Dream Act

The California Dream Act became law through the passage of two Assembly Bills, AB 130 and AB 131.

AB 130 allows students who meet AB 540 criteria (California Education Code 68130.5(a)) to apply for and receive non-state funded scholarships for public colleges and universities.

AB 131 allows students who meet AB 540 criteria to apply for and receive state-funded financial aid such as institutional grants, community college fee waivers, Cal Grant and Chafee Grant.

AB 131 was effective January 1, 2013.

For more information about the types of financial aid Dream Act students can access, the complete application Instructions, and the Dream Act Application are available online at: www.caldreamact.org

Direct Loan Limitations

Effective July 1, 2013, first time borrowers or borrowers who paid off their balance in full prior to receiving loans after July 1, 2013, are eligible for Direct Subsidized Loans for up to 150% of the published length of his/her program of study.

Maximum Eligibility Example:
- 2 - year Associate’s Degree
  \[2 \times 1.5 = 3 \text{ years of eligibility}\]

- 2 - year Certificate Program
  \[2 \times 1.5 = 3 \text{ years of eligibility}\]

- 1 - year Certificate Program

Fraud Prevention

West Valley College must refer to the Department’s Office of Inspector General (OIG) any credible information indicating that an applicant for Federal Student Aid may have engaged in fraud or other criminal misconduct in connection with his or her application.

Common misconduct includes:
- False claims of independent student status
- False claims of not earning a Bachelor’s Degree
- False claims of citizenship
- Use of false identities
- Forgery of signatures of certifications
- False statements of income

Remember that fraud is the intent to deceive as opposed to a mistake. WVC may ask students to provide documentation to the financial aid office verifying students’ identity in person by presenting a valid government-issued photo identification (ID) and by certifying that the federal student financial assistance will only be used for educational purposes to pay the cost of attending West Valley College for 2013-2014.
Calendar

**Fall 2013**
- August 26 - 1st Pell Grant disbursement.
- September 20 - 1st Loan disbursement.
- October 11 - 1st Cal Grant disbursement. This disbursement is 50% of the yearly Cal Grant eligibility.
- November 1 - 2nd Pell Grant and Loan disbursement.
- November 5 - Last date to turn in a Financial Aid Appeal Packet or request loans for Fall 2013. No Exceptions.

**Spring 2014**
- January 27 - 1st Pell Grant and Loan disbursement.
- February 14 - 2nd Cal Grant disbursement. This disbursement is the remaining 50% of the yearly Cal Grant eligibility.
- March 28 - 2nd Pell Grants and Loans disbursement.
- April 8 - Last date to turn in a Financial Aid Appeal Packet or request loans for Spring 2014. No Exceptions.
- May 1 - Last date to turn in all Financial Aid documents to complete a Financial Aid file in order to receive payment on June 13.
- May 23 - Last Date to turn in a Board of Governor’s Fee Waiver (BOGW) for the 2013-14 academic year.

**Summer 2014**
- June 27 - Pell Grant disbursement.
- July 8 - Last date to turn in a Financial Aid Appeal Packet for Summer 2014.

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**Keys to Disbursement:**

Pell Grant and Loans will be divided into four disbursements per year, two disbursements in the Fall semester in increments of 50% and two disbursements in the Spring Semester in increments of 50%.

- Disbursements are issued to students with a completed financial aid file and eligibility has been confirmed with an “Official Award Notification” email.
- Disbursements of Pell Grant are issued to student who are enrolled.
- Students receiving Loans and Cal Grant must be enrolled in at least 6 units to receive the disbursement.
- Students on Financial Aid Disqualification are not eligible for payment.
- Disbursements are issued on the HigherOne Debit Card or ACH processing.

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**Ability to Benefit (ATB)**

Effective July 1, 2012, new students who are enrolling in a program of study must have a High School Diploma or its equivalent in order to be eligible for financial aid. Students who completed a home schooling curriculum are considered to have received a High School Diploma or its equivalent. You will no longer have the option of becoming eligible for federal student aid by passing an approved Ability to Benefit test or completing at least six credit hours of post-secondary education.

However, students who were enrolled in an eligible educational program of study or qualified for financial aid (prior to the July 1, 2012) by passing the ATB test or completing 6 credit hours will continue to be eligible for aid due to a grandfathering clause.