How Can I Afford College?

(I've heard that it's so expensive!)

Here are a few myths about the cost of higher education:

1. It's too expensive for low income people
2. You have to borrow lots of money and go into debt to pay for it
3. Financial aid and scholarships are only for top athletes, or people who got excellent grades in school
4. Joining the military is the only way you can afford college

And here are some facts:

1. You can find financial aid to lower or even eliminate the cost of your college education
2. Financial aid comes in scholarships, stipends, grants or loans. Only loans require you to pay them back. Scholarships, stipends and grants are free money!
3. There are scholarships and financial aid opportunities for all kinds of students, not just top athletes or straight "A" students
4. There are many challenging, interesting and rewarding national and community service opportunities that will help you pay for college and you stay safe and keep your freedom

Resources for More Information:
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Government Money: Visit www.ed.gov/thinkcollege
- The California Student Aid Commission has many useful documents you can download free and a lot of good information. Call 1-888-CA-GRANT or visit www.calgrant.org or www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=40
- The Student Guide to Financial Aid (updated each year) available free by calling (800) 433-3243 or at: www.studentaid.ed.gov
- Americorps, VISTA, and the National Civilian Community Corps hire tens of thousands of people a year to do important, interesting work while earning money for college. Contact the Corporation for National Service 1201 New York Ave, NW Washington, D.C. 20525 (800) 942-2677 or www.nationalservice.org

Other good college information and financial aid web sites:
- www.fastweb.com
- www.freescholarshipguide.com
- www.icanaffordcollege.com
- www.collegeispossible.org
- www.college411.org

O.K.-I Want to Give It a Try...

(Excellent Decision!)

Colleges and Universities Want You!

If you are in high school, the best place to start is at the college center. Also, be sure to ask teachers, friends in college, or other adults whose opinions you trust, what advice they have for you.

This webpage provides links to hundreds of college and university homepages as well as scholarship, financial aid and testing information:

www.get-recruited.com
Free service offers students a chance to be recruited by colleges, universities and graduate schools throughout the United States

Public Universities in California

The California State University System
www.calstate.edu

The CSU has 23 campuses, all over the state. Cal State LA, Northridge, and Dominguez Hills are CSU campuses in the LA area. CSU is the largest, the most diverse, and one of the most affordable university systems in the country. These campuses offer traditional 4-year and graduate degrees, as well as licensing and certificate programs (for example, teaching credentials and nursing licenses).

If you are in high school or 2-year college, and doing well, CSU Mentor is a good place to start exploring this university system. On the CSU Mentor website, you can learn more about a CSU campus, start your planning with the High School or Transfer Planner, and find the campuses that meet your needs: www.csumentor.edu

last, but not least...

The University of California System

Well-known UC schools include UCLA, UC San Diego, and UC Berkeley, but there are many more campuses in the state. The UC system is the top public university system in CA, and the toughest to get into. If you are an excellent student, you can apply to a UC school right out of high school, or transfer (which is much easier) from a 2-year college. Visit their website to learn all about how to be a UC student: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/students/welcome.html

You're not alone

Academic and personal support services
Remember: You are not alone.

It doesn’t have to… The good news is that many schools offer support services for working people, those with children, English language learners, and the disabled. For example:

**The Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) Program**

At many community colleges, ask at your local campus

The EOC program provides counseling and information on college admissions to qualified adults who want to enter or continue a program of postsecondary education. An important objective of EOC is to counsel participants on financial aid options and to assist in the application process. The goal of EOC is to increase the number of adult participants who enroll in postsecondary education institutions.

