

## We Love Those Online Applications

Whenever possible, please encourage your students to submit their USC application online. It's more legible and also speeds our internal handling. Last year over 70% of applications were received this way and it was much appreciated.

## Free Publications for Counselors!

Get a free copy of "Show me the Money", "Preparing for College - Building Expectations, Changing Realities" and more from USC's Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis. Write to [dianeflo@usc.edu](mailto:dianeflo@usc.edu) or visit [www.usc.edu/dept/chepa](http://www.usc.edu/dept/chepa).

## USC's Undergrad and Graduate Business Schools Now in Top 10

Our undergrad business program is consistently rated in the top ten, so it was gratifying when a recent survey of graduate programs, conducted by the Wall Street Journal and Harris Interactive, now ranks the Marshall School graduate program in the top 10 for the first time. It's an honor that is extremely difficult to earn, and one we intend to maintain!

# Counselor News

*Quarterly Updates for Guidance Counselors* Winter 2005

## Undergraduate Financial Aid at USC:

**Q&A with Catherine C. Thomas, Associate Dean and Director of Financial Aid**



Financial Aid is a subject that is uppermost in many students' minds when considering colleges. So we asked our Associate Dean and Director of Financial Aid to give us her insights into this critical area. If you have additional questions, she can be reached directly at [cctomas@usc.edu](mailto:cctomas@usc.edu) or (213) 740-5445.

### **Who should apply for financial aid?**

We encourage all applicants to apply for financial aid – they'll never know if they qualify unless they do.

### **Will a student's chances of being admitted to USC be affected by applying for need-based aid?**

Not at all. USC's freshman admission process is entirely "need-blind," which means that one's ability to pay has no bearing on our final decision.

### **Please explain the difference between need-based and merit-based aid.**

Need-based aid considers the difference between the costs of the university – tuition, fees, books, personal expenses, room and board, transportation and the family's ability to pay based on their income and assets.

Merit-based scholarships are awarded for some extraordinary talent of the student, often academic, but could also be based on special abilities in music, the arts or even athletics. Such awards are made without respect to the student's need. We want to reward the academic and other talents of our students. These scholarships are reviewed and renewed annually, on the basis of each recipient's performance at USC.

### **Do applicants need to complete special forms to be considered for merit-based aid?**

To be considered for the Trustee, Presidential and Deans' Scholarships, a student only needs to submit a complete Part II application by December 10. In addition, the Part II admission application booklet describes other forms of merit-based aid, some of which require supplemental applications. National Merit Scholars who indicate USC as their first choice are eligible for a special scholarship from USC.

### **Is it possible to receive a combined need-based and merit-based package?**

For some students, merit-based aid is not sufficient to meet their total financial need, so we work to close that gap with need-based aid. We meet students' full USC-determined need by awarding work-study loans, followed by grants. For a freshman, the work-study amount is generally \$2500, which can be fulfilled with a 12-14 hours per week job on campus.

### **What forms are required for need-based financial aid at USC?**

We ask that the FAFSA and CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE forms be submitted online. Forms that confirm family income (such as tax returns with all schedules and W-2s, or, if the family does not file taxes, then another document from the particular agency that provides funds to the family, such as Social Security) must be faxed directly to USC at (213) 740-0680. When parents are separated or divorced, we ask that the USC Custodial Parent Form be completed and faxed to us.

### **Some parents are uncomfortable about providing their tax forms. Who has access to this information?**

Tax forms should be faxed directly to USC, and we keep this information confidential. Students who are not admitted have their forms shredded and students who do not matriculate have their forms destroyed after one year. For admitted students receiving need based-aid, federal law requires that we keep this information on file during their entire college careers.

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**Catherine C. Thomas, Associate Dean and Director of Financial Aid**

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**Some students are concerned that the level of financial assistance they receive for their freshman year may not continue in subsequent years. What influences whether the aid continues at the same level, is raised or reduced?**

Generally, changes in amount of aid reflect changes in family circumstances, such as an increase in family income or a decrease in the number of children attending college. Reduced aid can also result from missing our deadlines; so if financial aid is critical to a student, he or she must meet the annual deadlines.

