Financing Your Education

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE
Best Value in Higher Education

California State University, East Bay offers a strong academic course of study and a real-world curriculum that prepares you for a lifetime of personal achievement and career success — all at a price so affordable it may surprise you. Our costs are not much higher, in fact, than those of community colleges for California residents. Yet the academic experience, depth, and breadth we offer are exponentially greater. As a result, Cal State East Bay tops the index for value and affordability with among the lowest fees in the nation for comparable institutions and is widely regarded as a best value in public university education.

• If you’re considering pursuing your bachelor’s degree from an independent private college or certification from an independent occupational school, you’re likely facing a $30,000 - $40,000 annual price tag. The obvious question arises: Is it worth it? While that can be difficult to answer, we can say with confidence that the academic rigor of our curriculum and our distinctively personalized learning environment compare favorably with many private universities and colleges — but without the high price. We offer all the advantages of a career-focused, professional education — plus the bonus of a California State University degree that’s recognized and respected around the globe — at a far more affordable price.

How do you evaluate the advantages of a Cal State East Bay education?

Begin by comparing our costs and value.

Without a doubt, I could not have considered college, much less completed my degree, had it not been for financial aid. I’ve made my family proud and have been an inspiration to my peers.

Amy Hill, B.S.,
Business Administration

Even with our remarkable affordability, we recognize that a Cal State East Bay education is still a significant financial commitment. That’s why we’re ready to assist you with the resources you need to help make your college goals achievable. In fact, each year, we award nearly $70 million of financial assistance to our students. In addition to federal and state grants, loans, and Work-Study programs, we offer our own University employment opportunities, as well as merit-based scholarships — many given through academic departments. 

We encourage you to apply for financial aid. Even if you don’t qualify for need-based grants, you’ll still qualify for a low-interest student loan. And at Cal State East Bay, even the smallest Stafford Loan (requiring no principal repayment until after you’ve completed your full-time course of study) will cover almost all of your fees. Our average financial aid package for freshmen in 2008-09 was $8,660, and our average financial aid package for all full-time undergraduates was $9,626. As you can see, that’s approximately half of the total college costs for an academic year. 

At Cal State East Bay, we’re committed to doing all we can to ensure that cost doesn’t stand between you and high-quality higher education. All you have to do is apply!
Three Ways to Fund Your Education

Grants are funds given to a student to pay educational expenses that require no obligation to repay. Loans are funds a student or parent borrows to help meet educational expenses that do require repayment. Work-Study is financial aid a student earns by working.

Cal Grants
Cal Grant “A” pays the state university fee for eligible undergraduates and for some teacher credential students.

- Cal Grant “B” provides access funds (supplemental living expenses) for new undergraduate recipients and access plus state university fee payment for eligible continuing and some teacher credential students. All graduating high school seniors with a minimum GPA of 2.0, who meet the Cal grant financial aid eligibility requirement and apply on time, are guaranteed a Cal grant “B” Entitlement award. At Cal State East Bay, Cal grant “B” provides $1,551 (2009-10) for freshmen and, if renewed, can also pay the state university fee of $4,026 (2009-10) per year during years two through four.

- New Cal Grant applicants must complete both the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and a Grade Point Average (GPA) Verification Form. The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) must receive GPA verifications for new Cal grant “A” and “B” students by March 2nd.

California Community College Transfer Entitlement Cal Grant provides for high school students who graduated July 1, 2000 or after and go to a California Community College to receive a Cal Grant “A” award to attend a four-year college. You’re guaranteed an award if you have at least a 2.4 community college GPA, meet the admission requirements for the following four-year college, meet the Cal Grant eligibility and financial requirements, apply by March 2 of the award year, and are under age 24 as of December 31 of the award year. The Community College Transfer Entitlement Cal Grant GPA Verification form must be received by September 2. Students who received a Cal Grant within a year of graduating from high school are not eligible.
Federal Direct Loan Limits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Subsidized/Unsubsidized</th>
<th>*Additional Unsubsidized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sophomore</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Teacher Credential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>$8,500</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unclassified post-bac.</td>
<td>$7,500**</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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</tbody>
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*Independent students not required to submit parent information on the FAFSA.
**Unclassified post-baccalaureate students taking prerequisite coursework required for admission into a master’s program may borrow for 12 consecutive months.

Federal Student Loan Programs

The federal government sponsors loan programs that provide low-interest loans to students and parents borrowing to meet educational costs. In order to help you borrow responsibly, Cal State East Bay requires all new borrowers to complete loan counseling.

Federal Direct Subsidized & Unsubsidized Direct Loans

The Federal Direct Loan is a government-sponsored loan program. Students borrow from and repay the U.S. Department of Education.

- **Federal Direct Subsidized Loans:**
  The interest rate for this loan is 4.5% (2010-11). You may borrow these funds if you demonstrate financial need. In general, this means your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) must be less than the cost of attendance at Cal State East Bay. The amount you may borrow depends on your need and your grade level. No repayment is required and no interest accrues while you are in school at least half-time or during the six month grace period. Repayment of loan principal and interest begins six months after enrollment falls below half-time and is usually calculated over a maximum 10 year period. If you begin repayment, payment can be again deferred when you resume work toward your degree as a full-time or greater student or when you enter a teacher credential, graduate, or professional degree program. Interest does not accrue for this loan while you qualify for the in-school interest deferment.

