



2020 College Support Parent Handbook: Supporting Our First-Generation College Students

What Pathways can my student take after college?

There are many options for your student after college! Understanding the difference between each of them will help you and your student navigate choices, resources, and potential obstacles! The following are some of the potential career and college pathways your student may take, and some general information about them:

College Pathway	Description	Quick Links
University of California (UCs)	There are 10 UC campuses across the state, all of which are public universities. Tuition and fees for California residents is about \$14,100 each year. Students usually graduate after 4 years with a bachelor's degree.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Campuses ● UC System ● Financial Aid ● UCs vs. CSUs
California State Universities (CSUs)	There are 23 CSU campuses across the state, all of which are public. In-state tuition is approximately \$6,782 every year. Students usually graduate after 4 years with a bachelor's degree.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Campuses ● CSU System ● Financial Aid
Private Colleges and Universities	A private school is a college or university that operates as an educational nonprofit organization and doesn't receive its primary funding from a state government. Students usually graduate after 4 years with a bachelor's degree. They are more expensive than public schools but financial aid is available!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Campuses ● Financial Aid
Out-of State-Colleges and Universities	These are colleges and universities outside of California. Because students are not residents of the State, their tuition and fees are usually more costly. Students usually graduate after 4 years with a bachelor's degree.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Considerations for Parents
Community Colleges	Community colleges are affordable alternatives to a 4-year college or universities. Students take two years of courses and earn enough credits to transfer. After two years, they apply to a college or university of their choice where they will finish their degree.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LACCD Campuses ● Admissions ● Financial Aid
Military Pathways	The military has 5 branches: the Airforce, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy. Each has its own focus and specialities. To enlist, you must be a US citizen or be a lawful resident.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Information ● Education Benefits
Vocational Pathways and Career Technical Education P	Career Technical Education programs involve a multiyear sequence of courses that integrates core academic knowledge with technical and occupational knowledge to provide students with a pathway to postsecondary education and careers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● General information ● Sectors

Financial Aid for College

There are many forms of financial aid that can help you and your student cover the cost of attending college! Use the chart below to learn more about the different types of financial aid available to your student:

Financial Aid Type	Description	Quick Link
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a form to apply for financial aid for college or graduate school. Your college uses your FAFSA data to determine your federal aid eligibility and award their own aid.	How FAFSA Works
Pell Grants	Pell Grants are federal grants for students with financial need. They do not have GPA requirements. Students can qualify for both Pell Grants and Cal Grants. A Federal Pell Grant, unlike a loan, does not have to be repaid.	General Information
Cal Grant	The Cal Grant is a California-specific financial aid allocation that does not need to be paid back. There are three kinds of Cal Grants; eligibility will be based on FAFSA responses, verified Cal Grant GPA, the type of California colleges listed on FAFSA and whether the student is a recent high school graduate.	General Information
California DREAM Act	The California Dream Act allows undocumented and nonresident students (U.S. Citizens and eligible non-citizens) who qualify for a non-resident exemption to receive certain types of financial aid such as: private scholarships funded through public universities, state financial aid, university grants, community college fee waivers, and Cal Grants. It also allows students to pay in-state tuition at any public in-state college	General Information
Private Scholarships	Private scholarships are financial aid awards funded by companies, service groups, foundations, organizations and individuals. They range greatly in value, and they are typically tailored to the issuing organization.	General Information
Loans	<p>If you apply for financial aid, you may be offered loans as part of your school's financial aid offer. A loan is money you borrow and must pay back with interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct Subsidized Loans are loans for students who demonstrate financial need to help cover the costs of higher education at a college or career school. • Direct Unsubsidized Loans are loans for undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, but eligibility is not based on financial need. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of Loans • Subsidized vs Unsubsidized Loans

Other Helpful Financial Resources and Pages:

- [Types of Financial Aid](#)
- [Federal Student Aid Youtube Page: Videos Explaining Financial Aid](#)
- [A Guide to Understanding Financial Aid for College](#)
- [California DREAM Act Frequently Asked Questions](#)