



2015-16

California Dream Act Application

for Financial Aid Administrators

Frequently Asked Questions

APPLICATION

Q: When will the 2015-16 CA Dream Act application be available?

A: *The online and paper application will be available January 1, 2015. For faster processing time, the Commission recommends using the online application process.*

ISIR DATA FILE

Q: When and how will my school receive the application data?

A: *Students must list their schools of choice on the application. Schools will receive the **CA Dream Act ISIR** approximately 7 – 10 days **AFTER** the application is submitted. The ISIR can be found in WebGrants, Data Transfer, Report Download, and CA Dream Act ISIRs.*

SEARCHING IN WEBGRANTS

Q: How can I find an applicant in WebGrants?

A: *From the Portal menu, click on "CA Dream Act," select "Dream Act ISIR Search," enter at least two fields or enter the Dream ID, and click "search." If you do not see the student, most likely the student did not list your institution on the application.*

CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Q: Can institutions make changes/corrections to an application?

A: *Yes. Institutions can make changes/corrections to an application with the exception of the name and date of birth. From the Portal menu, click on "CA Dream Act," click on "Dream Act ISIR Search," and conduct a search to find the student, select the "Correct" link to the right, make changes, and submit. The CA Student Aid Commission is the only authorized agency to make name and date of birth changes. The Name/Date of Birth Change Request form (G-19), can be found on the CA Dream Act Resources Page under the Students and Parents tab.*

Q: When will my institution receive the "corrected" application data?

A: *Your institution will receive the corrected **CA Dream Act ISIR** in approximately 7 – 10 days **AFTER** the correction has been made. The corrected ISIR can be found in WebGrants, Data Transfer, Report Download, and CA Dream Act ISIRs.*

CONFIRMATION PAGE

Q: Where can I find an applicant's Confirmation Page?

A: *From the Portal menu, click on "CA Dream Act," select "Dream Act ISIR Search," and enter at least two fields or enter the Dream ID, and click "search," identify the student, select the "Confirmation View" link to the right.*

CAL SAR REPORT

Q: Where can I find an applicant's Cal SAR Report?

A: *From the Portal menu, click on "CA Dream Act," click on "Dream Act ISIR Search," and enter at least two fields or enter the Dream ID, and click "search," identify the student, select the "Cal SAR Report" link to the right.*

VERIFICATION

Q: What is involved in the verification process for Dream Act students?

A: *It is the institution's responsibility to ensure **ALL** Dream Act students meet the AB 540 eligibility requirements. Approximately 20% of Dream applications are randomly selected for verification. Verify using the same process as the federal verification (V1) process.*

AB 540

Q: What are the AB 540 eligibility requirements?

A: *Students must have attended a California high school for at least 3 years OR graduated early from a California high school with the equivalent of at least three years of credit*, AND graduated or will graduate from a California high school or passed the California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) or obtained a Certificate of General Education Development (GED), AND will register or enroll in an accredited and qualifying California college or university, AND if applicable, complete(d) an affidavit to legalize immigration status as soon as eligible, AND do not hold a valid nonimmigrant visa (F, J, H, L, A, B, C, D, E, Etc.).*

**If you graduated early from high school under this provision, you must also have attended CA schools (elementary and secondary) for a cumulative total of three or more years.*

TEMPORARY VISA HOLDERS

Q: Can "temporary" nonimmigrant visa holders complete the application?

A: *No, students who hold a temporary nonimmigrant Visa are ineligible to submit an application. The exception is the "U" Visa.*

U VISA

Q: What is a "U" Visa?

A: *The "U" Visa provides eligible crime victims with legal status to temporarily remain in the US while assisting law enforcement. AB 1899 allows "U" Visa holders to be considered for state financial aid programs and are not required to complete the AB 540 Affidavit.*

DEFERRED ACTION OR DACA

Q: What is Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA?

