

STUDENT GUIDE TO FINANCIAL AID

This student guide is designed to help you understand what financial aid may be available to you, and what you can do so that you may receive that financial aid. If this information does not answer your questions, our staff is available to assist you. Please call us at (619) 660-4201 or visit the Financial Aid Office in the One-Stop Student Services Complex at the corner of Fury Lane and Rancho San Diego Parkway.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Financial Aid Process</u>	Page 2
<u>When to Apply for Aid – Important Dates</u>	Page 3
<u>General Requirements</u>	Page 4
<u>Enrollment Requirements</u>	Page 5
<u>How to apply for Financial Aid</u>	Page 6
<u>Costs & Awarding</u>	Page 7
<u>Financial Aid Programs</u>	Page 8
<u>Satisfactory Academic Progress</u>	Page 13
<u>Withdrawals & Repayment of Financial Aid funds</u>	Page 15
<u>Your Rights & Responsibilities</u>	Page 16
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	Page 17
<u>Important websites & phone numbers</u>	Page 18

FINANCIAL AID PROCESS

[\(BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS\)](#)



Request a Federal PIN number and complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> or you can complete the paper FAFSA and mail it in the envelope provided in the application. The school code for Cuyamaca College is **014435**.

1st STEP



A Financial Aid Advisor will evaluate your completed file to determine your financial aid eligibility. If eligible for financial aid, you will be emailed or mailed a Financial Aid Award Letter showing the type(s) and amount(s) of financial aid you are eligible for and the disbursement dates.

5th STEP



Your Student Aid Report (**SAR**) is emailed/mailed to you by the Federal Student Aid Department.

2nd STEP



Submit the completed documents listed in your Document-Tracking Letter to the Financial Aid Office. The student is also responsible for any other possible documents that may be required upon further review of the **SAR**.

To check the status of your file and award information, go to:
www.cuyamaca.edu/finaid and click "check application status".

Note: Please allow at least 8 weeks processing time after you complete your financial aid file.

4th STEP



If the information is correct on the **SAR**, the Financial Aid Office will send you a document-tracking letter with a list of required documents to complete. Some of the required documents at Cuyamaca College are:

- **Financial Aid Verification Checklist**
- **Independent/Dependent Student Verification Worksheet**
- **Attend and pass the Financial Aid/Academic Planning course (classroom or online)**

3rd STEP

WHEN TO APPLY FOR AID - IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2009-2010

[\(BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS\)](#)

January 2nd 2009

Apply for financial aid as soon as possible after January 1, 2009. Application materials are available at the Financial Aid Office

March 2nd 2009

Deadline for new Cal Grant applicants to mail the GPA verification form for 2009-2010 to California Student Aid Commission (CSAC). FAFSA application must also be filed by this date in order to be considered for the Cal grant.

August 24th 2009

First day to apply for an Emergency Book Loan

September 2nd 2009

Cal Grant deadline for Community College students for the 2009-2010 Competitive Cal Grant.

September 8th 2009

Fall Census Date

November 4th 2009

60% of Fall term completed

January 2nd 2010

Apply for financial aid for the 2010/2011 year as soon as possible. Application materials are available at the Financial Aid office

February 8th 2010

Spring Census Date

March 2nd 2010

Cal Grant deadline for 2010-2011

April 14th 2010

60% of Spring term completed

June 30th 2010

Last Day to submit valid SAR

July 7th 2010

Deadline to complete your financial aid file

While you and your family are expected to help pay for your college education, we are aware that you may have limited money and may be unable to pay for all your college costs. For this reason, financial aid programs have been set up to help you pay for your college costs. We try to make sure that you will not be denied a chance for a college education simply because you do not have the money.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

[\(BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS\)](#)

General Student Eligibility

In general, you are eligible for Federal Financial Aid at Cuyamaca College if you meet the following requirements:

1. apply for admission at Cuyamaca College;
2. are a U.S. citizen, or an eligible noncitizen;
3. maintain satisfactory academic progress(see "[Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)" page **13**);
4. meet federal and state financial aid requirements;
5. declare and enroll in a degree, certificate or transfer program;
6. register with Selective Service if required to do so under registration law, web site at <http://www.sss.gov>
7. are not in default on any Federal debt or obligation or owe a refund on any federal grant received while attending any school,
8. have completed less than 71 units or attempted less than 90 units,(includes all transferable units from all schools attended);
9. not have a Bachelor degree(or the equivalent from a foreign country).

Eligibility for Non-Citizens

The Department of Education (DOE) will compare the information listed on your FAFSA with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to verify your citizenship status. If your citizenship status is not verified by DOE's first match your record will automatically be selected for a second verification by DOE. If the second verification is not successful, you must submit immigration documents to the Cuyamaca College Financial Aid Office no later than your last day of attendance or **July 7, 2010**, whichever is first. We (the Financial Aid Office) will submit your immigration documents to the DHS within 10 business days and request verification of your citizenship status based on your current documentation.

Aid to Foreign Students

Cuyamaca College is not able to assist foreign students with federal or state aid. To be eligible for federal or state aid, you must be a citizen of the U.S. or an eligible non-citizen.

Ability to Benefit

If you do not have a high school diploma, a GED, a certificate of proficiency or its equivalent, or satisfactory completion of 6 degree applicable units, you must show that you have the ability to benefit from an educational program at Cuyamaca College before receiving any federal financial aid. To meet this requirement, you may take and pass the Colleges Ability to Benefit Test. If English is not your primary language and you are or will be enrolled in ESL courses, then you may take the Combined English Language Skills Assessment Test (CELSA). Both of these tests are given in the Cuyamaca College Assessment Center. For more information online, go to www.cuyamaca.edu/counseling/Assessment.asp

Drug Convictions

You cannot receive federal financial aid for a specified period if you have been convicted of an offense for the sale or possession of an illegal drug while receiving financial aid.

