

icanaffordcollege.com

Key Facts & Information

Campaign overview

The “I **Can** Afford College” campaign is a statewide, financial aid awareness initiative sponsored by the California Community Colleges. The campaign educates current and prospective students about the year-round availability of financial aid at California’s community colleges to help students pay for fees, books, supplies and sometimes even rent.

The heart of the campaign is our bilingual English and Spanish website, icanaffordcollege.com. Since the campaign’s inception in 2003-04, more than 2 million people have visited the website to obtain valuable information about receiving financial aid. Additionally, the number of students receiving some type of financial aid has increased by nearly 70 percent since 2004. The website provides current and prospective students with detailed financial aid information and connects them with professionals at their local college to receive free one-on-one assistance with the application process. Detailed information and applications on the website enable students to apply online for federal, state and community college financial aid. Students can also search icanaffordcollege.com for financial aid events in their area where they can receive one-on-one help completing the applications. Those who do not have Internet access can call **1-800-987-ICAN (4226)** to get connected with a community college financial aid office in their area.

California Community Colleges

California community colleges provide basic skills education, career training through certificate courses and two-year degrees, and prepare students for transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

- ❖ More than 2.3 million students are served each year at 112 community colleges statewide, representing the largest system of higher education in the world.
- ❖ As the state’s largest provider of career training, community colleges play an integral role in California’s economic recovery by re-training the unemployed to work in growing industries, such as health care, information technology, renewable energy and police and fire science.
- ❖ Nationwide, 25 percent of all community college students are enrolled in a California community college.
- ❖ Fifty-one percent of California State University (CSU) baccalaureates awarded and 29 percent of University of California (UC) baccalaureates awarded started as community college students.
- ❖ Students who earn a degree or certificate from a California community college nearly double their earnings within three years.

Financial aid

California community colleges currently serve nearly one million students with financial aid, totaling more than \$2.7 billion annually (2011-2012 academic year).

- ❖ There are many different types of financial aid, such as fee waivers, grants, scholarships and work-study programs which don't have to be repaid, and loans which do have to be paid back.
- ❖ New research shows many students don't believe they qualify for financial aid and therefore do not apply. All students who need financial assistance for college are encouraged to apply for aid.
- ❖ Students who enroll in college full-time may receive more financial aid and are more likely to complete their education.
- ❖ Financial aid experts are located on all 112 California community college campuses, and are available to provide free one-on-one assistance filling out the applications.

2012-2013 California Community Colleges Headcount by Ethnicity

❖ African-American:	166,135
❖ American Indian/ Alaskan Native:	10,870
❖ Asian:	263,223
❖ Filipino:	66,337
❖ Hispanic:	877,864
❖ Pacific Islander:	11,536
❖ Two or More Races:	73,949
❖ Unknown:	130,129
❖ White:	692,221
Grand Total:	2,292,264

2011-2012 Financial Aid Recipients by Ethnicity

❖ African-American:	133,885
❖ Asian:	112,830
❖ Filipino:	29,679
❖ Pacific Islander:	7,024
❖ Hispanic:	463,446
❖ Native American:	7,216
❖ Two or More Races:	36,348
❖ White:	278,505
❖ Unknown:	51,326
Grand Total:	1,120,259