

# FutureReady Focus



## **FREE UC Workshop: Beyond the PIQs** **September 10, 2025 8:30-11:30 a.m.**

UCI and UCR are joining efforts to offer a FREE workshop at OCDE. Topics will include: Activities and Awards, PIQs and using Additional Comments to help students make the most of their applications. Discussion will also include understanding recruitment at the UC level and there will be plenty of time for Q&A. Don't miss out on the opportunity to connect with our UC partners. Audience includes counselors and APs.

Register now at <https://ocde.k12oms.org/2041-270968>

## **Campaign Details**

Please be sure to keep us up-to-date with your school's campaign details including dates and times on our [Campaign Google Sheet](#). Each county has a tab at the bottom of the sheet where you can find your school. You will also see contact information for volunteers on the page.

## **Counselor Conferences**

Counselor Conferences are now open.

- [UC Counselor Conference](#) \$100 (f2f) \$50 (virtual)
  - San Diego - September 9, 2025
  - Virtual - September 12, 2025
- [CSU Counselor Conference](#) \$140
  - Riverside - September 25
  - Pasadena - September 30
  - Virtual - October 3, 2025

## EVENTS & DEADLINES

**SEP. 10 – UC APPLICATION WORKSHOP**

**DEC. 5 – FALL DATA DUE**

**DEC. 10 – FUTUREREADY CA DEBRIEF**

[ACAC WEBSITE](#)

[FUTUREREADY CA WEBSITE](#)

## **#WhyApply Day**

**Friday, September 19, 2025**

We are excited to participate in the annual #WhyApply Day celebration, led by our friends at the American College Application Campaign! It's important to pause and remind students of opportunities a college education brings, as well as to remind students that they are not alone in the process.

Gear up and check out the downloadable resources to help promote and inspire your own celebration with your students. [Learn more](#) about how to participate in this year's celebration on Friday, September 19.

## **FutureReady CA Resources Website**

You may now access FutureReady Focus, data forms, exit surveys, and more on our [FutureReady CA Resources website](#). Be sure to use the exit survey updated last year. You may add questions to it.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### **FUTUREREADY CA**

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# FINANCIAL AID

## THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS

Finding financial aid can seem overwhelming when you're trying to get ready for college or career school. The U.S. Department of Education's office of Federal Student Aid is here to help you get the money you need to pay for your education.

### PREPARATION

Scholarships and state aid can help cover the cost of college or career school, but you may find yourself in need of federal assistance.

Many states have college funding programs. Ask a guidance counselor or your college financial aid office for more information.

It's time to apply for financial aid.

### FAFSA®

The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and is the only way to apply for federal student aid. The schools you list on your application will use FAFSA information to evaluate your financial need and determine how much federal aid you are eligible to receive. Many states and colleges also use information from your FAFSA to provide their own financial aid.

Complete the FAFSA online at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov). Make sure to fill out and submit the FAFSA each year you are in college.

After you submit your FAFSA, you'll receive your Student Aid Report (SAR). Your SAR summarizes the information in your FAFSA. Review it and make corrections if needed.

Your FAFSA helps your school determine the types of federal student aid you are eligible to receive.

### TYPES OF FEDERAL STUDENT AID

As the largest provider of financial aid, the U.S. Department of Education's office of Federal Student Aid provides grants, loans, and work-study funds.



### AWARD

Your award letter explains the combination of federal grants, loans, and work-study a college is offering you. The offer might also contain state and institutional aid. If you receive award letters from multiple colleges or career schools, you should compare them and decide which school works best for you.

### COLLEGE

Every year, millions of new students attend college or career school for the first time. Your college or career school has a financial aid office to help guide you along the way.

### BEYOND EDUCATION

#### WORKFORCE

When you take the time to plan for your education and let Federal Student Aid help you along the way, you'll be setting the foundation for a bright future and success in the workforce.

#### REPAYMENT

Once you leave school, you will need to repay your student loans. Contact your loan servicer to discuss your repayment options.

LOAN  
SERVICER

## Changes in FAFSA

### FAFSA Opens October 1, 2025

The 2026-27 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) will open October 1, 2025 with a few changes this year. The Department of Education announced a simplified process for inviting parents or spouses to access and contribute to the form. A contributor will be able to access a student's form by entering the student's email address rather than being required to create a StudentAid.gov account or input their personal information.

## FAFSA vs CADAA— Which is the right application for me?

### Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The FAFSA is an application operated by the U.S. Department of Education and the Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) that allows students to qualify for federal, state, and institutional financial aid.

You are eligible to complete the FAFSA if you:

- Are a US Citizen
- Are a Permanent Resident ("Green Card" holder)
- Have a T-Visa
- Are an Eligible Non-citizen\*

### California Dream Act Application (CADAA)

The CADAA is California's state financial aid application operated by CSAC that allows undocumented and other eligible students to qualify for state and institutional financial aid.

You are eligible to complete the CADAA if you:

- Are Undocumented
- Have a U-Visa or Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
- Meet the CA non-resident exemption requirements
- New: Students from Mixed-Status Families

## 2026 Annual Statewide Financial Aid Workshops

With the FAFSA changes and the graduation requirement for seniors to complete it, you will want to attend a FAFSA workshop to hear about the changes as soon as possible. The California Student Aid Commission and the California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators are hosting the *2026 Annual Statewide Financial Aid Workshops*. These free workshops will assist in providing information and updates on state-funded financial aid programs and provide a comprehensive overview of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For information visit: <https://www.csac.ca.gov/annual-statewide-financial-aid-workshops>