Convictions for possession:

- One conviction-ineligible for federal financial aid for one year from date of conviction
- Two convictions-ineligible for federal financial aid for two years from date of the second conviction
- Three or more convictions-ineligible for federal financial aid for an indefinite period of time

Convictions for sale:

- One conviction-ineligible for federal financial aid for two years from date of conviction
- Two or more convictions-ineligible for federal financial aid for an indefinite period of time

You may regain eligibility for federal financial aid, if during the period that you are not eligible; you complete an approved drug rehabilitation program.

If you are convicted of a drug offense during a time that you are receiving federal financial aid you must notify the financial aid office immediately.

ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

[\(BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS\)](#)

General Enrollment Requirements

Enrollment status is the number of units that your financial aid award is based. This status is set when your first award is made. Your enrollment status is checked on **census date** (the 3rd Monday of the semester), **09/08/2009** for the Fall semester and **02/08/2010** for the Spring semester. If you are awarded after the 3rd Monday of the semester (census date), then your census date will be the date you are awarded. Your award is adjusted based on the number of units you are enrolled. Adding classes after the enrollment status has been set will not increase your award. Dropping classes may cause your award to decrease or be canceled.

Your financial aid enrollment status is set as follows:

Status	Fall or Spring	Census Dates	
Full Time	12+ units		
3/4 Time	9 - 11.5 units	Fall 2009	September 8, 2009
1/2 Time	6 - 8.5 units		
Less than 1/2 Time	0.5 - 5.5 units	Spring 2010	February 8, 2010

Summer financial aid enrollment status is determined by the number of units you are enrolled. Please see the Financial Aid Office for additional information.

Enrolling at Cuyamaca and Grossmont

Units you take at the same time at Cuyamaca College and Grossmont College may be added together for financial aid purposes if you have declared a major and educational objective at Cuyamaca College. You must complete a Financial Aid Consortium Agreement form for each semester and be enrolled in at least 6 units at Cuyamaca College.

This agreement covers one semester only, and should be turned in **BY CENSUS DATE: Fall 2009 – 09/08/2009 and Spring 2010 – 02/08/2010 or no later than the last day of enrollment for the term**. Census date is defined as the 3rd Monday of the semester. If you are awarded after the third Monday of the semester, your census date is your award date. You must be enrolled in the courses listed on the consortium agreement by your census date. **If you drop below six units at Cuyamaca College**, the Consortium Agreement will be canceled, and your financial aid award may go down or be canceled.

UPDATE: Beginning Summer 2010, students may apply for a Consortium Agreement if enrolled in a minimum of 6 overall units *combined* at both institutions. You must maintain enrollment in at least one course at Cuyamaca College or the Consortium Agreement will be cancelled. You must submit the consortium agreement to the Financial Aid Office by the last day of your Summer term.

Changing Schools

If you will be changing schools, **keep in mind that your financial aid does not automatically go with you**. To receive financial aid at your new school, contact your new school's Financial Aid Office to find out what you must do to receive financial aid at that school.



Financial aid

Cuyamaca College



new school

HOW TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

[\(BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS\)](#)

If you wish to apply for financial aid, you must complete the following steps. You must reapply for financial aid each year. Awards are not automatically renewable. (Refer to [page 2](#) for a review of the financial aid process)

January 2009

- a) Apply for admission to Cuyamaca College.
- b) Complete and file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This form is used to apply for most financial aid programs. The FAFSA provides information needed to calculate your and/or your parents' ability to help pay your college costs.
 - Cuyamaca College's federal school code is 014435
 - Be sure to list all colleges you plan to attend.
 - Do not date or submit your FAFSA before 1/1/2009.
 - Accuracy is very important so read the instructions carefullyYou can apply for financial aid on the web using **FAFSA on the Web** at www.fafsa.ed.gov or you may go to the Cuyamaca College Financial Aid website at www.cuyamaca.edu/finaid
- c) Complete and submit all requested documentation to the Financial Aid Office. Incomplete or conflicting information may delay your financial aid process. Make sure your address, e-mail & phone number are update to date so we can contact you.
- d) If you are a new financial aid applicant (a student who has not received financial aid at Cuyamaca College) you are required to enroll in and successfully complete "Academic and Financial Aid Planning" (NO FEE, non-credit course). You can complete the course
 1. Online at www.cuyamaca.edu/finaid and select "FA/Academic Planning Course" link **OR**
 2. Register and attend an in-person session. Contact Community Learning at (619) 660-4350 to register for a class.The Academic and Financial Aid Planning class schedules are available in the Financial Aid Office and on the Financial Aid Web Page (www.cuyamaca.edu/finaid/) .
- e) Submit Official Academic Transcripts from all the colleges, universities or vocational schools that you have attended to the Admissions Office. Your Advanced Standing must be determined before your financial aid application will be considered complete. Advanced Standing means the number of units that are transferable to Cuyamaca College. This is important because the Advanced Standing will affect the amount of financial assistance you may be eligible to receive.
- f) For Cal Grant applicants, **complete and mail the FAFSA and GPA verification form by March 2, 2009.** Cuyamaca College will automatically send GPA information for you if you have completed 16 or more college-level units. If you have not completed 16 or more college-level units then you will need to send a GPA verification form. The GPA Verification form is available from the Financial Aid Office or from your local high school counselor. **Community College Students have until September 2, 2009 to apply for a Cal Grant B Competitive award.**

All information submitted to apply for financial aid is confidential. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 prohibit the Financial Aid Office from disclosing any information without written authorization.

