



OPERATIONS MEMO

Update from the California Student Aid Commission

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



February 9, 2021

GOM 2021-05

TO: Financial Aid Administrators
High School Counselors

FROM: Tae Kang *Tae Kang*
Deputy Director, Program Administration & Services Division

SUBJECT: March 2 Cal Grant Deadline Reminder – Submission Rates Down

This Operations Memo from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) reminds high schools and colleges of the upcoming **March 2, 2021 Cal Grant filing deadline** for the 2021-22 academic year.

Submission rates for first time freshman have decreased for both the 2021-22 Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the California Dream Act Application (CADAA). As of February 2, the Commission had received 223,073 FAFSA applications, an 8.42% decrease from the same date in 2020. CADAA applications had decreased by 37.69%, with only 3,832 applications submitted. There are **22 days** left before the March 2nd deadline. Let's all work together to encourage the students of California to complete their FAFSA and CADAA before the priority deadline passes.

If your students need help with completing their financial aid applications, they can register for our [CSAC Statewide Cash for College Webinars](#), or find other Cash for College workshops at <https://cash4college.csac.ca.gov/>.

Upcoming CSAC Statewide Cash for College Webinars:

- Thursday, February 11, 2021 - 5:30pm-8:00pm
 - Monday, February 22, 2021 - 5:30pm-8:00pm (Español/Bilingual)
 - Thursday, February 25, 2021 - 5:30pm-8:00pm
- Students applying for a 2021-22 Cal Grant must file a 2021-22 FAFSA or 2021-22 CADAA and have a school certified Cal Grant Grade Point Average (GPA) by **March 2, 2021**.
 - High school counselors are encouraged to visit the [GPA Tools](#) webpage for information about high school GPA calculation, the Non-SSN GPA Upload Guide and templates, and live and recorded [Trainings for High School Counselors](#).
 - We encourage all high schools and college administrators to use the WebGrants reports, such as the NON-SSN GPA Status Report, to help students complete their applications to meet the Cal Grant deadline. Please refer to the [GPA Matching and Editing Reference Guide](#) for more information about accessing the Non-SSN GPA Status Report and matching GPAs to students' financial aid applications.

Need to contact us?

- Institutional Support phone number: (888) 294-0153
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Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school!