



brought to you by the California Community Colleges

## Complete Your Associate and Bachelor's Degrees in Only 120 Units



Yes, you read that right! Community college students can take advantage of a new program called the Associate Degree for Transfer, which provides you with **guaranteed** admission to the California State University system without taking wasted units that are not needed to transfer.

### WHAT IS AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE FOR TRANSFER?

The Associate Degree for Transfer (AA-T or AS-T) is a special program that makes it easier for students to transfer from the California Community Colleges to a California State University campus. Students who earn an AA-T or AS-T degree **and** meet the California State University minimum eligibility requirements are guaranteed admission to the California State University system.

### WHAT IS NEEDED TO GET AN AA-T or AS-T DEGREE?

Getting started with the AA-T or AS-T degree is easy, whether you are a high school student, already in college, or even if you are not! Here's how:

#### High School Students:

Once you enter high school, begin thinking about what you want to study in college, and explore the AA-T and AS-T programs available in majors that interest you. Talk to a school counselor, who can help make sure you're taking the right classes to prepare for college and can even connect you with a

community college counselor. High school students should also:

- Take college-track courses all through high school.
- Take four years of math while in high school, including Algebra 1 and Algebra 2 with efforts to achieve at least a "B" grade.
- High school juniors and seniors should take the Early Assessment Program test to find out if you are on track to be ready for college.

**California community college students and adults not currently attending college:**

Schedule an appointment with your local community college's transfer center or college counselor to help you develop an education plan. To find a community college campus near you, visit [www.icanaffordcollege.com](http://www.icanaffordcollege.com) and use the zip code locator.

### WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROGRAM?

Visit [www.adegreewithaguarantee.com](http://www.adegreewithaguarantee.com). On the site, you'll find details on how the new transfer pathway works, up-to-date information about the transfer majors available at each California community college and California State University, a degree progress checklist, and more!



## How much can your salary increase after attending a California community college?

The California Community Colleges has just launched the new Salary Surfer website. This groundbreaking online tool allows current and prospective students to view combined median earnings of those who completed a certificate or degree in 179 of the most widely enrolled programs at community colleges.

"This innovative data tool validates that California community colleges produce a tremendous return on investment for our students and for our state," said Brice W. Harris, chancellor of the California Community Colleges. "While future earnings should not be the sole determiner in choosing an educational program, students and the public deserve to know what monetary return

they can expect from their investment. Salary Surfer will provide just that."

Here are some interesting facts from the new website:

- Associate degrees with the highest median incomes five years after graduation are:
  - Electrical and Power Systems Transmission (\$96,200)
  - Physician Assistant (\$95,700)
  - Radiation Therapy Technician (\$91,300)
- The statewide median income for graduates five years after earning an associate degree in a vocational discipline is \$61,600. In contrast, the median income for those in the state

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## Your Online Gateway to the California Community Colleges

Did you know there's a way to apply online to California community colleges? It's called CCCApply. CCCApply is an online gateway that allows you to explore what the different colleges offer, find courses/programs, learn about admission requirements, and submit your application electronically to the college of your choice.



Each year at the 112 community colleges across the state, 2.4 million students from all over the world build their career skills and prepare for transfer to four-year colleges and universities. You can, too. It's never too late to enroll in a California community college, and at the California Community Colleges, financial aid is available year-round.

So, what are you waiting for? Check it out today: [www.CCCApply.org](http://www.CCCApply.org).

## Financial Aid: Now Available to AB 540 Students!

Thanks to the California Dream Act, AB 540 students may now be eligible for financial aid.

What do you know about the California Dream Act? Take this quiz to see how familiar you are with eligibility requirements and the application process.

### 1. The California Dream Act helps AB 540 students apply for and receive only privately-funded scholarships for college.

**FALSE!** The California Dream Act consists of two laws that were passed in 2011 that allow AB 540 students to apply for and receive various forms of financial aid for college, such as:

- Board of Governors (BOG) Fee Waivers;
- State financial aid, like Cal Grants and Chafee Grants;
- Assistance from Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE) or CalWORKs; and
- Privately-funded scholarships.

### 2. Most students who apply for financial aid under the California Dream Act will need to complete an application form that is different than the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

**TRUE!** The California Dream Application has been designed to replicate the FAFSA and is the application that must be used by students that are neither U.S.

Citizens, nor Permanent Residents or other eligible non-citizens. The California Dream Application has the same March 2nd deadline as the FAFSA for Cal Grant Entitlement awards and, like the FAFSA, can be filed year-round for other types of aid, such as the Board of Governor's (BOG) Fee Waiver.

### 3. To qualify as an AB 540 student, the student must have only attended a California high school for two years.

**FALSE!** To qualify as an AB 540 student, all the following criteria must be met:

- Attended a California high school for at least three years;
- Graduated from a California high school, got a GED or passed the California High School Proficiency Exam;
- Are registered or enrolled at a California community college;

#### AND

- If required, complete an affidavit saying you have filed (or will file when you are eligible to do so) for legal immigration status.

