



## FINANCIAL AID GUIDE FOR CREDENTIAL STUDENTS

### The Financial Aid Process

**Step 1:** Complete the **FAFSA**.

- A. Apply January 1<sup>st</sup> through March 2<sup>nd</sup> for priority consideration.
  - i. Applications submitted after March 2 will be awarded based on available funds.
- B. Renew your FAFSA every year.
- C. CSU Channel Islands school code: **039803**.

### Answering questions incorrectly will delay award processing.

*These questions are commonly answered incorrectly. We have provide suggestions to help:*

**Question 1:** Will you have your first bachelor's degree before July 1<sup>st</sup>?

- o **Suggested Answer:** "Yes." It is very likely you will have received your bachelor's as a requirement for your program.

**Question 2:** What degree/certificate will you be working on during the upcoming academic year?

- o **Suggested Answer:** "Teaching Credential." You are working toward a teaching certificate.

**Question 3:** What will be your grade level when you begin the upcoming academic year?

- o **Suggested Answer:** "Fifth year/Other undergraduate." You are not a graduate student, therefore, are considered a fifth year undergraduate.

**Question 4:** Beginning the academic year, will you be working on a Master's or Doctorate program?

- o **Suggested Answer:** "No." You are not a graduate student.

**Step 2:** The information submitted from your FAFSA will be electronically transmitted to the University by the U.S. Department of Education. CSU Channel Islands will receive the information and review your FAFSA to determine if any additional documents (i.e., tax returns, citizenship documentation, etc.) are needed. The most common reason additional documents are needed is to satisfy verification requirements. You will receive an email if additional documentation is needed.

**Step 3:** Once your file is complete, and **if** you have been admitted to the Credential (or Pre-Credential) Program, you are ready to be awarded financial aid through our automated packaging process. Students will receive an email directing them to their myCI online student account. The offer lists the applicant's budget and tentative Financial Aid offer.

**Step 4:** Accept or Decline Awards online via myCI student account.

### Important Reminders:

- You will not be awarded until you are fully accepted into Credential (Pre-Credential) Program.
- For financial aid purposes, 12 unit enrollment is considered full-time and 6 unit enrollment is considered half-time.
- You must be enrolled at least half-time to receive financial aid.
- **Pre-Credential** and **Mild to Moderate Level II** Credential students are **loan** eligible only.