

FutureReady Focus



UC/CSU Workshop

September 2026

Two options for support:

Orange County Sept. 10 - 8:00am -12:00pm

- Hear about CSU Direct Admissions
- Join UC staff for an enhanced application workshop designed to support AVID counselors and Future Ready Advisors in guiding students through the UC application process. The session will provide practical insights, strategies, and resources to help counselors better support students as they prepare and submit their applications.
- Register at <https://ocde.k12oms.org/1235-284740>

Los Angeles County - Sept. 16 - 8:00am - 3:00pm

- UC Outreach/Admission representatives will provide a deeper dive into Personal Insight Question (PIQ) myths and misconceptions, current trends in major selection, and common application mistakes and how to help students avoid them.
- CSU Outreach representatives will share important admissions updates, including information about CSU Direct Admission, along with guidance on current application processes and resources available to support students.
- [Flyer](#) and [Registration](#)

#WhyApply Day September 18, 2026

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 the 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 18.

EVENTS & DEADLINES

SEP. 10 – UC & CSU APPLICATION WORKSHOP - OC

SEP. 16 – UC & CSU APPLICATION WORKSHOP - LA

OCT. 6 – [COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY SUMMIT](#)

DEC. 4 – FALL DATA DUE

DEC. 9 – FUTUREREADY CA DEBRIEF - OC

JAN. 27 – FUTUREREADY CA DEBRIEF - LA

TBD – FUTUREREADY CA DEBRIEF - SB

[ACAC WEBSITE](#)

[FUTUREREADY CA WEBSITE](#)

[FUTUREREADY CA BEST PRACTICES](#)

[FUTUREREADY CA RESOURCES](#)

Counselor Conferences

Counselor Conferences are now open.

- [UC Counselor Conference](#) \$100 (f2f) \$50 (virtual)
 - Los Angeles - September 1
 - Palm Springs - September 3
 - Virtual - September 11
- [CSU Counselor Conference](#) \$150
 - Pasadena - September 23
 - Anaheim - September 25
 - Virtual - September 29

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. See all the [campaigns in calendar view](#).

call to
ACTION

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. 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

Annual Statewide Financial Aid Workshops - **FREE** Various Dates

The Annual Statewide Financial Aid Workshops are free workshops, offered both in-person and virtually. They provide high school counselors and staff, student advocates, student outreach coordinators, community education partners, Dreamer resource staff, and foster youth advocates the opportunity to attend a half-day training to obtain relevant financial aid information they can use to support their students apply for and receive financial aid for college. To register, visit <https://csac.ca.gov/asfaw>.

Training Topics include:

- Updates to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and California Dream Act Application (CADAA)
- Information and updates to:
 - Cal Grant Programs
 - Middle Class Scholarship
 - Programs for Foster Youth
 - CA Dream Act Service Incentive Grant

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

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

California Dream Act Application (CADAA)

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.

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 FAFSA if you:

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

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



**College Affordability Summit Unlocking the California Dream:
Intentional Change & Focused Investments - FREE
October 6, 2026 (Virtual)**

The 7th Annual California College Affordability Summit will take place virtually on Tuesday, October 6, 2026. This event brings together K-12 educators, high school counselors, college financial aid administrators, student advocates, and policy leaders to share updates, resources, and tools for the 2027-28 application cycle. For registration and information, visit <https://www.csac.ca.gov/summit>.

Multifactor Authentication for Webgrants

The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) announces the implementation of multifactor authentication (MFA) within WebGrants. This update is a mandatory requirement to enhance the security of state information assets and protect user data.

New MFA Process MFA is now enabled for all WebGrants users with the following steps:

- **Verification:** Upon logging in, you will be prompted to enter a one-time passcode.
- **Delivery:** This passcode will be sent automatically to the email address associated with your WebGrants account.
- **Completion:** Enter the passcode on the login screen to gain access. This verification step will be required every time you log into WebGrants.

CA FACT:

**California Financial Aid Certification Training
Launches: August 2026**

The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) is pleased to announce the launch of the California Financial Aid Certification Training – CA FACT, a collaborative effort between CSAC and the California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (CASFAA). In alignment with CSAC's Student Success Blueprint Goal 1 Equitable Access, advance equitable access to financial aid, CSAC is partnering with CASFAA to address regional financial literacy gaps and highlight promising practices led by college and university financial aid professionals. CA FACT is designed to provide standardized professional development for educators, counselors, community partners, and financial aid staff across California. Visit <https://www.csac.ca.gov/ca-fact> for more information.

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