



ADMINISTRATIVE

PROCEDURE

DESERT COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

5130

FINANCIAL AID

College of the Desert offers a variety of financial aid programs including scholarships, grants, and work-study programs. These funds are intended to assist students with educational costs, such as enrollment fees, books, supplies, food, housing, transportation, and personal expenses.

The Financial Aid Office is dedicated to supporting students who may not be able to pursue higher education without financial assistance. While the primary responsibility for funding a college education rests with the student and their family, many families have limited resources and cannot fully meet these expenses. The financial aid programs at College of the Desert are designed to bridge this gap and ensure that higher education remains accessible to all qualified students.

The Financial Aid programs offered at College of the Desert may include, but are not limited to:

- Federal Pell Grants
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
- Cal Grants -
- Chafee Grant
- California College Promise Grant (formerly known as the BOG Fee Waiver)
- Federal Work-Study and Alumni Work-Study
- Scholarships (COD Foundation and outside donors)
- CalWORKS
- Student Success Completion Grant (SSCG)
- Federal Direct Student Loan Program
- California Dream Act Service Incentive Grant (DSIG)

Application Procedures and Deadlines:

Financial Aid application procedures and specific financial aid deadlines are updated annually and published on the Financial Aid webpage.

Student Eligibility:

To be eligible for specific state and federal financial aid, an individual must be enrolled as a regular student in an eligible program. A regular student is defined as a person who enrolls for the purpose of obtaining a degree or certificate; or is enrolled in a transfer program offered by the institution. The student must:

- Declare an educational goal at the Admissions and Records Office and be taking courses towards an Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) degree, Certificate of Achievement, or a transfer program;

- Have a high school diploma, GED, pass the California Proficiency Exam, or pass an Ability-to-Benefit (ATB) test that has been approved by the U.S. Department of Education prior to July 1, 2012;
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen for federal aid;
- Meet AB 540 criteria for state aid;
- Not owe a refund on any grant received at any institution or be in default on any educational student loan, such as the Perkins Loan or Stafford Loan; and
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) as described in the Financial Aid Office's Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements as listed in the office's website and on the Financial Aid Information Page mailed to all financial aid students.

Payment Procedures:

Disbursement information is updated annually and listed on the Financial Aid webpage.

Overpayment Recovery:

Repayment/Return of Title IV Funds (R2T4) Policy

In accordance with federal regulations, students who receive federal financial aid and withdraw from or receive FW grades in all of their classes for the semester may be required to repay any unearned grant funds they have received. Students who drop or withdraw from a portion of their classes may have an adjustment made to their disbursement or may be required to repay a portion or the entire grant(s). All money received in the form of Pell Grants and/or Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG) will be subject to repayment requirements. The amount will be calculated by the College using the formula specified by federal government. Funds are returned to the appropriate federal program based on the percentage of unearned aid using the Federal formula.

Accounting Requirements:

The District ensures internal checks and balances by separating the functions of authorizing payment and disbursing or delivering funds so that no single person or office exercises both functions of any student receiving Federal Student Aid (FSA) funds or State funds.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP):

The Satisfactory Academic Progress policy is available on our website:

<https://www.collegeofthedesert.edu/students/fin-aid/academic-progress.php>

Misrepresentation:

Misrepresentation is defined as any false, erroneous, or misleading statement that the District, a representative of the District, or a service provider with which the District has contracted to provide educational programs, marketing, advertising, recruiting, or admissions services, makes directly or indirectly to a student, prospective student, a member of the public, an accrediting agency, a state agency, or the United States Department of Education.

A misleading statement includes any statement that has the likelihood or tendency to deceive or confuse. If a person to whom the misrepresentation was made could reasonably be expected to rely, or has reasonably relied, on the misrepresentation, the misrepresentation would be substantial.

This procedure does not apply to statements by students through social media outlets or by vendors that are not providing covered services, as reflected herein.

Waiver)

A student shall become ineligible for a California College Promise Grant if the student is placed on academic or progress probation, or any combination thereof, for two consecutive primary terms. Loss of eligibility shall become effective at the first registration opportunity after such determination is made.

The District shall notify students of their placement on academic or progress probation no later than thirty days following the end of the term that resulted in the student's placement on probation. The notification must clearly state that two consecutive primary terms of probation will lead to a loss of the California College Promise Grant until the student is no longer on probation. The notification must also advise students about the available student support services to assist them in maintaining eligibility.

The District shall adopt, prominently display, and disseminate policies ensuring that students are advised about the student support services available to assist them in maintaining and reestablishing California College Promise Grant eligibility. Dissemination includes, but is not limited to, information provided in college catalogs and class schedules.

The District shall establish written procedures by which a student may appeal the loss of a California College Promise Grant due to extenuating circumstances, or when a student with a disability applied for, but did not receive, a reasonable accommodation in a timely manner. Extenuating circumstances are verified cases of accidents, illnesses, or other circumstances that might include documented changes in the student's economic situation or evidence that the student was unable to obtain essential student support services. Extenuating circumstances also includes special consideration of the specific factors associated with Veterans, CalWORKs, EOPS, and DSPS student status.

Foster Youth shall not be subject to loss of California College Promise Grant due to placement on academic or progress probation. This exemption for Foster Youth is effective until the date specified in Education Code section 66025.9 subdivision (c).

Students Enrolled in a Baccalaureate Degree Program

Students enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program who wish to apply for a California College Promise Grant (CCPG) waiver must submit either a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a California Dream Act application in lieu of completing the Board of Governors Fee Waiver application.

Scholarship Displacement

The District shall not reduce the institutional gift aid offer of a student who is eligible to receive a federal Pell Grant award, a Cal Grant award, or financial assistance under the California Dream Act for an academic year as a result of private scholarship awards designated for the student unless the student's gift aid exceeds the student's annual cost of attendance. The District may reduce the institutional gift aid offer of a student who is eligible to receive a federal Pell Grant award, a Cal Grant award, or financial assistance under the California Dream Act by no more than the amount of the student's gift aid that is in excess of the student's annual cost of attendance. The District shall not consider receipt or anticipated receipt of private scholarships when considering a student who is eligible to receive a federal Pell Grant award, a Cal Grant award, or financial assistance under the California Dream Act for qualification for institutional gift aid.

References:

Education Code Sections 66021.3, 66021.6, 66025.9, 69432.7, 69514, 70045 et seq., 76300,

78042, and 94912.5;
Title 5 Sections 55031, 58600 et seq.;
20 U.S. Code Sections 1070 et seq.;
34 Code of Federal Regulations Part 668 (U.S. Department of Education regulations on the Integrity of Federal Student Financial Aid Programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended);
ACCJC Accreditation Standard 3

Administrator: VP Student Services
Board of Trustees Review: June 16, 2016
Board Meeting/Information Item: May 19, 2017
Executive Cabinet Review/Approval: March 3, 2026
College Planning Council Review/Approval, 1st Reading: March 13, 2026
College Planning Council Review/Approval, 2nd Reading: April 10, 2026
Board Meeting/Information Item: May 15, 2026
Next Review: 2027-2028