**What occurs if a freshman applicant misses the filing deadline for financial aid? Is there anything that high school counselors can do to be sure that this does not happen?**

New students should simply apply as early as possible, even if the priority deadline has passed. Anything that counselors can do to make the students and their parents aware of the importance of filing these forms in a timely way will improve their consideration for assistance. Counselors should be sure that students apply for any available state-based funding. For example, in California, it's really important that students file for the Cal Grant and that the counselors help them to follow-through by submitting their grade forms for the Cal Grant.

**Once one fills out a FAFSA and PROFILE, does it apply to the remainder of the student's career at USC?**

No, FAFSA and PROFILE must be filed every year that a student is attending USC. For those who have not ever filed a FAFSA or PROFILE, please be forewarned that it is a time-consuming process. We recommend that the family gather and organize the information for the PROFILE and file it first. They can easily transfer the information to the FAFSA.

**Are international students eligible for financial aid?**

International students (students currently studying, or hoping to study, in the U.S. on a visa) are not eligible for need-based aid, but there are special merit-based awards specifically for them.

**Does USC have any kind of arrangement that allows one to spread out the tuition, room and board payments across the entire school year, one month at a time?**

Yes, USC has a payment plan that spreads tuition payments over 10 months, with the first payment due in August. This is an interest free plan with a small set up charge each year. Parents can also borrow through the Federal Plus Loan program and make payments over ten years.

**How much financial aid does USC provide each year to undergraduates in absolute dollars?**

We offer almost \$350 million in financial aid for new and continuing students. Of this, \$150 million is awarded in the form of grants and scholarships directly from the University.

**USC Tuition and Expenses 2005-2006**

Tuition and Fees (12-18 units)	32,004
Books and supplies	750
Room and board	9,610
Personal expenses and transportation	2,214
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$44,578</b>

Percent of undergraduates receiving merit or need-based aid: 60%

**Academic Departments** *(all numbers are 213 area code unless indicated)*

Applicants with questions about a specific area of study are welcome to call or e-mail that department directly. Phone numbers are listed below – e-mail addresses can be found on the [www.usc.edu](http://www.usc.edu) website.

**Architecture** (800) 281-8616

**Business** 740-8885

**Cinema-TV** 740-2911

**Communication/Journalism** 821-0770

**Dentistry/Dental Hygiene** 740-2841

**Engineering** (800) 526-3347

**Fine Arts** 740-2787

**Health Promotion & Disease Prevention**  
740-1060

**Letters, Arts & Sciences** 740-5930

**Music** (800) 872-2213

**Policy, Planning & Development** 740-6842

**Theatre** 821-2744

USC Football Coach  
Pete Carroll's advice to  
his team is also a winning  
formula for the college  
application season:

"Prepare at a high level  
every day; always think  
that something good is  
about to happen;  
and most important,  
concentrate on  
finishing: finishing  
smart, finishing  
strong."

## A Word From Our Students – *Blazing the College Trail*

**Nearly 10% of our freshman class belongs to a very special group: they are the first in their families to attend college. We asked several of them to reflect on their experiences.**

### **Lauren Martinez, Junior**

*major in Public Policy Planning & Development, Health Emphasis, minor in Performing Arts*

**My mom and my grandmother are the most important people in my life. Their whole focus was on my education.**

My mom sacrificed everything to send me to the best private schools – we never had a car or a home. I was amazingly blessed, but I had my own battles to fight. As the only Hispanic woman in my school, I couldn't afford to do what other kids were doing. And I didn't know if a college would want me, with nothing to write in the space where they ask you what schools your family members have attended. The dean of my high school showed me the sky was the limit. The reality of college is all I had hoped for and more – the academic challenges, meeting people who will be lifetime friends and mentors. I still go home every Sunday to attend church with my mom and visit my grandmother. My mom is having the time of her life – she comes on campus a lot, is friends with my friends and a mom to them all. I'm going to get at least a masters degree and will make sure that my children go to college – I will tell them the story of how I broke through the line, and tell them they have to carry on the tradition.

