

Foster Youth: Apply for California Community College Early!

Are you planning to attend a California Community College?

Apply early to ensure access to Priority Enrollment and Financial Aid!

Application Process

Apply through www.cccapply.org by *January* for the upcoming fall in order to complete the process in time to access priority enrollment (which takes place in the spring for the fall term). Students who miss this deadline can still apply but early application is strongly encouraged.

Financial Aid

Complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA), and [Chafee grant](#) application between October 1st and March 2nd. Students who miss the March 2nd deadline should still apply. Early application is strongly encouraged as some grants are awarded on a first come, first served basis.

Priority Enrollment

To be eligible for priority enrollment, youth must participate in a college orientation session, complete placement testing and meet with an academic counselor to create an educational plan.

Youth should bring their high school and/or college transcripts and ward of the court documentation to the first counseling appointment and verify that they have been flagged for priority enrollment. Youth should attend the counseling appointment even if they do not have all their documentation at the time.

Student Support

The Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI) provides a point of contact at every CA community college to advocate and assist youth. For the most current listing of FYSI liaisons click [here](#).

Every CA Community College has an EOPS program that can provide additional support. Various other student service programs are available to support youth in achieving success in their academic endeavors. Click [here](#) for additional information.

Career Technical Education

In addition to offering associate degrees and preparation to transfer to a four-year university or college, Community colleges offer a variety of career-focused education programs to jump-start a career. Career technical education programs are normally 6 to 18 months in length. To explore career options visit www.whodouwantzb.com or www.cacareercafe.com.

For more information see the California Community College [Foster Youth Resource Guide](#) or visit www.cacollegepathways.org.