

SIERRA COLLEGE 2012-2013 CAL GRANT INSTRUCTIONS

APPLICATION DEADLINE – MARCH 2, 2012

The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) requires two things before they can determine your eligibility for a **NEW** 2012-2013 Cal Grant: (1) CSAC needs your GPA, and (2) you must submit your 2012-2013 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA – www.fafsa.ed.gov) to the federal processor. **Both must be electronically submitted or postmarked no later than Friday, March 2, 2012.** GPAs must go directly to CSAC. FAFSAs go directly to the federal processor.

To find out how to have your GPA sent to CSAC, read the following instructions.

A. If you meet both of the following conditions:

1. Attended Sierra College at least one semester since Fall 2005, *and*
2. Completed at least 24 "degree credit" units at Sierra College prior to Spring 2012, then Sierra College will electronically submit your Sierra GPA to CSAC by February 24, 2012. If you are not sure how many "degree credit" units you have completed at Sierra, check with your counselor. (If you meet both conditions 1 and 2 above, go to www.webgrants4students.org after February 24 and set up a student account with CSAC to view your GPA.)

B. If you have completed at least 16 but less than 24 "degree credit" units at Sierra, ask your high school to submit your high school GPA. (Sierra College will also electronically submit your Sierra GPA if you have completed at least 16 but less than 24 "degree credit" units at Sierra College. To find out how many "degree credit" units you have completed at Sierra, check with your counselor.)

C. If you have attended other college(s) and want those "degree credit" units/grades included in your GPA calculation for the March 2nd deadline AND you have received final grades for 12 or more units at Sierra College, go to <http://www.csac.ca.gov> to print a Cal Grant GPA Verification Form, and then do the following:

1. Request official transcripts from your previous colleges (if you have not already given them to the Records Office). When you receive your transcripts, do not open them.
2. Turn in your unopened transcripts (if not already done), the Cal Grant GPA Verification Form, and a Sierra Transfer Credit Request Form to the Records Office. Forms are available at the Sierra College Rocklin and Nevada County Campus Records Offices.
3. All forms must be turned in to the Rocklin or Nevada County Campus Records Office beginning **Wednesday, February 1, through Thursday, February 16, 2012.** Do not turn in your Forms before or after these dates.
4. Allow five business days for processing, and then come to the Rocklin Campus Records Office to pick up your completed GPA Verification Form (NCC Office if you submitted your form at NCC). Forms must be picked up no later than 12 noon, Friday, February 24, 2012.
5. After you pick up your completed GPA Verification Form, mail it to the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) by March 2nd. The address is on the form.

D. If you have completed 0 to 15.5 "degree credit" college units, ask your high school to submit your high school GPA to CSAC. **If your GPA is more than 5 years old,** you may choose to submit test results (read "F" below) or you may choose to have your high school GPA submitted.

E. If you do not have a GPA, you did not attend an accredited high school, or you were home-schooled, you may submit the official results of the SAT Reasoning Test, the ACT, or GED test. Follow the instructions on the Cal Grant GPA Verification Form, and submit the GPA Verification Form with a photocopy of the test score results to CSAC.

F. If you already have a Cal Grant and want to renew it, you must complete a 2012-2013 FAFSA. **Do not** fill out a Cal Grant GPA Verification Form.

If you miss the March 2nd Cal Grant deadline, you should still submit your 2012-2013 FAFSA so you can be considered for federal financial aid (<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>). For more Cal Grant information, check CSAC's web site at www.csac.ca.gov.