### **Fabiola Diaz, Senior,**

*major in Psychology*

**The reason my parents came here from Mexico was to have more opportunity for their children's education.** My mother worked as a cook in a private Catholic high school just so my brothers and I could attend. My parents never talked about "college" or "university." It was kind of surreal, knowing my family was new to the US and I couldn't talk to them about this. There are some words you just can't translate. While they were always supportive, I know sometimes my parents felt helpless. A turning point came when I attended the Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project conference in Sacramento. They stressed that we are California's future leaders and that we could go anywhere we wanted. Another important reason I'm here is because my counselor, Barbara Yundt, never once doubted my ability or thought I was aiming too high. I got into Berkeley, but came to USC mostly because my brother was at USC. He invited me to visit and I saw what a great time he was having living on one of the Latino floors. Except for a semester in Madrid, I've lived on those floors for my whole college career, as a student and as an RA. I love it here.

I have gotten a chance to perform leadership, community service, and be educated on so many levels. My parents are happy, and I tell my little cousins that they have to work hard and get good grades so they can come here. My goal in life is to help increase the number of underrepresented minority students who go to college – it's a cause that I want to spend my life fighting for.

### **Madolyn Jones, Senior**

*combined bachelors and masters program in Public Policy, Management and Planning.*

**I'm from Denver, the 5th of 6 kids in my family, and the only one so far to go to college.**

Both my parents finished high school, and then went to work in blue collar jobs. I love my older sisters, but saw they were falling into the same cycle of leaving school and having babies at a young age, and I knew that I wanted a different life. I didn't think about college – I didn't really know what it was until I went to visit one of my mom's clients who was a student at USC. That did it for me. I was in public school so didn't have a lot of mentors or help, and the application process for schools and scholarships was a huge challenge; but I had a very good college counselor and was determined to make the system work for me. The experience of college has been amazing – my mom got a job as a flight attendant and she is out here all the time – she loves it too. It took a lot of people to get me to where I am today, and USC is like a second family to me. I also can't wait to take what I learned and get back to Denver, to be an educated woman in my city, making connections and making things happen. And you know I will be telling my kids they are going to college. I will tell them, 'I've done the hard work for you by breaking the cycle. Now you take it to the next step.'

### **Ramon Zapeda, Sophomore**

*major in Accounting*

**My parents came here during the civil war in El Salvador in 1982 – my dad with a 3rd grade education and my mom with an 8th grade education.** It was when I got to a private high school that the guidance counselors planted the seed of college – it was just expected that everyone would go to a 4-year premiere university. It was different for me because when I stepped off that campus and went home I was aware that I was headed in a different direction from most of my friends. But I never doubted it for myself. I knew I wanted to study business, and that I also wanted to stay by my family. The first time I had ever been on a college campus was after I was accepted. I fell in love with USC's business school because of the alumni support and its accounting school. I lived in the Latino dorm and made friends who understood what I was going through. It was hard for my parents at first when I got so busy that I didn't get home much. Now, I try to save Sundays for them. They come to the games and the Trojan Family Dinner and definitely feel like they are part of the Trojan family. I know my little brothers and cousin will try to follow in my footsteps. I've gotten so many opportunities here, like helping organize an outreach conference for inner city high school students. We had motivational speakers and workshops on how to apply to college, and I'm starting a new Latino fraternity. I love the people and the sense of community. My advice to other first generation students is to recognize that college is not a long shot, but is a goal you can accomplish.

### **Advanced degrees in counseling from USC's Rossier School**

## **Counselors, have you considered continuing your *own* education?**

As you look for ways to build your own career, your local universities can be a rich source of continuing education options. For guidance counselors in the Southern California region, the USC Rossier School of Education, a nationally recognized leader in urban education, offers a number of degrees that may be of interest. Options include both an M.S. and a P.P.S. credential in School Counseling, M.S. programs in Education, and a Master of Education in Postsecondary Administration and Student Affairs.

