



Frequently Asked Questions

FOR STUDENTS (UPDATED 8.2026)

Check with your college scholarship office to determine the details of student eligibility for your campus. Your college may have additional requirements.

1. Am I eligible for a scholarship?

- a. To be eligible, you must be a student or considering enrolling at one of the [28 eligible colleges](#).
- b. First-time scholarship eligibility requirements include the following:
 - i. You must receive a tuition fee waiver under the California College Promise Grant.
 - ii. Your goal must be completion of a certificate or degree program or transfer to a four-year college or university.
 - iii. You must take at least 12 units or maintain an alternate full-time equivalent status during all terms in which the scholarship is active.
 - iv. You must be making progress toward your goal as indicated by having completed at least half of the credits required for your program and must have a realistic plan to finish the remainder of your goal in under 1 academic year.
 - v. If you are pursuing a degree or transfer, you must also meet two of these **three** criteria:
 - **Have completed a transfer level English course**
 - **Have completed a transfer level math course**
 - **Have a GPA of 2.5 or higher**

2. Am I eligible for emergency financial aid?

Eligibility criteria for emergency financial aid are separate and different from the scholarship criteria. Generally, if you are facing a short-term financial barrier that may prevent you from enrolling or staying enrolled in college, then you are eligible for emergency financial aid. Each college can develop its own criteria for awarding emergency financial aid. Please contact your scholarship office for more information.

3. Are undocumented students eligible for this emergency financial aid and scholarships?

Yes. No student should be denied based on immigration status.

4. How do I apply for a scholarship or emergency financial aid?

You need to apply through your college. Please contact your scholarship office for more information and instructions about the application process at your college.

5. What's the difference between a scholarship and emergency financial aid?

To receive a scholarship through this program, you must meet certain eligibility requirements (see question #1 above). The eligibility requirements to receive emergency aid are different and are not related to your educational goals. Emergency aid is intended to support students facing unexpected or short-term financial barriers to enrolling in or staying enrolled in college.

6. If I want to transfer for a four year college outside of California, am I eligible for a scholarship?

Yes. The program was established to encourage and support students who are planning to transfer to a four-year college or university, without geographic limitations. However, your college may have additional guidelines. Please contact your scholarship office for more information.

7. What are the minimum and maximum award amounts for scholarships?

The scholarship amount per student will be a minimum of \$1,000 per semester and a maximum of \$18,500 per year. This amount is based on the estimated average total cost of attending college for students living independently less tuition fees, which are waived for eligible students.

8. What are the minimum and maximum award amounts for emergency financial aid?

Each college can establish its own policy about emergency financial aid amounts. Please contact your scholarship office for more information.

9. Is there a lifetime maximum for the scholarship or emergency financial aid? Or can I

receive a scholarship or emergency financial aid from this program more than once?

There is currently no lifetime maximum award for scholarships or emergency financial aid from this program. As long as you continue to meet the eligibility criteria and remain continuously enrolled, you may be able to apply for additional awards. Each college can develop its own policy about subsequent funding to the same student(s).

10. Can I get a scholarship for summer classes?

Yes, unless your college has established additional limitations. The same eligibility requirements apply. For example, you must be enrolled in the summer semester full-time or the full-time equivalent. See eligibility section, above.

11. How can I use my scholarship funds?

You can use your scholarship to cover necessary and reasonable education related costs, including but not limited to, books and other instructional materials, computer equipment, internet access, educational tools and uniforms. Other allowable uses include food, healthcare, household items, clothing, child-care, housing, and transportation. Scholarships should not be used towards tuition because eligible students have tuition fees waived.

12. If I'm not currently enrolled, can I still receive emergency financial aid?

Unless your college has additional requirements, yes you can, if your goal is to be able to enroll and the emergency financial aid will allow you to achieve this goal.

13. When are scholarships or emergency financial aid distributed?

Most colleges distribute scholarship funding prior to the start of each term, but scholarship deadlines and award periods are different for each college. Emergency financial aid is typically awarded on an ongoing basis throughout the year. Please contact your scholarship office for more information about dates and deadlines on your campus.