**Services provided by this and similar programs include:**

- Academic advice
- Personal counseling
- Career workshops
- Information on various educational opportunities
- Information on student financial assistance
- Assistance in completing applications for college admissions, testing and financial aid
- Coordination with nearby postsecondary institutions
- Media activities designed to involve and acquaint the community with higher education opportunities
- Tutoring/Mentoring
- Assistance with child care

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**Community College**

(A very smart place to begin your higher education)

**Less money, less stress!**

Community colleges are also known as “2 year” colleges because many students attend for 2 years, then transfer to a university (“4 year” college) to earn their bachelor’s degrees. Community colleges tend to offer extra support for students who need help with academics, as well as working students and parents. They offer many excellent career certificate and licensing programs, and have the lowest costs.

**Go here to access links to all of the many L.A. community colleges’ websites:**

[www.at-la.com/@la-edu/college.htm#cc](http://www.at-la.com/@la-edu/college.htm#cc)

**L.A. community college offices to call for more information:**

Los Angeles Southwest College (323) 241-5321
Los Angeles City College (323) 953-4000
East Los Angeles College (323) 265-8650
Los Angeles Harbor College (310) 233-4090
Los Angeles Mission College (818) 364-7600
Pierce College (818) 719-6404
Los Angeles Valley College (818) 947-2553
Los Angeles Trade-Technical College (213) 763-5300
West Los Angeles College (310) 287-4501

**Community College District Offices Outside L.A.**

The Coast Community College District.

Coastal Orange County (714) 546-7600
North Orange County Community College (714) 808-4500
Rancho Santiago Community College Dist., Santa Ana (714) 480-7300
San Bernardino Community College District (909) 382-4000
The South Orange County Community College District, Irvine-Mission Viejo (949) 582-4999
Ventura County Community College District (805) 384-8300

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**Other Community Colleges Around and Outside L.A.**

Antelope Valley College, Lancaster (661) 722-6300
Cerritos College, Norwalk (562) 860-2451
Chaffey College, Rancho Cucamonga (909) 987-1737
Citrus College, Glendora (626) 963-0323
College of the Canyons, Santa Clarita (661) 362-3280
College of the Desert, Palm Desert (760) 346-8041
Copper Mountain College, Joshua Tree (760) 366-3791
Crafton Hills College, Yucaipa (909) 792-2161
Cypress College, Cypress (714) 484-7000
El Camino College, Torrance (866) 352-2646
Glendale Community College (818) 240-1000
Mt. San Antonio College, Walnut (909) 594-5611
Mt. San Jacinto College (951) 487-5611
Pasadena City College (626) 585-7123
Rio Hondo College Whittier (562) 692-0921
Riverside Community College (951) 222-8000
Santa Monica College (310) 434-4000

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**I Don’t Have A U.S. Green Card**

(How can I go to college without paying a fortune?)

**Community Resources:**

Coalition For Humane Immigrants Rights Los Angeles (CHIRLA)

Leticia A Education Committee/Wise Up

A group working for education rights of all students, so that they may attend public high schools and universities.

2533 W. Third St., Ste. 101, Los Angeles, CA 90057
(213) 353-1333 [www.chirla.org](http://www.chirla.org)

CHIRLA’s hotline provides a bi-lingual Spanish/English info and referral service: (888) 624-4752

The Koreatown Youth & Community Center

Programs and services for recently-immigrated, economically-disadvantaged youth & their families who experience coping and adjustment difficulties due to language and cultural barriers.

3727 West 6th Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90020 (213) 365-7400 [www.kyccla.org](http://www.kyccla.org)

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)

The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund is the leading nonprofit Latino litigation, advocacy, and educational outreach institution in the United States.

634 S. Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90014 (213) 629-25 [www.maldef.org](http://www.maldef.org)

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Community Resources:

- Coalition For Humane Immigrants Rights Los Angeles (CHIRLA)
- Leticia A Education Committee/Wise Up
- The Koreatown Youth & Community Center
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)

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**Remember: Hundreds of thousands of working people, people with kids, people learning English, and those with disabilities are in college, and doing great!**

Almost all colleges and universities have services like the EOCs. You can research what’s available on the school’s website, or ask the counseling or admissions office. Don’t let the fear that your life makes college too hard stop you from giving it your best try!