Additional programs award teaching credentials, teaching of music, English as a second language, and marriage and family therapy. Some programs have early decision dates of December 1; most programs have a priority deadline of February 1, and a final deadline of March 1. To learn more about the degrees being offered, or financial aid opportunities, please visit [www.usc.edu/education/admissions](http://www.usc.edu/education/admissions) or contact Ms. Carolyn Stirling, Recruiting and Admissions Counselor in the Rossier School of Education at [stirling@usc.edu](mailto:stirling@usc.edu).

## USC's Codes

### CEEB Code: 4852

Used for *PROFILE*  
Application and SAT scores

**Federal School Code:**  
**001328** Used for FAFSA  
application

**ACT Code: 0470** Used  
for sending ACT scores

## Deadlines & Requirements

USC does not require supplemental applications for applicants to the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, or Schools of Business, Communication or Engineering. However, there are several "talent-based" schools at USC that DO require supplemental applications, and in some cases, portfolios or auditions. **Here is a summary of the key dates and requirements for each school:**

**Architecture:** Portfolio (no supplemental application needed) - **Due December 10** for merit scholarship consideration; **January 10** for regular consideration

**Cinema-TV:** Supplemental application, portfolio list and merit scholarship applications – **must be received by December 10**

**Fine Arts:** Supplemental application, portfolio and merit scholarship application – **due December 10** for merit scholarship consideration; **January 10** for regular consideration

**Music:** Supplemental application & merit scholarship application – **December 1** (*yes, that's earlier than the rest!*) Audition requirements vary according to specific program – check the website at [www.usc.edu/schools/music/](http://www.usc.edu/schools/music/) Auditions are held during January – appointments for the following cities can be requested as part of the supplemental application.

Seattle	Jan 5	Interlochen, MI	Jan 16
Atlanta	Jan 7	Houston	Jan 24-25
Chicago	Jan 10-11	Los Angeles	Jan 28-29
New York	Jan 13-14		

**Theatre:** Supplemental application & merit scholarship application – **due December 10**. Auditions for B.F.A. students only (B.A. applicants do not need to audition) are held during February – appointments in the following cities may be requested as part of the supplemental application.

Los Angeles	Jan 27-28, Feb 17-18	Chicago	Feb 6-7
Houston	Feb 9	San Francisco	Feb 11
New York	Feb 3-4		

## General Admissions Dates & Deadlines

- Dec 1** Applications due for *Thornton School of Music*
- Dec 10** **Part II Applications due** for merit scholarship applicants, including applications for USC Alumni Club scholarships  
Supplemental Applications due for *Cinema-TV, Theatre and Fine Arts*.  
Auditions should be scheduled for talent based schools
- Jan** Auditions for *Thornton School of Music* applicants
- Jan 10** **Part II Applications due** for regular for admission
- Jan 20** **FAFSA & PROFILE filing deadline** to receive priority aid consideration
- early Feb** Admission notification for merit scholarship recipients
- Feb** Auditions for BFA applicants to *Theatre School*
- Mar 1** Student and family tax returns submitted for financial aid
- Apr 1** Admission notification
- May 1** National candidate reply date

## Advice from a USC Admission Officer...

### It's Not Just the Essay!

Filling out any college application can require a good deal of work, and USC's application is no exception. Since USC does not accept the Common Application, your students will need to give special attention to the particular questions that we ask of them. Certainly, the essay will call for the most effort, requiring forethought and planning. Even so, applicants are well advised to carefully complete all areas of the application, even the seemingly small questions.

**While a few of our applicants are so strong academically that their admission to USC is rarely in doubt, the large majority are evaluated on an array of observations made during our admission officers' review of the application.** If the admission committee sees one very polished, well-written, grammatically correct essay surrounded by other responses that contain misspellings and careless writing, then, obviously, this lack of consistency will affect our impression of the candidate. So, it's good to encourage students to see these multiple questions as an opportunity to provide a well-rounded portrait of their personality and interests. For example, if a student is both a baseball player and the managing editor of the school newspaper, then each aspect should be mentioned somewhere in the application.

