



FINANCIAL AID OFFICE
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-3180
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<http://www.finaid.ucsb.edu>

Dear Financial Aid Applicant,

Over 252,000 California students are currently receiving funding from the Cal Grant Program. UC Santa Barbara alone has approximately 4,800 students that receive Cal Grant funding annually totaling \$32.7 million dollars. Recently, Governor Schwarzenegger submitted a new budget proposal that would enact a number of spending cuts, including a phased elimination of the Cal Grant program. Students who are currently receiving Cal Grants would continue to have their awards renewed as long as they are eligible. However, all new awards for the 2009-10 year, approximately 116,200 new awards statewide, and 1,335 at UCSB, would be cancelled. Over the next few years, all Cal Grants would be eliminated.

The loss of this program would impact **every student receiving university grant or scholarship aid on our campus**. If the Cal Grant program is eliminated, nearly all 2009-2010 financial aid awards would need to be recalculated and would result in a drastic increase in each student's work and loan expectation. If eliminated, the State of California would go from having the nation's preeminent state funded financial aid program to becoming one of the poorest.

The State Budget Conference Committee did take an important step last week in restoring funding for Cal Grants for the coming school year. However, we need to ensure that this item remains in the budget through the rest of the process, and that it does not get vetoed by the Governor. The University of California and the leadership at UCSB will continue to advocate on behalf of the Cal Grant Program, and we hope that you will join us in this effort. If you would like to voice your concerns regarding the elimination of the Cal Grant Program, you may contact your local Senate and Assembly members as well as Governor Schwarzenegger's office.

To find your designated elected representatives in Sacramento, please visit:
<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html>

To send a message to Governor Schwarzenegger: <http://gov.ca.gov/interact>

Sincerely,

Michael M. Miller
Acting Financial Aid Director
Financial Aid Office
University of California, Santa Barbara
<http://www.finaid.ucsb.edu>