

What is Financial Aid?

The primary purpose of financial aid is to remove the cost barriers that may prevent students from pursuing their educational goals. Assistance is available from a variety of programs funded by federal, state, university and private sources including grants, scholarships, loans and employment opportunities. The basic financial aid package is a combination of self-help (loans/work study) and gift aid (grants/scholarships).

Eligibility for Financial Aid

To receive financial aid from CSULB, you must:

- Be accepted for admission.
- Not be in default on any federal loan or owe a refund on any federal grant.
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress.
- Be enrolled in an eligible program.

Additional Criteria for Federal Aid (FAFSA) Applicants:

- You must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- Meet federal financial aid eligibility requirements.

Additional Criteria for AB540 (DREAM) Applicants:

- You must qualify for AB540 status.
- Must have registered with Selective Service (all males age 18–26 are required to register).

Financial need is considered to be the difference between a family's ability to pay and the cost of education. The family contribution is determined by evaluating several factors, including your income and assets (and those of your parents, if applicable), your family size and the number of people in your family attending college.

California Dream Act - AB540 Students

AB540 students who do not meet the eligibility requirements for federal financial aid may qualify for state and university aid under the California Dream Act. Undocumented students who quality are allowed to pay in-state tuition, instead of out-of-state tuition at the university.

Applications & Deadlines

The first step in applying for financial aid is to complete the appropriate aid application by the deadline:

- FAFSA Applicants: www.studentaid.gov.
- DREAM Applicants: www.dream.csac.ca.gov.

The FAFSA and DREAM Applications must be completed each year and are available beginning October 1st for the upcoming academic year.

CSULB priority filing deadline: March 2nd

The CSULB school code is 001139.

Note: California residents applying for a Cal Grant must also submit a California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) GPA Verification Form available at www.csac.ca.gov. Check with your high school or college to determine if you are responsible for submitting this form or if your school will submit on your behalf.

Apply for Financial Aid Early

Do not wait until you are admitted to the university to apply for financial aid. Students who file during the October-March 2nd time period and who demonstrate the highest need will be given priority consideration for financial aid funding. Students filing after March 2nd will have their awards based on remaining funds available.

After Applying

After completing your application, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR). Be sure to review your SAR for any errors.

- In April, Financial Aid begins sending emails acknowledging receipt of your application.
- If no additional documents are required, you will receive an email indicating that your official award offer is available to view using MyCSULB.
- If additional documents are required, you will be notified and provided with instructions for obtaining any necessary forms.
 Files are reviewed after all documents have been submitted to CSULB.

CSULB Costs

There are three standard nine-month budgets used to calculate the cost of attending CSULB. Each budget varies according to the student's living situation. The following fees are based on the 2021-2022 academic year for undergraduate students.

Commuter

Fees*	\$6,846.00
Housing (Room/Board)	\$8,860.00
Books	\$1,070.00
Travel	\$1,362.00
Miscellaneous	\$2,090.00
TOTAL	\$20,228.00
On-Campus Housing	
Fees*	\$6,846.00
Housing (Room/Board)	\$14,270.00
Books	\$1,070.00
Travel	\$1,076.00
Miscellaneous	\$2,058.00
TOTAL	\$25,320.00
Off-Campus Housing	
Fees*	\$6,846.00
Housing (Room/Board)	\$13,358.00
Books	\$1,070.00
Travel	\$1,264.00
Miscellaneous	\$2,374.00
TOTAL	\$24,912.00

*California Resident fees. Non-residents add an additional \$396 per unit. Credential fees are \$7,716. Graduate/Post-baccalaureate fees are \$8,232. Information is subject to change.

Grants

Grants are based on financial need and are either federally or state funded. Grants do not need to be repaid.

Cal Grants - Two Cal Grants are offered. Cal Grant A eligibility is based on academic achievement and financial need. This grant is to be used for registration fees, but might not cover total fees. Cal Grant B eligibility is based on the demonstration of substantial financial need. This grant consists of a stipend, and for renewal recipients, an award may be used for registration fees. Eligible students must meet California residency requirements for Cal Grants.

Educational Opportunity Grants - These grants may be awarded to students who are admitted to CSULB through the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) and demonstrate financial need. Eligible students must meet California residency requirements.

Federal Pell Grants - These grants are for students who demonstrate exceptional need. All students applying for financial aid at CSULB who are U.S citizens or eligible non-citizens will be considered for a Pell Grant.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG) – CSULB awards FSEOG to undergraduate students with the highest need.

State University Grants – provides need-based awards to cover a portion of the State Tuition Fee for eligible undergraduate, graduate, and post-baccalaureate students who are California residents or are otherwise determined as eligible

Scholarships

Scholarships are gifts that do not have to be repaid. They can be offered by schools, employers, individuals, private companies, nonprofits, communities, religious groups, and professional and social organizations.

Merit-based scholarships – You can earn merit-based scholarships by meeting or exceeding certain standards set by the scholarship criteria. Merit scholarships might be awarded based on academic achievement or on a combination of academics and a special talent, trait or interest. Other scholarships are based on financial need, determined primarily by your FAFSA or DREAM Application data.

A scholarship might cover the entire cost of your tuition, or it might be a one-time award for a few hundred dollars. Either way, it is worth applying because it can help reduce the cost of your education.

You can start your search by visiting CSULB's scholarships website at www.csulb.edu/scholarships.

Loans

Loans are based on financial need and are federally or privately funded. Students are required to repay loans. Federal student loans may be available to FAFSA applicants; however, they are not available for DREAM applicants.

Direct PLUS – PLUS loans are long-term, low-interest loans available through participating lending agencies based on credit approval. Under PLUS, parents and eligible graduate students may borrow only up to the cost of education minus other financial aid awarded.

Direct Student Loan – Subsidized or unsubsidized Direct Student Loans are federally sponsored, long-term, low-interest loans based on financial need. For subsidized loans, the interest accrued on the loan while the student is in school is paid by the government. Unsubsidized loans are for students who do not qualify, in whole or in part, for a subsidized loan. The repayment terms for the unsubsidized loan are the same as the terms of the subsidized loan except the government does not pay the interest on the borrower's behalf and the interest rate may vary.

Note: Federal student loans are available to most eligible FAFSA applicants, regardless of income. Federal loans provide a range of repayment options including income-based repayment plans and loan forgiveness benefits that may not be provided by other educational loans.

Private Education Loan – A private education loan may reduce eligibility for free or lower-cost federal, state or institutional student financial aid. Comparisons of federal versus private loans are available from the Department of Education.

Job Opportunities

Federal Work Study (FWS) – FWS is a federally funded program that provides employment opportunities to students with financial needs.

Student Assistant & Off-Campus Employment – Information about employment opportunities both on and off-campus is available from the Career Development Center at CSULB located in Brotman Hall, Room 250.

Questions

Financial Aid Office Brotman Hall (BH), Room 101 (562) 985-8403 www.csulb.edu/financial-aid

General Campus Information

Visit the CSULB Homepage

Contact Us

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