

## FINANCIAL AID... In a Nutshell

### Types of Financial Aid:

**Grants:** Grants are **free money** that help pay for your education! You never will have to pay a grant back! This is the most DESIRABLE type of financial aid.

**Loans:** Loans are money either lent from the government or through a private bank to help pay for the cost of college. Loans have to be **paid back**. The government offers the lowest interest loans and is preferable to private loans.

**Work Study:** Where students EARN this money by working for the school. (Kind of like job assistance)

### Where does the money come from and how do they determine how much I will get?

**National Government-** Uses your information from the FAFSA to determine the EFC (estimated family contribution). Takes the cost of attendance of the school minus your family's EFC and then determines what they offer you. Package may include:

- **Pell Grant-** Amount determined by your need; don't need to pay back!
- **Student Loans**  
There are different types of loans. Subsidized loans are more preferable than unsubsidized loans because the government pays the interest (cost of the loan) for you while you are in school. They end up being much cheaper than unsubsidized loans. **Subsidized=Superior** Types of loans **are ranked from most desirable (cheapest to borrow) to least desirable (most expensive to borrow)**. If you are offered more than one type of loan use this list to decide which ones you might accept.
  1. Perkins (Subsidized)
  2. Stafford (Subsidized)
  3. Stafford (Unsubsidized)
  4. Parent Plus (Unsubsidized)
- **Work Study-** Where students EARN this money by working for the school. (Kind of like job assistance)

**State of California:** Uses income ceilings (from FAFSA) and GPA's to determine award.

- **Cal Grants -** There are 3 types of Cal Grants and students may ONLY receive one if they qualify. The school/government will always award the Cal Grant that benefits the student the MOST.

**Cal Grant A:** pays FULL tuition and fees for 4 years. **Must have 3.0 unweighted GPA**

**Cal Grant B:** pays full tuition and fees for years 2,3, and 4. **Must have 2.0 unweighted GPA**

**Cal Grant C:** no GPA requirement; for students in vocational programs in high demand.

2020-2021 CAL GRANT PROGRAM INCOME CEILINGS

	Cal Grant A and C	Cal Grant B
Dependent students:		
<u>Family size:</u>		
Six or more -	\$127,700	\$70,100
Five -	\$118,400	\$65,000
Four -	\$110,400	\$58,100
Three -	\$101,700	\$52,200
Two -	\$99,200	\$46,300
Independent students:	\$40,700	\$40,700

- **Blue and Gold Grant**  
For UC's only; income ceiling of 80,000 (for family of 4)-ensures cost of tuition is FREE
- **Middle Class Scholarship**  
Income ceiling of \$184,000 (no GPA requirement)

\*\*Must create an account on [www.webgrants4students.org](http://www.webgrants4students.org) to manage Cal grant. Must input FINAL school of choice to obtain funds.

**Every student should fill out a FAFSA**