

# CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT HOW TO GET FINANCIAL AID



## Apply Early for Financial Aid and Maximize Your Chances to Get the Money You Need!

Apply for Financial Aid by completing a Dream Act Application, which determines your eligibility for different types of aid including grants and an enrollment fee waiver.

A new Dream Act Application must be completed each academic year. You may complete the Dream Act Application any time on or after October 1st, but apply as early as possible since some grant funds are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis!

To maximize your eligibility, you are encouraged to submit your Dream Act Application by the priority filing date of March 2nd. You should complete the Dream Act Application even if you miss the priority date because enrollment fee waivers will continue to be awarded to qualified applicants throughout the academic year. Keep in mind that it takes two months, sometimes longer, between the time you apply for aid and the time your award is completed.

- 1.** New students must apply for admission to a specific degree or eligible certificate program at Saddleback College. Visit [www.saddleback.edu/admissions](http://www.saddleback.edu/admissions).
- 2.** Complete the Dream Act Application and submit it to the California Student Aid Commission for processing. Fill out an application online at [www.caldreamact.org](http://www.caldreamact.org). You must list Saddleback College using federal school code: 008918  
  
Your application will be processed and you will receive an e-mail with a link to your California Student Aid Report (CalSAR). If you did not provide an e-mail address, you will receive your CalSAR by mail.  
  
You should review your CalSAR for any necessary corrections or updates. If you do not hear from the California Student Aid Commission go to [www.caldreamact.org](http://www.caldreamact.org) and select "login" make sure to carefully read "Section 1-Action Needed" of the confirmation tab on your CalSAR. The application confirmation page will state your CSAC ID number in red. Write it down immediately and keep it in a safe place.
- 3.** CA non-resident tuition exemption: complete the CA non-resident tuition exemption form and submit it to the Admissions and Records Office.
- 4.** Turn in Required Documents.  
  
After receiving your financial aid information, the Financial Assistance Office will require that you submit any needed documentation to complete your file. Please continue to check your school provided email account throughout the semester for notifications from our office. You may be selected for verification and subsequently asked to submit an IRS Tax Return Transcript. An IRS Tax Return Transcript can be requested at [irs.gov](http://irs.gov) or by calling **1-800-908-9946**.
- 5.** Getting the Money if determined eligible.  
  
Financial Aid Refunds are issued electronically to your bank account via ACH or through the Saddleback Cash Card Program. You must select one of the available refund options at [www.saddleback.edu/Refunds](http://www.saddleback.edu/Refunds).  
  
If no electronic refund option is selected, you will receive a check via USPS at the home address provided to the college.

### Financial Assistance Office

28000 Marguerite Parkway • Mission Viejo • CA 92692 • (949) 582-4860

School Code: 008918

# WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

Financial aid is available to assist in removing the cost barriers that may prevent you from pursuing your educational goals. Most financial aid for Dreamer students comes from the state. Financial aid is meant to supplement your family's ability to pay for college costs such as tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation.

## TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

*Grants/Scholarships – Student aid funds that do not have to be repaid.*

**California College Promise Grant** waives per-unit enrollment fees for financially qualified California residents.

**Cal Grants** are awarded by the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) to undergraduate students with demonstrated financial need and academic achievement which is measured by GPAs and scoring criteria. Visit [csac.ca.gov](http://csac.ca.gov) for more information.

**Full Time Student Success Grant** is available to students who have been determined to be eligible for a Cal Grant B or C award and who are enrolled in 12 or more units.

**California Community College Completion Grant** is available to students who have been determined to be eligible for Cal Grant B or C and who qualify for the Full Time Student Success Grant and who are enrolled in 15 or more units and who are maintaining pace in their selected program of study, as determined by the Financial Assistance and Scholarship Office.

**The California Chafee Grant Program** gives money to current or former foster youth to use for career and technical training or college courses. Visit [chafee.csac.ca.gov/default.aspx](http://chafee.csac.ca.gov/default.aspx) for more information.

**Local Scholarships** – Saddleback College offers a wide variety of scholarships. Students apply for the Saddleback Scholarship Program in spring of each year.

## BASIC ELIGIBILITY

- > Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a student working towards a degree in an eligible program
- > Be registered with the selective services (males 18-25)
- > Have a high school diploma or equivalent
- > Be making Satisfactory Academic Progress at Saddleback College
- > Must meet AB540 Requirements
- > Student must have attended a high school in California for three or more years
- > Student must have graduated from a California High School or attained the equivalent
- > An alien student who is without lawful immigration status must file an affidavit with the college stating he/she has filed an application to legalize his/her immigration status, or will file an application as soon as he/she is eligible to do so

### SADDLEBACK MISSION STATEMENT:

Saddleback College enriches its students and the south Orange County community by providing a comprehensive array of high-quality courses and programs that foster student learning and success in the attainment of academic degrees and career technical certificates, transfer to four-year institutions, improvement of basic skills, and lifelong learning.