Starting April 2009

When all required documents have been received by the Financial Aid Office, your application will be reviewed on a "first completed-first considered" basis. A Financial Aid Advisor may request further information to determine your financial aid eligibility. Your financial aid award will be calculated based on your financial need and the federal and state funds available.

June 2009 through May 2010

If you are eligible for financial aid, you will receive a Financial Aid Award and Acceptance Letter that is an offer of aid. If you are not eligible, you will receive a letter stating why you are not eligible. If you did not pass the appropriate number of units, or your GPA is below a 2.0 for the Fall 2009 and/or Spring 2010 semesters you are not eligible for a retroactive award or a summer award.

The deadline to submit a valid financial aid application for 2009-2010 (Student Aid Report - SAR) to the federal processor is June 30, 2010. The deadline to complete your financial aid file at Cuyamaca College is July 7, 2010, or 5 business days after the last day of enrollment, whichever comes first.

COSTS & AWARDING

[\(BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS\)](#)

Family Contribution

It is expected that you or your parents have the first responsibility for paying for your college education. The information you report on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is used in calculating the amount of money the government believes you or your parents can contribute to pay for your college education. This amount is called your expected family contribution (EFC) and is based on various factors such as income, assets, and benefits (for example, unemployment, or Social Security). All available resources, whatever the origin, must be reported as soon as they become known. Failure to report resources may result in repayment to the District of funds already received. The following table shows examples of estimated average family contributions for a dependent student.

Average Family Contributions

Conditions	Case 1	Case 2	Case 3	Case 4
Income	\$26,700	\$41,000	\$64,500	\$80,000
Net Assets*	44,200	44,200	44,200	44,200
Family Size	4	4	4	4
Age of Older Parent	45	45	45	45
Number in College	1	1	1	1
Expected Family Contribution (EFC)	\$0	\$2,000	\$7,000	\$12,700

*Assets do NOT include home value or family business value.

NOTE: We must count the family contribution as a resource if you are considered dependent even though you may not be receiving any assistance from your parent(s).

Dependent or Independent

Whether you are considered a dependent or independent student will determine whose financial information you will need to report on the FAFSA. By federal regulation you are considered an "independent" student for the 2009-2010 academic year if at least one (1) of the following situations describes you:

1. You were born before January 1, 1986
2. Both of your parents are deceased, or you are or were (until age 18) in foster care or a ward/dependent of the court
3. You are a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces
4. You have children who receive more than half of their support from you
5. You have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you now and through June 30, 2010?
6. You are married or separated but not divorced as of the date you complete the FAFSA
7. You will be working on a master's or doctorate program during the school year 2009-2010
8. You are currently serving on active military duty for purposes other than training
9. You are an emancipated minor or in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence
10. You were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless on or after July 1, 2008 (status determined by high school district or director of an emergency shelter program, runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program)

If you do not meet one of the above requirements, you will be considered a "**dependent**" student and will be required to provide parent information.

Financial Need

Your financial need is determined by subtracting your expected family contribution (EFC) from your standard student budget or cost of attendance (COA).

Here is how your financial need is calculated:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Your standard student budget (how much it cost to attend)} \\ & - \text{Your expected family contribution (EFC)} \\ & = \text{Your financial need} \end{aligned}$$

The Financial Aid Office uses standard student budgets that are an estimate of how much it will cost you to attend college (Your actual costs may differ from our standard budgets).

Standard Student Budgets for Fall 2009- Spring 2010 (How much it cost to attend)

Housing Status	Living with Parent(s)	Living with Relatives/Friends	Living away from Parents
Fees	768	768	768
Books and Supplies	1500	1500	1500
Food & Housing	3700	7100	10200
Personal Expenses	1700	2000	2000
Transportation	1000	1000	1000
TOTAL	\$8668	\$12368	\$15468

Additions to Budgets

- Out of State Tuition cost per unit: (\$190 subject to change).
- Dependent Care Costs (must be documented).

FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

[\(BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS\)](#)

There are generally three types of financial aid: **GRANTS**—free money, including scholarships; **EMPLOYMENT**—money you can earn through part-time work while attending school and **LOANS**—money you borrow that you must pay back in the future. Since many students are eligible for more than one type of financial aid, we offer a “package” of aid.

GRANTS

Federal Pell Grant

The Federal Pell Grant is available for you as an undergraduate until you receive your first bachelor’s degree. Federal Pell Grants range from \$609 to \$5350 per academic year depending upon your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), your cost of attendance (COA), and your enrollment status. For more information go to www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

FSEOG is a federal grant program for undergraduate students who have “exceptional financial need,” and have not received a bachelor’s degree. First priority will be given to students enrolled full-time who receive a Federal Pell Grant and show exceptional financial need. Grant amounts may range from \$100 to \$900 per academic year. For more information, go to www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov

Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)

An Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) is a federal grant that will provide up to \$750 for the first year of undergraduate study and up to \$1,300 for the second year of undergraduate study. You must be enrolled at least ½ time in a degree or certificate program, a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, and have successfully completed a rigorous high school program, as determined by the state or local education agency and recognized by the Secretary of Education. Second year students must also have maintained a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0. For more information, go to www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov

Cal Grants

Cal Grants are state grants managed by the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) and are for California residents who show financial need, meet the program and academic requirements, and apply on time. There are two types of Cal Grants: **entitlement and competitive**.

