

your GPA and results from your FAFSA application. You will receive a California Aid Report (CAR) in the mail from CSAC, as long as you met the priority deadline. The CAR will inform you whether or not you have been awarded a Cal Grant, and the steps to take (if any.) You may also receive correspondence from CSAC if your Cal Grant application was unsuccessful. Student applicants need to ensure that any communication from CSAC is followed up in a timely fashion. Students should make sure the information reported on the CAR is accurate and contact CSAC directly if a correction needs to be made.

▶ What if I currently have a Cal Grant?

▶ If you currently have a Cal Grant, you only need to submit your FAFSA annually, and complete your financial aid file. Providing you are making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) at VVC, your Cal Grant will be part of your financial aid award. If your Cal Grant is on reserve, in addition to filing your FAFSA and completing your financial aid file, be sure to activate your award by contacting CSAC directly. The form is sent to you with your California Aid Report (CAR) when you were initially awarded, or it may be accessed on the web at:
<http://www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=80>.

▶ How long may I receive my Cal Grant?

▶ Your Cal Grant award is for a maximum of four years (full time equivalent or FTE), unless you are in a mandatory five-year Bachelor's Degree program. Any Cal Grant award you receive at VVC will count toward the four year (FTE.) Cal Grant C is awarded for a maximum of 2 years.

Webgrants for Students:

Applicants and current Cal Grant awardees may also check their Cal Grant status on the web using Webgrants. Go to www.csac.ca.gov and click on "Webgrants." Students will need to create a log-on. All students are encouraged to use the Webgrants for Students website to track their application status on-line. Students may use Webgrants to:

- Check if your application data has been received by CSAC
- Check your award status and view your payment history
- Check your address on file and update it online
- See how your Cal Grant might change if you attend a different school

For more information on Cal Grant:

CSAC Student Support Services
(888) 224-7268
studentsupport@csac.ca.gov
<http://www.webgrants4students.org>

CAL GRANT

What it is and How to Apply

Victor Valley College 2009-2010

Cal Grant is offered by the State of California and is open to California residents attending a college or university in California. The grant has an annual application deadline of March 2nd for the following academic year, and is based on need, income and GPA. Students must file both a completed FAFSA and a GPA Verification prior to the deadline, in order to be considered.

The Cal Grant is based on residency, proof of need, income, GPA, and other 'point' based criteria. There are two Cal Grants, entitlement and competitive.

If you meet the March 2nd deadline and minimum qualifications for a Cal Grant (which are described below), you are guaranteed an entitlement Cal Grant. In order to receive an entitlement Cal Grant, you must meet one of the four criteria listed below:

- ▶ You are currently a high school senior, or
- ▶ You are within one year of graduation or GED completion, or
- ▶ You are transferring to a 4 year university from a community college such as VVC, or
- ▶ You have established need and income limitations (determined from your FAFSA)

Minimum GPA for new Cal Grant awards:

- ▶ GPA for Cal Grant B is 2.0 or better.
- ▶ GPA for Cal Grant A is 3.0 or better.
- ▶ GPA for Cal Grant C is 2.4 or better (GPA not required for Cal Grant C, but more points for a submitted GPA.)



Competitive Cal Grants are just that: you are in essence ‘competing’ for a limited number of awards. The September 2nd cycle described later in this brochure is a competitive cycle. Student applicants who do not meet one of the three criteria described above, but meet the GPA cutoff for the March 2nd deadline will also be considered for a competitive Cal Grant, as funds permit.

Types of Cal Grants

There are currently three Cal Grants: A, B, and C. You may only use B & C at VVC.

Cal Grant A is for students attending a four year college or university. If you are awarded a Cal Grant A, but are attending a community college, such as VVC, you may place your award on a reserve status.

Cal Grant B may be utilized at either a California Community College or a four year college or university.

Cal Grant C is for students enrolled in an occupational/technical program or certificate program.

The application process is the same for either Cal Grant, however Cal Grant C does not require a GPA submission, though students score more points if they submit a GPA.

Cal Grants are awarded in amounts ranging from \$576 to \$8,322. The amount you receive will be based on your cost of attendance, the type of Cal Grant you are awarded, and the type of institution you enroll in.

It takes two!

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) & GPA Submission (GPA Verification Form)

▶ Do you have more than 24 completed units (degree applicable/transferable) at VVC?

▶ If you have 24 or more completed units at VVC (not including remedial coursework), your GPA will be sent automatically by us to CSAC (the administrator of the Cal Grant.) You do not need to complete the GPA Verification Process. All you need to do is submit your FAFSA (electronically at www.fafsa.ed.gov or postmarked) by March 2nd.

▶ Do you have less than 24 completed units (degree applicable/transferable) at VVC?

▶ If you have less than 24 units at VVC you will need to contact your prior school of attendance (whether a college or high school) and have that school submit your GPA. Depending on the school, they may submit your GPA electronically, or they may ask you to complete the hard-copy GPA Verification Form. Be sure to ask how they submit your GPA, and make sure they know how long it has been since you last attended their school (as some schools may only submit GPA's automatically for currently attending students.) You may be able to use computed units from other schools in determining your 24 VVC units.

▶ Can I re-establish my GPA?

▶ If you have between 15-24 units at VVC, VVC can submit a re-established GPA. Please contact our office directly no later than three weeks prior to the established submission deadline. A re-established GPA is only for competitive Cal Grant B consideration.

▶ What if I miss the March 2nd deadline?

▶ If you miss the March 2nd deadline, you should still complete your FAFSA as soon as possible. The March 2nd deadline is only for the Cal Grant, and you may still be eligible for other state or federal aid. If you are still attending (or plan on attending) a California Community College in the next school year, then you have a second chance to receive a Cal Grant. For California Community College students only, a second deadline of September 2nd has been established. Based on units completed, you would either have your GPA submitted automatically by VVC or you would go to your prior school of attendance for GPA certification, in order to be considered. You must also be currently enrolled by September 2nd in order to be awarded and meet the September 2nd deadline.

What happens after the application deadline?

▶ What happens after March 2nd/September 2nd?

▶ After the deadline, students will communicate directly with the Cal Grant administrator, not Victor Valley College, regarding any questions pertaining to their application status. CSAC (California Student Aid Commission) will receive