

Financial Aid Highlights

Financial Aid Highlights is a periodic electronic news update provided by the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships for the benefit of prospective and continuing CSUB students and parents, high school and community college counselors, faculty, and staff. The electronic publication will contain informational items pertaining to financial aid and scholarships of relevance to the CSUB community. Past issues are archived on the Financial Aid & Scholarships homepage at <http://www.csub.edu/finaid>. Additional information regarding any given topic may be obtained by calling the office at (661) 664-3016.

Deadline for Submitting Cal Grant Grade Point Average (GPA) - FAH (Vol. 8, No. 39)

The Cal Grant Program is a state-funded grant program administered by the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) to assist students in paying for a college education. These awards do not need to be repaid by the student.

Students applying for Cal Grant are advised that the statutory **March 2 deadline** for submitting **GPA Verification** to the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) for 2007-2008 Cal Grant awards is this Friday. Some high schools and colleges automatically file their students' verified GPAs with the CSAC. Some do not. You must confirm whether your school will file your GPA for you, or obtain a GPA Verification Form, get it certified by a school official and mail it yourself. The CSAC will accept electronic GPA submissions from high schools, colleges, and universities up to midnight of March 2. GPAs submitted in paper form (via the Cal Grant GPA Verification Form) will be accepted if postmarked by March 2.

Students are advised that they must also submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA form is a federal form that must be filed by any student who wants to be considered for college financial aid. For a Cal Grant, the FAFSA must be completed and filed with the federal processor by the **March 2 priority deadline** of each year.

Once the California Student Aid Commission receives the student's GPA verification, as well as the FAFSA data sent to them electronically from the Federal FAFSA Processor, they will determine each student's initial Cal Grant eligibility, and mail award notifications to students in spring. Cal Grant programs include:

Cal Grant A Entitlement Award: This award provides grant funds to help pay tuition/fees for California residents at qualifying for-credit instructional programs of not less than two academic years (currently up to \$2,520 per year at CSUB). These awards are guaranteed for those students who have a high school GPA of no less than 3.0 and meet the established program eligibility criteria.

Cal Grant B Entitlement Award: This award provides grant funds for access costs for low-income students in an amount not to exceed \$1,551. This grant is to be used to pay living expenses and expenses related to transportation, books and supplies. Beginning with the second year of Cal Grant B benefits, Cal Grant B also helps pay for tuition/fees for California residents attending qualifying institutions offering a baccalaureate degree (currently up to \$2,520 per year at CSUB). These awards are also guaranteed for those students who have a high school GPA of no less than 2.0 and meet the established program eligibility criteria.

California Community College Transfer Entitlement Award: This award is offered to California Community College students who were not awarded Cal Grant As or Bs within a year of graduating from high school, but meet certain requirements at the time of transfer from a California Community College to a qualifying institution offering a baccalaureate degree. These awards are also guaranteed for those students who have a Community College GPA of at least 2.4 and meet the established program eligibility criteria. They can represent the equivalent of either a Cal Grant A or B award.

Competitive Cal Grant A and B Award: This award is to be used for the same purposes as the Cal Grant A and B Entitlement award, except that it is not guaranteed. The award is based on a competitive basis and intended for students who did not receive an entitlement award and are from low- and middle-income families.

Fifth Year Benefits Award: This award is for current Cal Grant recipients who are enrolled in a mandatory five-year undergraduate program, which requires all participants to complete more than four years of

undergraduate study. Requests for fifth year benefits must be made in writing to CSAC, and award eligibility certified by the school.

Renewal Cal Grant Recipients must: (1) continuously maintain their current eligibility throughout the 2007-08 academic year; (2) file a 2007-08 FAFSA by March 2 listing the appropriate school; (3) have remaining Cal Grant eligibility; and, (4) have Unmet Need at the college they are attending.

Students are encouraged to set up their individual WebGrants accounts at <https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov> to help them track the status of their Cal Grant forms and application.

Cal Grant award amounts will vary based on your financial need, your school's Cost of Education and the maximum authorized award levels. Your school will determine your actual Cal Grant payment amount.

Ron Radney
Interim Director, Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships (OFA&S)