Cal Grant Entitlement is an award that is guaranteed for every high school senior or recent high school graduate that meets the program and academic requirements (at least a 3.0 GPA for Cal Grant A; at least a 2.0 GPA for Cal Grant B), meets the family income and asset ceilings, and applies on time.

Cal Grant Competitive is for those that are not high school seniors or recent high school graduates. These awards are not guaranteed and only a limited number are available each year – half are set aside for those that apply by the March 2nd deadline and the other half for California Community College students who meet the September 2nd deadline.

To apply for a Cal Grant, **submit a FAFSA and GPA Verification form** postmarked by March 2nd or by September 2nd each year. For more Cal Grant information visit the web site at www.csac.ca.gov/

Cal Grant A

Cal Grants A is an entitlement or a competitive grant. It is targeted toward students with high GPAs and moderate income. This grant pays for tuition at tuition charging institutions. You can not receive a Cal Grant A while enrolled at a community college. Community college students can have their grants put on “community college reserve” for up to three years. Once you transfer to tuition charging institution your grant can be used. The maximum award is \$9,708 for student attending independent colleges and universities, \$6,636 for University of California students, and \$2,772 for California State University students.

Cal Grant B

Cal Grant B is an entitlement or a competitive grant. It provides a living allowance for low-income students and tuition payment for students’ second through fourth year of study at tuition charging institutions. For 2009-2010, the maximum living allowance has been set at \$1551.

Cal Grant C

Cal Grant C is a competitive grant for vocational students who are enrolled in programs from nine months to two years in length. Cal Grant C provides \$576 a year for books, tools & equipment. Cal Grant C pays up to \$2,592 for tuition at tuition charging institutions.

Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS)

EOPS is a state funded program designed primarily for the recruitment and retention of California residents who are considered educationally disadvantaged (as determined by EOPS), have not completed more than 70 units of degree applicable coursework, are enrolled full-time (12 units or more) and qualify for the Board of Governor’s Grant, method A or B. For more information, go to www.cuyamaca.edu/eops

Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE)

CARE is a state funded program designed to recruit and assist single parent recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, (TANF), or Cal Works who would like to attend college and are EOPS eligible. CARE provides support services and/or grant funds to enable academic success and to assist students in attaining their career and vocational goals. For more information, go to www.cuyamaca.edu/eops/CARE.asp

Chafee Grant

The California Chafee Grant Program is available for current or former foster youth to use for career and technical training or college courses. The maximum grant amount is \$5000 per year. Students must be enrolled in six or more units each semester to be eligible for the Chafee Grant. For questions regarding eligibility please contact Pam Fleming in the Financial Aid Office at 619-660-4291 or Nora Hinsley in the EOPS Office at 619-660-4293 or go to www.chafee.csac.ca.gov.

Child Development Grant

The Child Development Grant program is administered by the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC). The program is designed for students who are attending a California Community College or four-year institution and pursuing a Child Development permit to teach or supervise in licensed children’s centers. You can receive up to \$1000 each academic year and you must sign a service commitment agreement to provide one full year of service in a licensed children’s center for every year you receive the grant. For more information, go to www.csac.ca.gov

Bureau of Indian Affairs Higher Education Grants (BIA)

Individual tribes may provide money to help enrolled members pay for college. The amount of the grant varies according to the individual tribe. To apply, contact your tribe. The Bureau Of Indian Affairs Tribal Operations in Sacramento, at (916) 978-6063 or San Diego Indian Human Resource Center, Inc. at (619) 281-5964 can provide tribe contact information. Complete appropriate items and send it to the Financial Aid Office. A FAFSA must also be completed. Watch for deadlines—each tribal agency establishes its own deadline.

Board of Governors Fee Waiver (BOG)

This program waives the enrollment fee, and (for some students) the student center construction fee, and health fee for residents of California who have financial need. Students will be considered for this fee waiver as part of the financial aid application process or you may apply separately online.

Once qualified, enrollment fees will be waived by the fee waiver for the rest of the school year, including summer whether you are taking one class or more than one class.

You may apply by completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov or by completing the BOG application at (www.cuyamaca.edu/finaid/bogg.asp.) The Board of Governors Fee Waiver will not be applied retroactively towards a prior semester's mandatory fees. The Board of Governors Fee Waiver **must be approved by the last day of the semester**, and all supporting documentation and calculated EFC must be reviewed by the last day of the semester.

SCHOLARSHIPS

[\(BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS\)](#)

Scholarships are available throughout the academic year. It is important to research and apply for any available scholarship. For additional scholarship search information contact the Cuyamaca College scholarship specialist Ernie Williams at (619) 660-4537, or visit the Cuyamaca Scholarship Web Page (www.cuyamaca.edu/scholarships/default.asp).

ALL scholarships and grants in excess of amounts used for payment of tuition, fees, books, supplies and equipment are considered taxable income for U.S. income tax purposes, and it is your responsibility to report this income on your tax return.

EMPLOYMENT

[\(BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS\)](#)

Federal and EOPS Work Study

The Work Study programs give students the opportunity to earn part or all of their financial need by working on campus or off campus in community service positions while they are in school. Examples of the jobs available are: teacher's aide, clerk, grounds person, custodian, and lab assistant. Your wage will be determined by the type and difficulty of the work that you choose.