Let's take a look at the sections that require writing in our 2006 part II application. **In addition to the major essay, there are two "short answer" questions that each require approximately one paragraph answers.** And don't forget the section entitled "quick takes" – these are ten questions that ask for a sentence, or even a one word, response. Some students think it's OK to skip these but they are really doing themselves a disservice because we use these extra bits of information to get a feeling for what is special about this particular candidate. Further, we require that students provide us with a page that summarizes their extra-curricular activities, awards, work history, summer programs, and other special experiences. All of these sections require careful writing by your student.

**For the essay, students should select the topic they like best and remember to observe the 500-700 word length limitation.** Applicants can work with an English teacher, parents or even a friend – anyone who is a good writer and who cares about the student – to find the central idea that can really serve as a springboard for self-description. A one-sentence description of a student's essay topic should be clear and easy for others to understand. Counselors, if you have an opportunity to talk to your students, emphasize that they should not start writing until they have a clear central idea and a good topic sentence!

**Of course, for any of these questions, there isn't a single right answer.** But there are responses that display a greater level of self-knowledge, personal enthusiasm, and capable writing ability. This is what the admission committee is seeking as we read through the thousands of applications each year in our efforts to build a balanced clan of students who will thrive at USC.

## SAT vs. ACT

**Which test is best?**  
**Many students wonder whether the SAT or the ACT is preferred by Admission.** At USC, both tests are equally acceptable, so we encourage students to send whatever test scores they feel best showcase their abilities.

# USC Admission Directory

**How to Contact Us** You can find the USC admission officer responsible for working with your students by referencing the list below. **These individuals will serve as your primary point of contact with our Office of Admission.**

## U.S.

<b>Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi</b> . . . . .	Kevin Henry, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-7421	khenry@usc.edu
<b>Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah</b> .	Beza Merid, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 821-1882	merid@usc.edu
<b>Arizona</b> . . . . .	Bruce Grier, <i>Associate Director</i>	(213) 740-6630	bgrier@usc.edu
<b>Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee</b> . . . . .	Chris Tokuhama, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 821-1127	tokuhama@usc.edu
<b>Connecticut, New York</b> . . . . .	Kim Cragg, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-5844	kcragg@usc.edu
<b>Delaware, Maryland,</b>			
<b>North &amp; South Carolina, West Virginia</b> . . . . .	Rakin Hall, <i>Associate Director</i>	(213) 740-4019	rakin.hall@usc.edu
<b>Hawaii</b> . . . . .	Karen Rowan-Badger, <i>Director, USC College</i>	(213) 740-7200	krowan@usc.edu
<b>Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky,</b>			
<b>Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska,</b>			
<b>North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin</b> . . . .	Risa Tewksbury, <i>Director, Midwest Region</i>	(217) 356-1854	tewksbur@usc.edu
<b>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire,</b>			
<b>Rhode Island, Vermont</b> . . . . .	Patti Spada, <i>Senior Assistant Director</i>	(213) 821-2165	pspada@usc.edu
<b>New Jersey, Pennsylvania</b> . . . . .	Diana Sabogal, <i>Senior Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-6626	dsabogal@usc.edu
<b>New Mexico</b> . . . . .	Therese Sandoval, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-4042	tsandova@usc.edu
<b>Oklahoma, Texas</b> . . . . .	Shannon McHugh, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 821-1704	slmchugh@usc.edu
<b>Oregon, Washington, Wyoming</b> . . . . .	Michael Cooper, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-6613	mbc@usc.edu
<b>Virginia, Washington DC</b> . . . . .	Gary Clark, <i>Senior Associate Director</i>	(213) 740-4926	gary.clark@usc.edu

