



## Cal-SOAP San Diego Newsletter

November 2021

\*\*\*\*\*

# Cal-SOAP News

The latest on college information, financial aid, college testing and more!



November 2021

San Diego & Imperial Counties Cal-SOAP (California Student Opportunity and Access Program) offers free services to help students pursue a postsecondary education, especially students who are low-income or will be first in their families to pursue a college degree. Through advisement and academic services, Cal-SOAP helps students and families understand the college-going process and how to do everything from applying to college to filling out the FAFSA or CA Dream Act to searching for the perfect career fit. Connect with us!

San Diego County: [www.calsoapsandiego.org](http://www.calsoapsandiego.org), FB and Twitter @SanDiegoCalSOAP and Instagram @calsoapsandiego.

Imperial Valley: FB and IG @ivcalsoap. <https://www.icoe.org/news/find-your-path>

November 2021  
TOP STORIES



## Seniors: have you **finished** your FAFSA or CADAA?

Every high school senior should fill out either the [FAFSA](#) or [CADAA](#). Fill out the **FAFSA** if you are a US Citizen, Permanent Resident, Eligible non-citizen or T Visa Holder. Fill out the **CADAA** if you are Undocumented, have a valid or expired DACA, U Visa Holders, or have TPS (Temporary Protected Status.) The FAFSA is accepted by vocational schools, community colleges, public universities, and private universities. Application window is every year from October 1-March 2. **Need one-on-one help? Attend one of our free, virtual Cash for College events. Next two events, 9am-11am: 11/20 and 12/18. [Flyer and registration links](#).** You are **never** required to take a loan if offered one, and [these forms](#) allow your college to determine how much aid you will need. Grants, work study and scholarships from colleges await you, don't leave money on the table! Want help via text? Personal FAFSA assistance chatbot available: [FAFSA help by text](#).

## Cal-SOAP Financial Aid Webinar Series

Cal-SOAP offers a series of different webinars about paying for college. All webinars are on Wednesday evenings, 6pm-7:30pm. [Flyer and registration link](#).



- December 8: CSS/PROFILE (financial aid form required in addition to the FAFSA by these [private universities](#))
- January 19: Financial aid for students in Grades 8-11 and their families
- February 9: Financial Aid at California Community Colleges
- March 9: Understanding your college's financial aid award letter/package
- April 13: Juniors: get your FSA ID so you're ready to fill out FAFSA in fall
- May 11: Cal Grants A, B, C. Financial Aid that can be used in California

**Scholarship Nights**  
Join The San Diego Foundation and Cal SOAP to Learn More about Available Scholarships

A scholarship is an award of financial aid for a student to further their education. Scholarships are awarded based upon various criteria, which usually reflect the values and purposes of the donor or founder of the award. Scholarship money is not required to be repaid. Unfortunately, many of our students do not apply for scholarships in a timely manner, do not understand a scholarship cycle, do not complete scholarship applications or do not have support to apply for a scholarship. We want to change that!

**Virtual Events:**  
[October 27, 2021 6:00pm-7:30pm](#)  
[November 18, 2021 6:00pm-7:30pm](#)  
[December 9th 6:00pm-7:30pm](#)

**In-Person Scholarship Event:**  
 Location: Malcolm X Library  
 January 9, 2022 at 2:00pm-4:00pm

All of the events are FREE and are open to all San Diego County and Imperial Valley Students and Families, especially 12th!

For more information and to register go to: <https://www.calsoapsandiego.org/workshops>

## Scholarship Workshops

All students and parents from San Diego and Imperial Counties (especially 12th graders!) are invited to attend a free scholarship workshop featuring San Diego Foundation and Cal-SOAP. Upcoming virtual date choices: 11/18 or 12/9. In-person event at Malcolm X Library on 1/9/2022.

[Registration/Info](#). Additional information about private [scholarships](#).

## College Applications: November 30 is almost here!

Applications for most four-year universities are due November 30 of senior year. Links: [CSU Applications](#), [Help with CSU applications](#). [UC Applications](#), [UC Application Help](#) and [UCSD Admissions Events](#). [Nearly 1,000 colleges](#) accept the [Common App](#) and here are [11 Tips for Crushing the Common App](#). Community college applications typically open in spring. Here's a comprehensive list of [college application deadlines](#). Here are [10 helpful college application tips](#). And keep [these factors](#) in mind when deciding on which colleges are a perfect fit for you.



Op-Eds: when you go to college, would you rather be on the [quarter system or the semester system](#)? Cal Poly, the last CSU operating on a quarter system, announced it will [transition to the semester system](#). Most UCs use a quarter system with fall, winter, and spring quarters each being 10-11 weeks. However, UC Berkeley and UC Merced operate on a semester system. [Will other UCs transition from quarters to semesters](#)? Time will tell. Would you rather have two long semesters or three short quarters? It is something to consider when choosing a college.



## SAT/ACT: what does **test-optional** mean?

Most colleges now fall into one of three categories for their **admissions policy**.

- SAT/ACT-required (a very small number of universities require it to apply)
- SAT/ACT-optional (not required, but will be considered if score is submitted)
- SAT/ACT-blind (not required and will not be considered for admissions decisions; all UCs and CSUs are currently SAT/ACT-blind)

Which policy do you favor? [What does “test-optional” really mean?](#) What’s the policy for your colleges of interest? Check [here](#).



## Race and Equity

Check out this [article](#) about Black students in California.





## Spotlight on College Readiness Coaches



Meet one of our wonderful Cal-SOAP staff, **Jose Delgado!**

I currently attend Graduate school at UCSD pursuing a masters of science in bioengineering with a medical specialization. I did my undergrad at UCSB and got a BS in biology. I've worked for Cal-SOAP for a little over a year now and find the most rewarding part of my job is getting emails from the students that I helped throughout the year and hearing that they got into their top school with enough financial aid to go. I decided to be a part of Cal-SOAP because I grew up low-income and I am a first generation student and without the help of my counselor I wouldn't have known the process and wouldn't have been able to get a scholarship to go to college. I wanted to give back and help others like me reach their goals or help guide them in what they want to do. Some fun facts about me: I've sailed around the world, starting in Germany and porting to San Diego and have been to 19 countries and I am a Gates Millenium Scholar. I have a few job aspirations: being an actor, being a graphic designer for anatomy textbooks, working as a design engineer, creating a biodevice for early cancer detection or to improve immunotherapy techniques, being a pediatric oncologist, and being a travel blogger.

[www.calsoapsandiego.org](http://www.calsoapsandiego.org), FB and Twitter @SanDiegoCalSOAP, IG @calsoapsandiego  
Imperial Valley: FB and IG @ivcalsoap. <https://www.icoe.org/news/find-your-path>