This type of part-time work can add to your educational experience and can be a valuable asset when seeking employment after graduation. If you choose to reject your award, it will not be replaced.

The Work Study award reflects the amount of money that you are eligible to earn as wages. Your placement on a job depends upon your skills, the availability of jobs and the hours that you are available to work.

Students with Work Study eligibility must call the Financial Aid Office (619) 660-4531 for a job referral appointment. Students eligible to participate in the Work Study Program will be referred to a job and, if hired, complete the necessary payroll paperwork. Time sheets are turned in on the 14th of each month and paychecks are disbursed on the 5th of each month.

Student Employment

The Career Center helps students find part-time employment in the community. All students enrolled at the Cuyamaca College are eligible for Student Placement Center services. For more information, call (619) 660-4439 or visit their website at www.cuyamaca.edu/careerserv .

LOANS

[\(BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS\)](#)

Federal Family Educational Loan Program

Cuyamaca College participates in the Federal Family Educational Loan Program (FFELP) by offering subsidized and unsubsidized Federal Stafford Student Loans (FSSL).

Federal Stafford Student Loans – subsidized or unsubsidized, are low-interest rate loans made to students by lenders such as banks or credit unions to help students pay for college costs. These loans are insured by the state's guarantee agency and reinsured by the federal government.

Subsidized Stafford Loan: These loans are available to students who demonstrate financial need. The federal government pays the interest on this loan while you are in college and during deferment periods.

Unsubsidized Stafford Loan: These loans are available to all eligible students and are not based on financial need. You are responsible for all interest payments (or capitalization of interest) from the date the loan is disbursed.

The interest rate: As of July 1, 2009 the interest rate for subsidized loan is **fixed @ 5.6%** for subsidized loans disbursed from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. The interest rate for unsubsidized loans is fixed at 6.8%.

The loan amounts: Grade level one students may borrow a base amount of \$3,500 (subsidized and/or unsubsidized); Grade level two students may borrow a base amount of \$4,500 (subsidized and/or unsubsidized) per academic year. Loan amounts for one semester only are one-half (1/2) the maximum yearly loan amount not to exceed need or cost of attendance.

To apply for a subsidized or unsubsidized loan, you must first apply for federal financial aid via the FAFSA. All students applying for a loan must have an "Entrance Interview" before the processing of the loan application and an "Exit Interview" before the receipt of the second check. Entrance and Exit interviews are required on a yearly basis.

The deadline to apply for a Federal Stafford Student Loan is **December 7, 2009 for the Fall 2009 semester,** and **May 17, 2010 for the Spring 2010 semester.** Tuition payments will not be deferred for Federal Stafford Student Loans. FSSL checks will not be disbursed during the first 30 days of each semester.

If your total borrowing is \$15,000 or more, you will be required to complete additional loan counseling with an advisor prior to processing of any additional loans. You will provide a budget worksheet with documentation of expenses and resources as well as a plan for repayment based on your educational goal. The Financial Aid Director has the discretion to deny a request for a student loan on a case-by-case basis.

Payment of principal (the amount borrowed) will not be required while you are enrolled at least half-time. Regular monthly payments on both the principal (the amount borrowed) and the interest (the amount charged for borrowing) will begin six months after you leave school, drop below half-time status, or graduate. Depending upon the total amount borrowed, it may take up to ten years to repay the loan(s).

Deferment is available while enrolled at least half-time (6 or more units). Once the initial grace period ends and repayment begins, deferment for resumption of study requires half-time enrollment. Units cannot be combined between two colleges for deferment purposes.

The following examples show typical monthly payments and total interest charges for 6.80% loans of varying amounts, with typical repayment periods:

Typical Repayment Plan

Total FSSL Debt	Number of Payments	Monthly Payment	Interest Charges	Total Repaid
\$ 3,000	70	\$ 52	\$ 653	\$ 3,653
5,000	120	58	1,905	6,905
10,000	120	115	3,810	13,810
16,000	120	184	6,096	22,096

Loan Default

If you have defaulted on a student loan, you have some options. Depending on which one you chose you may regain your eligibility for financial aid, improve your credit and in some cases remove the default status from your credit report.

Satisfactory Arrangement to Repay

If you are in default, you are not eligible to receive federal grants or loans unless you have made satisfactory arrangements to repay the owners of your defaulted loans. Satisfactory arrangements to repay means that you must make minimum monthly payments that are on time and acceptable to the holder of your loan for six months in a row. Lump sum payments don't count when determining satisfactory arrangements to repay; nor do payments that are made involuntarily, such as those due to wage garnishment.

The owner of your defaulted loan must verify that you have made satisfactory arrangements to repay. If you default on your student loan, the owner is generally the agency that guaranteed it. The guarantee agency's name should be present on your promissory note and other correspondence made to you after your loan defaulted. In some cases the owner may be the Department of Education.

Once you receive a letter verifying that you have made satisfactory arrangements to repay and are authorized to receive additional federal grants and loans, you cannot miss any more loan payments for any reason. If you do, you cannot regain eligibility for federal grants and loans a second time using this option. Satisfactory arrangements to repay will not remove your defaulted loan from your credit report.

Loan Consolidation

If you are in default, you can return to repayment status through loan consolidation. To be eligible to consolidate, you must have made satisfactory arrangements to repay your defaulted loans with the owners of the loans for three consecutive months. Through this program your eligible federal education loans can be combined into one loan. Depending on the size of the debt, you may have 12 to 30 years to repay your loans. When you consolidate, you regain eligibility for loan deferment. After consolidation, your credit records will show the loan as paid in full. You are eligible for federal grants and loan.