## California

<b>Alameda County, Contra Costa County,</b>			
<b>Marin County, Sacramento County,</b>			
<b>San Francisco, Far Northern California</b> . . . . .	September Trevino, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-4752	strevino@usc.edu
<b>Central Coast, San Mateo County,</b>			
<b>Santa Clara County</b> . . . . .	Ross Aikins, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-6611	raikins@usc.edu
<b>Central Valley, Imperial Valley, Santa Barbara</b> . . . .	Beza Merid, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 821-1882	merid@usc.edu
<b>Covina &amp; West Covina, Glendale, Pasadena</b> . . . . .	Ben Lah, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-7449	benjamjl@usc.edu
<b>Long Beach</b> . . . . .	Kim Cragg, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-5844	kcragg@usc.edu
<b>Los Angeles (central &amp; west)</b> . . . . .	Mike Gerst, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-8925	mgerst@usc.edu
<b>Los Angeles (east)</b> . . . . .	Rakin Hall, <i>Associate Director</i>	(213) 740-4019	rakin.hall@usc.edu
<b>Los Angeles (south)</b> . . . . .	Kevin Henry, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-7421	khenry@usc.edu
<b>Orange County (central), Riverside, San Bernardino</b> .	Therese Sandoval, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-4042	tsandova@usc.edu
<b>Orange County (north)</b> . . . . .	Diana Sabogal, <i>Senior Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-6626	dsabogal@usc.edu
<b>Orange County (south)</b> . . . . .	Chris Tokuhama, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 821-1127	tokuhama@usc.edu
<b>San Diego County</b> . . . . .	Bruce Grier, <i>Associate Director</i>	(213) 740-6630	bgrier@usc.edu
<b>San Fernando Valley</b> . . . . .	Cathy Chen, <i>Associate Director</i>	(213) 740-3040	cathyc@usc.edu
<b>South Bay</b> . . . . .	Patti Spada, <i>Senior Assistant Director</i>	(213) 821-2165	pspada@usc.edu

## International

Judith Jurek, <i>Senior Associate Director</i>	(213) 740-5684	jurek@usc.edu
David Park, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-5685	davidmpa@usc.edu

# Counselor News

*Quarterly News for Guidance Counselors Winter 2005*

Do we have your correct information?  
If not, please email us at [scounsel@usc.edu](mailto:scounsel@usc.edu)

## Counselor News *Quarterly Updates for Guidance Counselors*

### Important Dates and Information for Merit and Need-Based Financial Aid

#### Merit Scholarships

Dec 10, 2005	USC Trustee Scholarship, 100-120 students receive full tuition
	USC Presidential Scholarship, 150 students receive half tuition
	USC Associates Scholarship, 15 students receive \$10,000
	Dean's Scholarship, 250 students receive quarter tuition
	Jewish Leadership Scholarship, 2 students receive \$10,000
	Alumni Club Scholarship, 35 students receive \$1,000-\$4,000
	Town and Gown Scholarship, varied award
	Half-Century Trojans Endowed Scholarship, students receive \$3,000
	Scions Scholarship, 75-100 students receive \$1,000-\$2,500
Jan 10, 2006	International Freshman Academic Scholarship, half tuition
Feb 10, 2006	Asian Pacific Alumni Scholarship, 10-20 students receive \$1,000-\$2,500
Mar 1, 2006	Nat'l Merit Scholar Finalists (declare USC 1st Choice) from \$1,000-\$16,000
	Nat'l Achievement Finalists (declare USC 1st Choice) from \$1,000-\$16,000
May 1, 2006	Nat'l Hispanic Scholar Presidential Scholarship, students receive \$16,000
May 31, 2006	Norman Topping Student Aid Fund Scholarship
	Mexican American Alumni Scholarship, 200 students receive \$700-\$5,000

Counselors, please urge your students to be careful not to miss any of these deadlines. Detailed information about the many Merit Scholarships available at USC may be accessed at <http://afaweb.esd.usc.edu> Click on *Welcome*, then click on *For Counselors* to get to the Counselors web page. From the left-hand menu, select *Merit Scholarships* and you will find all the pertinent information.

#### Need Based Aid

Jan 20, 2006	FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) – <a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">www.fafsa.ed.gov</a>
	CSS Financial Aid PROFILE – <a href="http://www.collegeboard.com/profile">www.collegeboard.com/profile</a>
Mar 2, 2006	Tax Returns – <i>Submit parent and student tax returns to USC</i>
	Cal Grant (for California residents) – <a href="http://www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?ID=20">www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?ID=20</a>