

FINANCIAL AID CHECKLIST



OCTOBER

Apply for Financial Aid by March 2nd

- ☐ Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
www.studentaid.gov
Complete the FAFSA if you are a U.S. Citizen or Eligible Non-Citizen (refer to FAFSA application for eligibility requirements for non-citizens).

OR

- ☐ California Dream Act Application (CADAA):
<http://dream.csac.ca.gov>
Available to students who meet Assembly Bill 540 (AB540) requirements. For eligibility requirements visit the CA Dream website.
*COS Federal School Code is 001186
- ☐ Review Student Aid Report (SAR)
Review your FAFSA or CADAA SAR to confirm your information was processed and submitted accurately.

Cal Grant Information

- ☐ Create a WebGrants 4 Students account
<https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/>
View updates, make changes to information, and monitor Cal Grant eligibility.

*Note: The first school listed on your FAFSA/CADAA application will receive your Cal Grant information. It is your responsibility to update the school of attendance via your WebGrants account in order for the institution to receive your information.

- ☐ GPA Verification
Confirm with CSAC that your GPA was certified by the High School or Community College by March 2nd.

Scholarship Information

- ☐ Apply for COS Scholarships between October and November
Incoming COS students go to cos.edu/scholarships, click on COS Scholarship Application, Prospective Students. Continuing Students log on to your MyGiant and click on Foundation Scholarships.

JANUARY 31ST

COS Priority Date

Students who submit all required verification documents by this date will have Priority Consideration for various programs and grants such as Federal Work Study, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), etc.

MARCH 2ND

Important Deadlines

- ☐ FAFSA or CADAA Application Deadline
- ☐ Cal Grant Application Deadline

Contact the Financial Aid Office:

Visalia (559) 730-3747
Hanford (559) 583-2500
Tulare (559) 688-3000
financialaid@cos.edu
cos.edu/financialaid

APRIL - JULY

Your Financial Aid Award

- ☐ **Review your "Financial Aid Status"**
Monitor your COS MyGiant account regularly to view your "Financial Aid Status" for any documents required to complete your financial aid file. Log in to your MyGiant (click on Banner Web, Financial Aid, Eligibility, Aid Year) to view any unsatisfied requirements. All items must be submitted as soon as possible to avoid delays in receiving your aid.
- ☐ **Verification**
If you are selected for verification, you are responsible to submit the required documentation. Failure to submit documents may result in a delay of your financial aid awards.
- ☐ **Award Notifications**
Award notifications will be sent to your COS email address based on your FAFSA or CADAA eligibility. Awards will reflect your eligibility for grants. Award notifications are emailed to your COS email address after all documentation has been received, processed and evaluated.

AUGUST

Financial Aid Disbursement

- ☐ Initial financial aid disbursement occurs 3 days prior to the start of each semester.
- ☐ Financial Aid is offered based on full-time (12+ units) enrollment. If, at the time of disbursement, you are enrolled below full-time status, financial aid will be prorated based on your units enrolled. You must be enrolled in a minimum of 6 units for loans and Cal Grants to disburse. (To graduate in 2 years you must complete 15 units each semester or 30 units per year)
- ☐ Upon disbursement of financial aid, the Cashier's Office credits the aid toward your enrollment fees. You are responsible to view your student account for any account balances owed. If there is a remaining balance after financial aid is disbursed, you are responsible to pay that balance. Failure to pay your outstanding balance could result in disenrollment or holds on your student account.
- ☐ For questions regarding enrollment fees and balances, please contact the Cashier's Office at 559-730-3956.

Financial Aid Office Locations:

Vocational Building, The Hub

925 N. 13th Ave | Hanford, CA 93230
559-583-2500

Building A, Student Services

4999 E. Bardsley Ave | Tulare, CA 93274
559-688-3000

Sequoia Building, Room 105

915 S. Mooney Blvd | Visalia, CA 93277
559-730-3747



IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

Fall semester enrollment fees are due by **July 1st** or within 2 weeks of registration. Failure to pay for enrollment fees may result in being dropped from your classes. Students who have completed a FAFSA/CADAA will have additional time to pay enrollment fees while financial aid eligibility is being calculated.

You must maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA and 67% cumulative PACE each semester to stay in Good Academic Status with Financial Aid. Go to cos.edu/FARules to read more on the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy.

Visit the Student Support Directory for additional campus resources: cos.edu/en-us/student-support-directory.