Loan Rehabilitation

If you are in default, you can return to repayment status through loan rehabilitation. Each guarantor is responsible for operating a Loan Rehabilitation Program for the defaulted loans it owns. Normally, you would have to make satisfactory repayments. Contact your guarantor for further information.

Loans Discharged in Bankruptcy

Few people meet the criteria necessary for having their loans discharged in bankruptcy, so this section may not apply to you. If your loan is discharged in bankruptcy you remain eligible for federal education grants and loans.

Borrowers Whose Loans Have Been Canceled Due To Permanent Disability

If your loan has been canceled due to permanent disability, you can regain eligibility for federal grants and loans. You must get a signed statement from the doctor indicating that your condition has improved sufficiently to work and attend school. You must also acknowledge that future federal loans cannot be canceled based on any disability present when the new loan is made unless the disability gets significantly worse.

For more detailed information on all of your student loan options, including repayment and consolidation, please visit Edfund at www.edfund.org

Emergency Book Loans

Emergency book loan applications are available in the Financial Aid Office beginning the first day of class each semester. Emergency loans are reserved for books only. No cash loans are available. Applicants must be enrolled in a minimum of 6 units during the Fall or Spring Semesters or 4 units during the Summer Session and must have a current Driver's License or California I. D.

You may receive one book loan each semester and the amount is determined by your current enrollment status at the time of the loan. A maximum of \$150 may be borrowed for Full-Time students; \$100 for Three-Quarter Time students; and \$75 for Half-Time students. Only one loan of \$50 may be borrowed during the Summer Session and the student must be planning to enroll for Fall Semester. Loans must be paid within 30 days.

All applicants must have a co-signer who will guarantee repayment. The co-signer must be over 21; must be employed full-time (not receiving Financial Aid); must have a current local address, phone number, social security number and driver's

license number; and cannot be living at the same address as the applicant (parent, guardian, spouse or friend). The Financial Aid Office must be able to contact the co-signer at work and/or at home to verify employment and signature.

Full-time employees of Cuyamaca College are not eligible for emergency book loans. Students who have received Financial Aid funds are not eligible for emergency book loans for 15 days after receipt of funds.

Note: This loan program is made possible through the generous donations of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District Foundation, Associated Students of Cuyamaca College, the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Alumni Association, Cuyamaca College Faculty, and the Rancho San Diego/Spring Valley Rotary Club.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

[\(BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS\)](#)

Satisfactory academic progress is defined as the normal length of time for you to complete an educational objective. To receive financial aid, your educational objective must be an Associate's Degree, Certificate, or Transfer to a four-year university. When you apply for financial aid, we must review your entire academic record and determine whether you have made satisfactory progress. The following will outline our Satisfactory Academic Progress policy.

Satisfactory Academic Progress—General

1. You will be expected to complete your educational objective by the time you have completed 71 units or attempted 90 units, whichever occurs first. This includes changes in majors and all units completed at all other schools.

Generally, this unit maximum is enough to provide financial aid for one educational objective rather than multiple objectives. Students who have a goal of transfer to a four-year university and a goal of an Associates degree generally will be unable to meet both objectives within the unit limit.

Once you complete your educational objective, you will not be eligible to receive any more financial aid at Cuyamaca College (except for the BOGW and scholarships).

2. You must complete the following number of units each semester based on your enrollment status or the number of units attempted:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| a) Full-time (12+ units) | at least 9 units each semester. |
| b) Three-quarter-time (9-11.5 units) | at least 7 units each semester. |
| c) Half-time (6-8.5 units) | at least 5 units each semester. |
| d) Less than half-time (0.5-5.5 units) | at least 0.5 units each semester. |

3. You must maintain a semester and an overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher.

Review Policy—General

1. The following will be considered as units attempted and completed:

- a) "A" through "D" grades.
- b) "CR" or "P" passing with credit.

2. The following marks will be considered units attempted, but not completed:

- a) "F" grade
- b) "W" - withdrawal
- c) "I" - incomplete
- d) "NC" or "NP" - no credit

3. Courses that are repeated in which you previously received a grade of "C" or better or an Incomplete are not acceptable for financial aid purposes.

4. The following will also be considered as units attempted

- a) All repeated classes
- b) All courses listed under "Academic Renewal"

Review Policy—Not On Aid

If you did not receive financial aid during the previous academic year, we will review your entire academic record at Cuyamaca College as well as work transferred in from other colleges.

Satisfactory academic progress will not be assessed until you have attempted 12 units. This includes coursework transferred into Cuyamaca College.

The overall number of units completed will be compared to the overall number of units attempted. If you are deficient by 12 or more units, you will be required to petition for lack of progress. If your overall GPA is less than 2.0, you must petition because of a low GPA.

Review Policy—On Aid

1. Your GPA and number of units completed will be checked at the end of each semester.
2. If you pass at least seven units for full time, or five units for three-quarter time or half time, but less than the required number of units based on your enrollment status in the fall semester, you will be placed on probation for one semester and continue to receive financial aid.
3. If you are placed on academic probation, you must make satisfactory academic progress on your probation semester, or your financial aid will be terminated.
4. If you are deficient in units, you are required to make satisfactory academic progress for the following semester.
5. If your semester and/or overall college GPA falls below 2.0, you will be required to submit a petition to be considered for further financial aid.
6. Summer session may be used to make-up deficient units for the **Fall 2009 and/or Spring 2010** semester. However, if you receive financial aid in the Summer session, you must complete 80% of all units attempted with a minimum 2.0 GPA to meet satisfactory academic progress for the Summer session.
7. If you do not make satisfactory academic progress in the previous Fall or Spring semesters, you will not be eligible for financial aid for the Summer.
8. For ACG continued eligibility only – You must successfully complete your course load in your ACG eligible program with a minimum 3.0 GPA to maintain eligibility for the upcoming academic year. There is no petition process to regain ACG eligibility.