- **Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan:**
  You may borrow this 6.8% fixed interest loan without demonstrating financial need. This loan is similar to the Federal Direct Subsidized Loan except borrowers are responsible for interest that begins to accrue at disbursement. While this loan may cover the entire cost of attendance, including EFC, the amount you may borrow depends on your grade level. Borrowers are required to begin repayment of loan principal six months after enrollment falls below half-time, and repayment is calculated over a maximum 10 year period.

Aggregate Limits

- $31,000—Dependent Undergraduates
- $57,500—Independent Undergraduates
- $138,500—Graduate Students (includes undergraduate limit)

Other Loans

- Federal Perkins Loan
- Federal PLUS (Parent) Loans
- Consolidation Loans

You must complete the FAFSA to apply for any type of financial aid.
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Off-Campus Scholarships
Search for off-campus scholarships by visiting www.csueastbay.edu/scholarships.
New scholarships are posted daily under the “Other Scholarship Opportunities” link. Also visit www.fastweb.com, a no-cost private scholarship search service.

Should I Pay for a Scholarship Search?
No. Many private organizations charge students for individual scholarship search and match services. With some effort, the same scholarship information can be obtained from schools, libraries, and from private sources, free-of-charge. We strongly discourage students from paying for any scholarship information.

Scholarships are funds awarded by various departments, organizations, and companies, usually awarded based on merit and/or need.

Financial Aid Scholarships
The Office of Financial Aid administers more than 20 departmental scholarships, with award amounts ranging from $500 to $5,000. Scholarship recipients are selected based on financial need and grade point average, ranging from a 2.0 minimum up to a 3.6 minimum. Applications are available online each February, and the application deadline is April 30th. Applicants must also complete the current year’s Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA must be submitted by March 2nd.

Department-Administered Scholarships
CSUEB offers scholarships through on-campus departments, including:
- Accounting
- Art
- Biological Sciences
- Business & Economics
- Chemistry
- Communication
- Geology
- History
- Human Development
- Kinesiology & Physical Education
- Math & Computer Science
- Modern Languages & Literature
- Music
- Nursing
- Physics
- Public Administration
- Sociology
- Statistics
- Teacher Education

Students should contact their major department for more information on department scholarship opportunities.

You must complete the FAFSA to apply for any type of financial aid.
Financial Aid Questions & Answers

How do I apply for aid?
File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.fafsa.ed.gov by March 2nd of each year. Be sure to list Cal State East Bay on your FAFSA as a recipient of your information. The Federal Central Processor will acknowledge your FAFSA with an electronic Student Aid Report (e-SAR). Always check your e-SAR for accuracy, making any corrections online directly with the Federal Central Processor. You may also use this process to add additional institutions to your application. CSUEB will respond to receipt of your information by issuing you a financial aid offer. Contact Cal State East Bay if you have any questions about the financial aid process.

What types of aid can I apply for with the FAFSA?
Grants — Gift awards with no obligation to repay
Loans — Borrowed funds requiring repayment
Employment — Federal Work-Study funds earned through student employment

With the exception of Cal Grants, scholarships, and direct loans, which require an additional form, submitting the FAFSA allows students to apply for grants, loans, and Work-Study opportunities at Cal State East Bay.

What happens after I receive my SAR?
After we receive your electronic FAFSA, we’ll mail you a financial aid offer letter. Your financial aid is not finalized until all requested documents are submitted.

How can I check the status of my FAFSA?
You may check your FAFSA status online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. After you have applied for admission to Cal State East Bay, you will receive information about your student identification number, which we refer to as your “NetID.” You may use your NetID to check your financial aid information online — along with other enrollment information — at my.csueastbay.edu.

How many units must I take to receive financial aid?
Your financial aid offer is based on full-time enrollment. If your enrollment plans change, or if you withdraw from classes or from a term, you must notify Financial Aid staff. You may be required to repay some or all aid you received.

How is my financial aid eligibility determined?
Financial aid is awarded based on financial need, grade level, and FAFSA filing dates. Financial need is the difference between the cost of attendance and the amount you and your family expect to contribute toward your education. Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is based on a standard federal formula applied to the information you provided on your FAFSA. Certain resources, such as fee waivers and scholarships, can reduce need.

How can I get the most financial aid available?
File the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1 and before the March 2 priority filing date. Apply for a Cal Grant, and submit your GPA Verification Form prior to March 2. Respond promptly to instructions and information requests from CSUEB.

What GPA do I have to maintain to keep my financial aid?
When you accept financial aid, you also accept responsibility to make satisfactory academic progress, which means a minimum GPA of 2.0 or a GPA consistent with Cal State East Bay’s graduation requirements.

Can my financial aid be applied to study abroad coursework?
Yes, if you’re participating in a Cal State East Bay-sponsored program, you may receive aid while you study abroad for up to 25% of your degree or program.

Important Dates & Deadlines

January 1
First date FAFSA can be filed

March 2
Priority date for filing FAFSA and deadline to file GPA Verification Form for Cal Grant applicants

June
Last Friday of Spring Term is CSUEB’s cut-off date for accepting FAFSA’s from the Central Processor for the financial aid year