



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
BAKERSFIELD
Educational Opportunity Program

"We want you funded!"

Last year's FAFSA rollout was less than desirable. From website outages to issues linking contributor accounts, each additional setback compounded EOP student anxiety as the priority deadline approached. While EOP students are reporting this year's application is running much smoother, they have newfound fears as the federal government issues executive orders concerning the Department of Education.

Through it all, Rocky Jones, the EOP Financial Aid Coordinator, has been here to guide students through their uncertainty, and she has been working around the clock to ensure all EOP students submit their financial aid applications accurately and confidently. A first-generation EOP alumnus herself, Rocky prides herself on maximizing the amount of financial aid EOP students receive.

Here are three things Rocky wants all EOP students to know:

1) *Priority deadline for financial aid is April 2nd!* While the Federal Pell Grant is guaranteed to eligible students, many California grants adhere to the priority deadline. For example, first-time students who miss the priority deadline will lose eligibility for Cal Grants; similarly, continuing students who miss the priority deadline will lose eligibility for the Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) and SEOG. Finally, the campus only receives a finite number of State University Grants (SUG), so you'll want to apply before the deadline.

2) *Contributors must match!* The FAFSA requires all applicants to include at least one "contributor." In addition to ensuring there is a 100% name match, students should keep in mind their contributors will also need time to submit their portion of the application before the priority deadline as well. Allow time for the email to reach your contributor, for them to log in and add their income information, and for them to submit their portion before April 2nd.

3) *Apply, apply, apply!* EOP students miss out on further funding each year by neglecting to submit scholarship applications. CSUB has a portal for all internal scholarships, Scholarship Universe, and they have the same priority deadline of April 2nd.

Contact Rocky Jones

EOP Financial Aid Coordinator
Extraordinaire, Rocky Jones, can be reached at rjones9@csub.edu and (661) 654-2450

FAFSA, CADAA, and Scholarship Universe

Click anywhere on this page for more information on all three!

FAFSA and CADAA Application Workshops are still taking place in the Financial Aid Conference Room (SA-114) on the following days and times

Thursday, 03/27/2025, 11am - 12pm
Tuesday, 04/01/2025, 1pm - 3pm