Petition Procedures

1. If there are extenuating circumstances, you may submit a petition to the Financial Aid Office indicating:
 - a) Why you did not complete the minimum number of units, maintain a 2.0 GPA, or exceeded the 71 units completed or 90 units attempted limit.
 - b) What steps you will take to improve your academic status (only for petitions for lack of completed units and/or low GPA).
2. You must support the petition with appropriate documentation.
3. You will receive written notification of the decision.
4. If you must petition because of lack of satisfactory progress, you are not eligible for retroactive awards if the petition is approved.

Conditions for Reinstatement After Petition has been Disapproved for Lack of Progress

You may regain eligibility for financial aid after disqualification and denial of petition by completing a minimum number of units (5-12) with a 2.0 or better GPA as established by the petitions committee without receiving financial aid. However, your petition must still be approved.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

A student enrolled in our ESL program must take the CELSA test for assessment of student's ESL class level. To receive financial aid while in our ESL program, you must be enrolled in the correct class level tested or above. You will not be eligible for financial aid if you take classes below the level tested. Students scoring 21 or below, will be referred to either an adult school or to college readiness class. The following is a chart showing the courses you should be enrolled in versus the CELSA test score:

CELSA

Score	Level	Classes for particular level
22-39	One	ESL 096, ESL 097, ESL 099A
40-52	Two	ESL 100, ESL 101, ESL 099B
53-65	Three	ESL 103, ESL 104
66-75	Four	ESL 106

70-75 may be recommended to take English placement test.

Example: If CELSA score is a 40, in order to be considered for financial aid, you must enroll in Level 2 ESL classes (ESL100, ESL101, or ESL99B) or higher. You will not be eligible for financial aid if you attempt Level 1 ESL classes (ESL96, ESL97, or ESL99A).

You will not be funded for courses attempted in a descending sequence. For example, if you have already passed ESL 103 and take ESL 100 the next semester, you will not receive financial aid for the ESL 100 class. You are allowed a maximum of 35 units of ESL for financial aid purposes. ESL courses that apply to your declared major and educational objective will count as regular units towards the unit maximum.

To take the CELSA test, contact the Assessment Center at (619)660-4426 or www.cuyamaca.edu/counseling/Assessment.asp

WITHDRAWALS AND REPAYMENT OF FINANCIAL AID FUNDS

[\(BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS\)](#)

If you receive federal financial aid and ***withdraw from all of their classes during the first 60% of a term***, you may be required to repay a portion of the federal grants that you have received but not earned. Financial aid is said to be “earned” each day that you are enrolled in the semester.

If you stay in classes past the 60% of the term you will not owe anything back to the federal government. For the **Fall of 2009**, students must be enrolled and attend classes until **11/04/2009** to be eligible for all the financial aid received. If all classes are dropped before **11/04/2009** you may be billed for a portion of the Pell Grant, ACG, and/or FSEOG received in the Fall. For the **Spring of 2010**, you must be enrolled and attend classes until **04/14/2010** to be eligible for all the financial aid received. If all classes are dropped before **04/14/2010** you may be billed for a portion of the Pell Grant, ACG and/or FSEOG received in the Spring.

Please Note: *If you fail all classes in a term, you will have only earned 50% of the Pell, ACG and/or SEOG received and will be billed for the amount not earned. This rule applies even if you were enrolled in classes for the whole term.*

If required to repay funds to the federal government, you will be billed and will have 45 days to repay the funds in full. You will not be eligible for any further financial aid at any college in the United States until the funds have been repaid in full.

OVERPAYMENTS

You will be considered to have received an overpayment of federal funds if:

- Payments are made to you and you already have a Bachelor’s degree (or the equivalent from another country) – for Federal Grants only.
- Payments are made to you based on incorrect information on your financial aid application.
- Payments are made to you after you are no longer enrolled in the required number of units.
- Payments are made to you, but you drop all of your classes.
- Payments are made to you while you are in default on a student loan or you owe a refund on a federal grant.
- Payments are made to you when you receive financial aid from Cuyamaca College and from another institution.

If you have an overpayment or are repaying an overpayment, you will not be eligible for any federal aid at any school until the amount you owe is repaid.

YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

[\(BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS\)](#)

Education after high school requires time, money and effort. It is a big investment. As a student and a consumer you should carefully evaluate all education or training options. To help make a good choice, you should have information about a school's academic programs, facilities, graduation rates, full cost of attendance, refund policy, financial aid programs, and other information you think will help in making a decision. Get good answers before making a commitment.