To learn more about the California Dream Act and get connected to the application, visit: [www.icanaffordcollege.com/DreamAct](http://www.icanaffordcollege.com/DreamAct)

## Salary Surfer — story continued from previous page

- whose highest level of education is a high school diploma is about \$24,400.
- Nearly 45 percent of California students who graduated with an associate degree earned more than \$54,000 annually five years later. That is the median wage of someone with a bachelor's degree living in California.
  - About 25 percent of associate degree holders had median wages of more than \$77,000 five years after graduating.

It is important to point out that Salary Surfer will not contain income information for those community college students that transfer to a four-year college or university, are self-employed or work for the federal government.

With affordable career training and degree programs as well as readily available financial aid, the California Community Colleges can help you get valuable career skills and get on the fast track to a rewarding job.

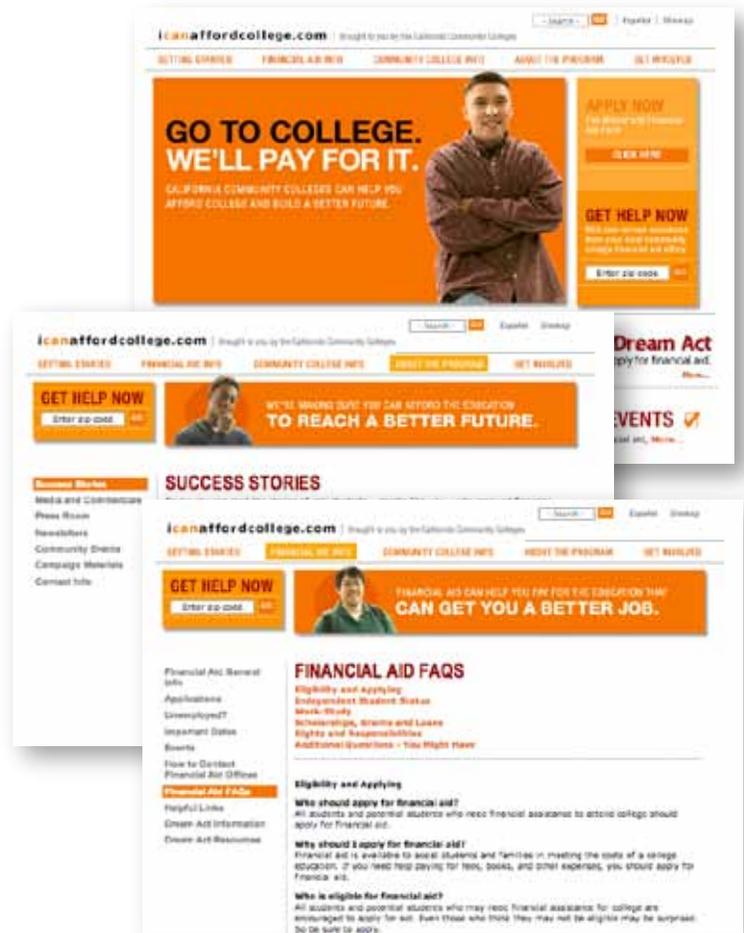
You can check out the Salary Surfer site at: <http://SalarySurfer.cccco.edu>. Don't forget to visit [www.icanaffordcollege.com](http://www.icanaffordcollege.com) to find out more about the financial aid opportunities available year-round for California community college students.

## Get to Know our Website

The “I **Can** Afford College” campaign website, at [www.icanaffordcollege.com](http://www.icanaffordcollege.com), is a hub for helpful information about financial aid, the California community colleges, and so much more! Below are some useful resources you can check out when you visit our website.

- **Learn more about financial aid:** The website provides current and prospective students with detailed information on the different types of financial aid available to help pay for fees, books and other college-related expenses.
- **Apply for financial aid:** The website has plenty of information about – and direct links to – important financial aid applications, including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the Board of Governors (BOG) Fee Waiver for students enrolling in a California community college, and the California Dream Act Application.
- **Get answers to common questions:** Many people share the same questions you may have about financial aid and community colleges. The website has a comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions page that answers questions on a variety of topics, such as enrollment, work study programs, scholarships and loans.

Learn about all this and more at [www.icanaffordcollege.com](http://www.icanaffordcollege.com).



## Get a Great Deal on Microsoft Office Products With CollegeBuys!

The CollegeBuys purchasing program has negotiated a significantly discounted price for the Microsoft Office Suite for community college students! The Microsoft student offering allows students to purchase Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2013 for just **\$39.99!** This software suite includes Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Publisher, and more!

California community colleges provide students with access to high quality education, but many students are often unable to make key educational purchases – like the software needed to complete their coursework. Discounts like this help make it affordable for students to access the software needed to achieve educational success.

Since its creation in 1999, CollegeBuys has been dedicated to investing in the future of the California Community Colleges by securing discounts for students, faculty and administrators on purchases like software, technology, furniture and office supplies.

For more information about how to take advantage of the Microsoft student offering and other exclusive deals, visit the CollegeBuys site today, at [www.CollegeBuys.org](http://www.CollegeBuys.org). CollegeBuys is powered by the Foundation for California Community Colleges.

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#### **About the California Community Colleges**

*The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation, composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.4 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills education and prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions. The Chancellor's Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors for the California Community Colleges. For more information about the California Community Colleges system, please visit: [californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu](http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu)*

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