Early FAFSA and DREAM Act Applications and Prior Prior Year FAQ

Can someone help me if I have questions?

Yes. Financial Aid and Scholarships will have office hours in the Community Programs Office every Tuesday during fall quarter, 12-1pm to answer questions about completing your applications.

We will also have drop in application workshops every Wednesday in fall quarter, in Student Activities Center conference room 1 from 3-4pm. If you can bring your own laptop please do so.

When Do FAFSA and DREAM Act applications now open?

For the 2017/18 academic year they open October 1st. Three months earlier than previously.
Does this mean I will get my financial aid notification sooner?
If you are an incoming freshman then no, we have to wait until you are admitted to process your financial aid information.
If you are a continuing student, we hope to process your file earlier than we have in the past.

Can I just wait until January anyway?
We encourage you to complete your FAFSA or DREAM Act application as early as you are able to. This will give you more time to submit any additional documents we might need, and reduce the chances that your aid is not processed in time for the start of the new academic year.

Does this mean the deadline for priority consideration is earlier?
The deadline for Cal Grant and priority consideration for University Grants remains the same; March 2\textsuperscript{nd} 2017. You now have a five month window to complete and file your application.

Which tax year am I using for my financial information?
2015, one year earlier than was previously used.

2015 tax information does not represent my family’s finances any longer; can I just use 2016 information instead?
No, you still need to complete the FAFSA or DREAM Act application using your 2015 tax information. However, if there has been a significant change in your family’s finances, you should contact the financial aid office after you have completed your application to discuss your situation. There may be an appeal process you can use to have your information reconsidered.

**What is the easiest way to input my tax information in the FAFSA?**

For FAFSA filers we highly recommend using the IRS data retrieval tool. This will directly import your and your parent’s tax information into the FAFSA. It will also reduce the likelihood that Financial Aid and Scholarships has to request additional documentation from you once we receive your FAFSA.

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