


# 2025-26 FAFSA vs CADAA Aid Comparison\*




The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a federal financial aid application for U.S. citizens, permanent residents (“green card” holders), T-visa holders, and other eligible non-citizens to apply for state and federal financial aid.



The CA Dream Act Application (CADAA) is California’s state financial aid application operated by CSAC that allows undocumented students to receive free financial aid. U.S. citizens or “green card holders” whose parent(s) or spouse are undocumented (mixed-status families) can also apply for the CADAA if they do not want to submit a FAFSA.

<b>Pros</b>	Determination of eligibility for: <b>Federal Aid</b> (grants, loans, work-study) and, <b>State Aid</b> (state and university grants, community college fee waivers, cal grant, and private scholarships).
<b>Cons</b>	Non-ssn contributors will need to create an FSA ID.
<b>Risks</b>	Non-ssn contributors information will be stored in the Department of Education’s system protected by current student privacy laws.

Determination of eligibility for State Aid only: <b>State Aid</b> (state and university grants, community college fee waivers, cal grants, and private scholarships). Non-ssn contributors will not be required
No access to federal aid.
Eligibility requirements may reduce amount of financial aid award.
Less financial aid for students that are planning on attending institutions with higher tuition costs.

Types of aid offered (for eligible students)	Amount Offered	FAFSA <sup>®</sup> Federal Student Aid	California DreamAct
Pell Grant	\$7,395	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Loans	varies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Work-study	varies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	\$100 - \$4,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Middle class scholarship	\$100 - \$4,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cal Grant	A: \$12,630 B: \$1,672 C: \$1,094	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Private scholarships	varies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Institutional Aid	varies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CA Community College Promise Grant (CCPG)	Enrollment fees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dream Act Service Incentive Grant (DSIG)	up to \$4,500		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**FAFSA & CADAA priority deadline: March 3rd, 2025**

\*Information and template adapted from the San José City College Financial Aid Office brochure. Last updated on December 3, 2024 (JDR)

# For additional resources visit the pages listed below:

Free immigration legal services and case support for students and employees on California community college campuses statewide or virtually.

<https://findyourally.com/>

Mental Health Resources:

[https://immigrantsrising.org/wp-content/uploads/Immigrants-Rising\\_Mental-Health-Resources-for-Undocumented-People.pdf](https://immigrantsrising.org/wp-content/uploads/Immigrants-Rising_Mental-Health-Resources-for-Undocumented-People.pdf)

The Dream.US: Scholarships and information for undocumented students:

<http://www.thedream.us/>

United We Dream: Immigrant youth-led organization information, advocacy, scholarships:

<http://unitedwedream.org/>

Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC): Providing legal trainings, educational materials, and advocacy for immigrant rights:

<https://www.ilrc.org>

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF): Latino civil rights organization, scholarship directory, legislative updates for immigrant rights:

[www.maldef.org/](http://www.maldef.org/)

State policies from across the country that provide undocumented students with access to in-state tuition and financial aid.

<https://www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/states/>

Understand the differences: In-state tuition vs CA Dream Act vs DACA

[https://immigrantsrising.org/wp-content/uploads/Immigrants-Rising\\_Understand-the-Differences\\_In-State-Tuition-vs-CA-Dream-Act-vs-DACA\\_Accessible.pdf](https://immigrantsrising.org/wp-content/uploads/Immigrants-Rising_Understand-the-Differences_In-State-Tuition-vs-CA-Dream-Act-vs-DACA_Accessible.pdf)

Glossary of Common Legal Terms

<https://immigrantsrising.org/resource/glossary-of-common-legal-terms/>

Visit our website:



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