/PROFILE

In addition to the FAFSA, some private colleges require a CSS/Profile application as part of the financial aid application process. The CSS/Profile is a supplemental financial aid application used by many colleges across the country. The undergraduate colleges in California that require the CSS/Profile are:

California Institute of Technology
Claremont McKenna College
Harvey Mudd College
Occidental College
Patten University
Pitzer College
Pomona College
Santa Clara University
Scripps College
Stanford University
University of Southern California

More information on the CSS Profile application and a list of all nationwide colleges that require the Profile can be found at:

<https://profileonline.collegeboard.com/prf/index.jsp>



HOSTING A FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

Instructional aids on hosting a financial aid night can be found at the website of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) at:

http://www.nasfaa.org/redesign/fanight_09.asp

New college advising counselors will find a treasure trove of information, and college advising veterans should review these materials to reinforce that they are covering all the necessary components for their events. We are uncertain how long NASFAA will continue to provide these materials, so we suggest you review and download any useful files as soon as possible.



THE 2011-12 "FUND YOUR FUTURE" IS NOW AVAILABLE!

This **free** workbook and brochure is focused on helping students and their parents prepare for college and apply for financial aid.

Major financial aid programs at-a-glance and the basic steps checklist help maximize financial aid options to access higher education.

TO COMPLETE AN ORDER FORM:

- Go to www.csac.ca.gov, select the "Publications" tab and then select the "Publications Order Form"

OR:

- Call 916.526.7282
- Fax the order form to 916.526.8838

Please Note:

*Spanish editions will be available
by December 1, 2010*

ADMISSION APPLICATIONS FIRST, THEN FINANCIAL AID

College admission applications are usually required before the submission of financial aid applications.

2011-12 year admissions applications for the University of California are due by November 30, 2010. Complete UC application information is available at the Office of the UC President at www.ucop.edu.

Applications for admission to all campuses of the California State University opened October 1, 2010 for the Fall 2011 term. Applications may be submitted via [CSU Mentor](#) beginning on October 1, 2010, and all admissions categories are subject to closure at any time after November 30, 2010.

Private colleges and universities have admissions application deadlines spread out over several months. Also, many colleges have early admissions deadlines. Students applying by the early admission deadline receive application consideration before those applying later but conditions apply to the early admission offers. Early admissions notices usually arrive in December or January. Early admission is encouraged if the student is a high school senior and the college is one of his or her top-choice colleges. It is important that students visit the website of those schools in which they have interest to determine the application submission requirements and deadlines.

FAFSA PIN CODE

Students and parents are encouraged to obtain a Personal Identification Number (PIN) to use when submitting the FAFSA and accessing their information from the United States Department of Education. The PIN allows students and parents to sign the FAFSA electronically.

Even though a PIN can be obtained when the FAFSA is filed, obtaining the PIN before FAFSA submission allows any problems associated with that process to be solved before the application deadline crunch time later on. Occasionally, the Social Security Administration cannot match a student's and parent's Social Security number, thus requiring additional information which delays the issuance of the PIN.

The PIN can be obtained on-line at www.pin.ed.gov



MEET THE CAL GRANT OPERATIONS SUPPORT STAFF!

The Commission handles numerous calls daily from students, parents, counselors and colleges. However during this busy season, the Commission has assigned Cal Grant Operations Staff to take calls directly from you, the High Schools! If you have any questions about the Cal Grant program, from the application process to awarding, please contact the following staff:

Tabitha Frost: (916) 464.2113 or at tfrost@csac.ca.gov
Janice Wright: (916) 464. 6420 or at jwright@csac.ca.gov
Justin Watkins: (916) 464.8273 or at jwatkins@csac.ca.gov

Or, call toll-free at (888) 294-0153

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Our mailing address:

California Student Aid Commission
Attn: Program Administration & Services
P.O. Box 419026
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9026

For UPS or overnight delivery only:

California Student Aid Commission
Attn: Program Administration & Services
10834 International Drive, Suite 100
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Websites:

www.csac.ca.gov
www.webgrants4students.org
www.calgrants.org



REMINDER:

**The 2011-12 Cal Grant deadline
for FAFSA and GPA submission is
Wednesday, March 2, 2011**