

California Dream Loan Program: Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the Dream loan?

SB 1210 establishes the California DREAM Loan Program (CDLP) for purposes of extending loans to students who meet the requirements established by AB 540 and have financial need, and authorizes any campus of the UC/CSU to participate. It provides an additional financial aid resource not previously available to our dreamers. It is not designed to replace existing gift aid programs.

What are the eligibility requirements?

To be eligible you must:

- File Dream Application at www.dream.csac.ca.gov before the March 2 deadline
- Must be AB540 Eligible
- Must be Ineligible for Federal Student Aid
- Must Have financial need
- Does not already have aid up to Cost of Attendance

What are the AB 540 eligibility requirements?

Students must have attended a California high school for at least 3 years OR graduated early from a California high school with the equivalent of at least three years of credit*, AND graduated or will graduate from a California high school or passed the California High School Proficiency Examination(CHSPE) or obtained a Certificate of General Education Development (GED), AND will register or enroll in an accredited and qualifying California college or university, AND if applicable, complete(d) an affidavit to legalize immigration status as soon as eligible, AND do not hold a valid non immigrant visa (F, J, H, L, A, B, C, D, E, Etc.).

**If you graduated early from high school under this provision, you must also have attended CA schools (elementary and secondary) for a cumulative total of three or more years*

How do I apply?

For students interested in applying, you can accept your loan on your MyUCSC student portal. Once you have accepted your student loan, you will need to review the Truth & Lending (TILA) documents & E-sign the promissory note. You will receive an email notification from the Student Business Services Office when this piece is ready for you to complete.

How much can I borrow?

You can borrow up to \$4000 per year and an aggregate maximum of \$20,000 at any one institution. However, funding is limited, and we will not be offering the maximum loan amount to students in an effort to ensure equal access to the funds.

What is the interest rate?

The interest rate for this loan will mirrors that of the federal subsidized loan program which gets determined every year on July 1. To access the current interest rate visit:

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans/subsidized-unsubsidized>

When does repayment start?

Repayment begins 6 months after you graduate or after you cease to be enrolled in at least half-time.

What are my options if I can't afford to make a payment?

If you are having a hard time making a payment, you can contact the Student Business Services office to apply for deferment or forbearance to postpone or lower your monthly payments. Depending on your situation, the postponement period may vary.

If I decide to go to graduate school, am I required to continue making payments on my loan?

No. If you are going to be enrolled half-time or more in a degree seeking program, you can apply for deferment through the Student Business Services Office. They may require you to submit an enrollment verification.

If I have any other questions, who can I contact?

You can contact the UCSC Financial Aid Office at (831) 459-2963 or the Student Business Services Office at (831) 459-2963..