California Dream Act

The California Dream Act of 2011 allows students who meet AB540 criteria to apply for and receive certain state and institutional financial assistance programs.

What assistance is available under the California Dream Act?

Scholarships

Based on AB130, students qualify to apply for non-state funded scholarships. This law took effect on January 1, 2012. Cal Poly has always considered all students, regardless of residency for merit based scholarships. Effective for the 2012-13 award year AB540 students who complete the California Dream Act Application and who show financial need can be considered for our need-based scholarships as well. No separate scholarship application is required. You will be considered automatically for any scholarships for which you are eligible.

Grants

AB 131 allows students who qualify to apply for and receive state-funded financial aid such as institutional state grants, Cal Grant and Chafee Grant. This law takes effect on January 1, 2013. As such, eligible students at Cal Poly who complete the Dream Act Application will be considered for State University Grant funding in the winter and spring quarters of 2013.

Who is eligible under the California Dream Act?

Students who meet the following AB540 requirements are eligible for consideration for funding (more information on AB540 requirements and eligibility is available on the Admissions website):

- The student must have attended a high school (public or private) in California for three or more years AND
- The student must have graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent prior to the start of the term (for example: passed the GED or California High School Proficiency exam) AND
- A student who is without lawful immigration status must file an AB540 Affidavit (California Non-Resident Tuition Exemption Request form) with the college or university stating that he or she has filed an application to legalize his or her immigration status, or will file an application as soon as he or she is eligible to do so
  ➢ Complete and submit the affidavit to the Admissions Office

How do I apply?

Deadline for priority consideration for winter 2013 funding: May 10, 2012

To apply for the programs available under AB131 you will use the Dream Act Application which is available now. The Dream Act Application will collect basic personal and income information to determine student eligibility for funding under AB131. While the application and processing begins in April 2012; eligible Dream Act applicants will not begin to receive their funding until after January 1, 2013 (the date which the law becomes effective).

Students will need to complete the Dream Act Application every year to determine eligibility for state and institutional aid. Students should complete and submit a Cal Poly AB540 Affidavit (California Non-Resident Tuition Exemption Request form) in order to begin a review of your eligibility.

Now that I’ve applied, what happens next?
Cal Poly will begin processing student applications to determine anticipated financial aid eligibility, in early June 2012. You may be selected for the verification process in which you will be required to submit additional information. Please read all forms of communication from our office and respond promptly to any requests for further information. Any information received from the student and/or family is confidential and will only be used to establish grant eligibility.

Once it is determined that you meet enrollment requirements and eligibility for CSU grants and Cal Poly Scholarships, you will receive an award notification. This communication will prompt you to visit your Cal Poly student portal to view your financial aid award. Funds of your potential award will not disburse before January, 2013. If you are a current student, your financial aid eligibility is still dependent on you maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). SAP is run at the end of each spring term (June 2012 is the next scheduled run) to establish continued eligibility for financial aid. For information regarding the SAP policy, please click here.