As a financial aid recipient, it is your right to ask:

- What it costs to attend, and what the policy is on refunds for students who drop out.
- How the school determines whether students are making satisfactory academic progress, and what happens if they are not.
- What financial help is available, including information on all federal, state, and school financial aid programs.
- About the deadlines for submitting applications for each of the financial aid programs available and what criteria is used to select financial aid recipients.
- How individual financial need is determined. This process includes how costs for tuition and fees, room and board, transportation, books and supplies, personal and miscellaneous expenses, etc., are considered in your budget.
- What resources are considered in the need calculation, (such as parental contribution, other financial aid, personal assets, etc.), and how much of your financial need, as determined by the school, is met.
- To explain the various programs in your student aid package. If you believe you have been treated unfairly, you may request reconsideration of the award.
- How much of your financial aid must be repaid, and what portion is grant aid. You have the right to know what the student loan interest rate is, the total amount that must be repaid, payback procedures, when repayment is to begin and how long you have to repay.
- How to apply for additional aid if your financial circumstances change.

As a financial aid recipient, it is your responsibility to:

- Review and consider all information about a school's program before enrolling.
- Complete the financial aid application accurately and submit it on time to the appropriate processor. Errors delay the processing of your financial aid application. Intentional misrepresentation on an application for federal financial aid is a violation of law and a criminal offense subject to penalties.
- Respond promptly and return all requested additional documentation, verification, corrections, and/or new information to the appropriate agency.
- Read, understand and keep copies of all forms and agreements that you sign.
- If you have a loan, notify the school and lender of changes in your name, permanent mailing address, marital status, or enrollment status.
- Perform in a satisfactory manner the work that is agreed upon in accepting a Federal Work-Study award.
- Know and comply with the deadlines for application or reapplication for aid, and with the school's refund procedures.
- Report the receipt of all resources not considered in evaluating your eligibility.
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress according to the school's policies and standards.
- If you have a loan, attend exit loan counseling before you leave school or drop below half-time enrollment

MISCELLANEOUS

[\(BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS\)](#)

Drug Abuse Prevention Program

The Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol by students on district property or at any District sponsored or sanctioned activity.

Any student or employee in violation of this policy is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the District or termination of employment. The decision to take disciplinary action in any instance rests with the Governing Board after consideration of recommendations made by the site administrator and advisory panel.

The possession, use or sale of alcoholic beverages by anyone on District property is a violation of the California Business and Professions Code 25608, as well as the Student code of Conduct. The possession, use or sale of any illegal drug is a violation of state law and any person found in violation may be subject to arrest by federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities. Criminal prosecution is separate from any administrative discipline that may be imposed by the District.

The Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College Governing Board has adopted policies regarding the possession and use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, narcotics and other substances. In addition, the Board, through its powers of governance, actively encourages and supports College and District Administrators in their planning and implementation of the following activities all of which are designed to discourage and/or prevent substance abuse among all officers, employees, students, and citizens within the District. In furtherance of these policies the Board provides:

1. Individual Counseling - The Grossmont College and Cuyamaca College Counseling Centers are staffed with professional counselors trained in analyzing the personal problems of students and staff, as well as in assisting them in their educational and career planning.
2. Referral to Community Resources - Many of the community service centers operating in San Diego County have been researched by District staff. A listing of substance abuse service agencies has been compiled and is available for distribution to students and staff. Agencies were selected based upon target clientele, services offered, fees charged, and proximity to the college campus.
3. Availability of Substance Abuse Information - Information on substance abuse is available on campus as follows:
 - a) Films, literature, and speakers on drug abuse are held during College Hour and at the Health and Wellness Center.
 - b) Drug "hot line" number 1-(800) 827-5596.
 - c) Posters about substance abuse are placed in selected locations and rotated periodically.
 - d) Alcoholic Anonymous Central Office and the 12 steps - phone number (619) 265-8762.
 - e) Crisis Prevention Nationwide referral "hot line" number 1-(800) 662-4357.
 - f) Cuyamaca College Crisis Response Procedures
 1. -Person in Crisis - Call Public Safety 644-7654 initial responders
 2. -Switchboard Help - Public Safety Officer 644-7654 - Health and Wellness Center 660-4200 - Administrator on Duty 660-4000 - Assistant Dean of Student Affairs 660-4295
 3. -In any case where a weapon is involved, PUBLIC SAFETY will take the lead.
 4. -Public Phones on Cuyamaca College Campus Dial #1 for Public Safety or 911 or use Blue Emergency Call Boxes at various locations on campus.
 5. WHEN YOU CALL PUBLIC SAFETY, DON'T HANG UP – STAY ON THE LINE AND PROVIDE ALL INFORMATION REQUESTED.
4. Courses That Include Substance Abuse Issues
HED 110, Essentials of Personal and Community Health or Biology 115, Biology of Alcohol and other Drugs

IMPORTANT WEBSITES AND PHONE NUMBERS

[\(BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS\)](#)

California State Aid (Cal Grant, Chafee, Child Development Grant)- www.csac.ca.gov/ (888-224-7268)

Cuyamaca College Financial Aid- www.cuyamaca.edu/finaid (619-660-4201)

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)- www.fafsa.ed.gov (800-433-3243)

Federal Student Aid (Grants, Loans)- www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov (800-433-3243)

Cuyamaca College EOPS- www.cuyamaca.edu/eops (619-660-4204)

Cuyamaca College CARE- www.cuyamaca.edu/eops/CARE.asp (619-660-4204)

Cuyamaca College Career Center- www.cuyamaca.edu/careerserv (619-660-4436)

Cuyamaca College Scholarship Specialist- www.cuyamaca.edu/scholarships/default.asp (619-660-4537)

Cuyamaca College Assessment- www.cuyamaca.edu/counseling/Assessment.asp (619-660-4426)

Cuyamaca College Community Learning (Registration for traditional Financial Aid & Academic Planning class)-(619-660-4350)

NOTE: Care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of information contained in this publication. The information, is however, subject to change.