A: *DACA is a federal program that defers removal action by USCIS for two years (renewable). DACA students may be eligible for a social security card that states, "Valid for work only with DHS authorization."*

DREAM APPLICATION CHECK BOX SELECTION FOR MALES TO REGISTER FOR SELECTIVE SERVICE

Q: How do CA Dream Act applicants register for the Selective Service?

A: *Male students between the ages of 18 to 25 can now select the "Register me" check box on Question 23 to be registered with the Selective Service.*

Q: Must schools verify selective service registration for all males or just the 20% selected for verification?

A: *As outlined in the Institutional Participation Agreement, prior to the disbursement of Cal Grant funds, institutions **must** verify males between the ages of 18-25 are registered for Selective Service.*

DACA AND THE FAFSA

Q: Should students use their DACA SSN to complete the FAFSA?

A: *No. Since DACA students are ineligible for federal aid, they must complete the CA Dream Act application to be considered for CA state financial aid. If you have a Dream applicant who completed the FAFSA, please contact Institutional Support for assistance.*

INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (ITIN)

Q: Why does the application ask for the parental or student (ITIN)?

A: *ITINs are issued by the IRS and are used for federal tax reporting only. Some parents and independent students use ITINs to file taxes. The Commission will not share this information with other agencies or organizations.*

PARENTAL PIN

Q: Does a parent need a valid SSN to electronically sign the application?

A: *No. A valid SSN is not required to obtain a parent PIN.*

Q: Will the parent need a new PIN for each student?

A: *Yes, the parent must obtain a new PIN for each student, and use that pin each year to renew the application.*

Q: Do students sign using a PIN?

A: *No. Students will not sign the application using a PIN.*

UNMARRIED PARENTS LIVING AND NOT LIVING TOGETHER

Q: For unmarried parents living together, should the student report the income for both parents?

A: *Yes. Dependent students are required to include the income of both parents.*

Q: Does the application have a section for unmarried parents not living together?

A: *Yes. Students should answer the questions about the parent they live with the most during the 12 months preceding the application date. If they do not live with one parent more than the other, give answers about the parent who provides the most financial support.*

INCOME

Q: If parents or independent students are paid wages in the form of cash, are they required to list it on the application?

A: *Yes. If parents or students do not file a tax return, cash earnings must be reported on the application.*

ESTIMATING PARENTAL AND STUDENT INCOME

Q: Can students submit an application before filing a tax return?

A: *Yes. Students can complete an application by using an estimated income. Once the tax return has been completed, he or she can update the application. Each time a dependent student makes a change to the application, the parent must sign the application using the parent PIN. If the parent does not resign the application, it will be placed in a 'hold/unprocessed' status.*

SB 1210 DREAM LOAN

Q: What is the purpose of the Dream loan?

A: *SB 1210 establishes the California DREAM Loan Program (CDLP) for purposes of extending loans to students who meet the requirements established by AB 540 and have financial need, and authorizes any campus of the UC/CSU to participate.*

Q: How will my school know if the student is interested in a Dream loan?

A: *Question 31 on the CA Dream Act application asks the student, "Are you interested in student loans?" The student selects, "Yes, No, or Don't Know."*

APPLICATION TIMER

Q: What is the purpose of the timer?

A: *The 30-minute timer is a security feature that protects the confidentiality of the application in the event the student is working on a shared or public computer. Each time a student clicks on the "Save Application" icon, he or she will be given an additional 30 minutes to complete the application.*

Q: What happens if the timer runs out?

A: *When the timer gets down to the two minute mark, a pop-up will appear reminding students to save the application for an additional 30-minutes. If students do not click on the "Save Application" button, the timer will run out and information not saved will be lost, and the student will automatically be logged out of the application.*

CAL GRANTS

Q: Are CA Dream Act students eligible for Cal Grant award consideration?

A: *Yes. CA Dream Act students can qualify for Cal Grant A, B, or C. They must submit an application and a non-SSN school-certified GPA to the CA Student Aid Commission by the March 2, 2015 deadline. Students will be considered for renewal as long as a new application is submitted each year before the deadline, the income and asset requirements are met, and the student is maintaining SAP.*