



2020 REPORT

Student Success Completion Grant (SSCG) 2018-19

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office | Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor



California
Community
Colleges

ELOY ORTIZ OAKLEY
Chancellor

January 20, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Legislative Report on Student Success Completion Grant

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Board of Governors for the California Community Colleges, I am pleased to present to you the California Community Colleges legislative report on the Student Success Completion Grant (SSCG). These funds go to eligible Cal B and C recipients; and help in closing the total cost of attendance financial gap as well as lessening the financial burden for low-income and disadvantaged students.

This report is written in response to the requirement in AB 1809 for a Student Success Completion Grant Legislature Report. It reflects the 2018-19 academic year and contains data on two of the six elements mandated by legislation. Four of the report elements are not being provided in this report because the Chancellor's Office does not have access to such data, although for two of those elements this report provides alternative data.

Vice Chancellor for Educational Services and Support Rebecca Ruan O'Shaughnessy may be contacted for questions and comments. She can be reached at (916) 323-6894 or rruan-oshughnessy@cccco.edu.

Thank you for your interest in these programs and the students they serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eloy Ortiz Oakley'.

Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor

Chancellor's Office

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT
CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDENT SUCCESS COMPLETION GRANT
(SSCG) 2018-19

Prepared By

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
Educational Services and Support Division

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The California Community Colleges is the nation's largest system of higher education and serves nearly 2.1 million students annually. California's 116 community colleges provide workforce training, teach basic math and English, and prepare students for transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

The Chancellor's Office provides leadership, advocacy and support to colleges under the direction of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors. With the support of the Chancellor's Office and the state Legislature, student financial aid funding opportunities have increased and community colleges have successfully expanded financial aid services to students.

The information in this report provides updates about the Student Success Completion Grant (SSCG) program. The SSCG program was created by combining the Community College Completion Grant (CCCG) and the Full-Time Student Success Grant (FTSSG). Specifically, the SSCG program provides eligible community college students with an additional \$649 per semester or quarter equivalent for enrolling in 12-14 units and \$2,000 for students enrolled in 15 or more units.

The Cal Grant program, the state's primary financial aid program, does not adequately serve California community college students at the same levels as the University of California, the California State University and California nonprofit institutions. While the community college system enrolls about two-thirds of the undergraduate students in this state, only about 7% of Cal Grant funds are directed to community college students. Additionally, the availability of Cal Grant B Access and Cal Grant C awards for community college students have not kept pace with increased college costs. The Cal Grant program focuses on tuition costs and ignores the high cost of living in California for all students. Full-time students, who are also low-income, need additional support beyond tuition costs. For the small number of community college students that receive a Cal Grant, the current Cal Grant B access award amount (\$1,648 per year for a full-time student) is simply insufficient. As a result, even though California community colleges have the lowest tuition, the wide disparities in grant aid received by students across California's public higher education system have largely contributed to the fact that students pay the highest net price to attend a California community college.

To address this inequity and help offset the total cost of community college attendance, the Student Success Completion Grant was enacted specifically to accompany AB 19, which established the California College Promise program to support full-time students. The grant leverages existing Cal Grant awards to enable more students to graduate or transfer to four-year colleges and universities in less time with fewer accumulated units and eliminate educational and regional achievement gaps. The SSCG supports student persistence, retention and success by providing up to \$4,000 in additional financial aid to students who:

- Receive a Cal Grant B Access award or Cal Grant C award
- Enroll in at least 12 units per term or 24 units per academic year
- Demonstrate unmet financial need
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress

REPORT DATA ELEMENTS

The Student Success Completion Grant Legislature Report requires five data elements:

1. The number of grant award recipients who met the requirements of Section 88931, disaggregated by recipients who are pursuing an Associate Degree for Transfer, an associate degree, a career technical education certificate or other community college certificate, and further disaggregated by the type of certificate.
2. The number of grant award recipients who met the requirements of Section 88931 and received a grant disaggregated by the number of units the recipients were enrolled in each term during the academic year.
3. The number of grant award recipients who met the requirements of Section 88931 considered on track to complete their educational program within two academic years, within three academic years if a student is required to take basic skill courses by the community college, within the published length of time, or within the published length of time plus one year if a student is required to take basic skill courses by the community college.
4. The average grade point average of grant award recipients.
5. Student information reported shall be disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic status.

Due to lack of real-time data reporting, we do not have the data as requested in the first report element. Instead, we will provide a summary on the number of recipients who were awarded a degree/certificate for the fiscal year in which they received the grant. Please see program information and student information below for more details.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

RECIPIENT COUNT, AWARD COUNT AND AID AMOUNT

During the academic year of 2018-2019, the SSCG provided over \$140 million to help meet the financial gap in the cost of attendance for over 81,000 students, as described on Table A.

**Table A. Total award count and aid paid in the 2018-19 academic year
Includes 2017-18 FTSSG and CCCG rolled over funds.**

Annual 2018-19	Recipient Count	Aid Amount
Student Success Completion Grant (SSCG)	81,350	\$140,513,385

STUDENT INFORMATION

DEGREE/CERTIFICATE EDUCATION OUTCOMES

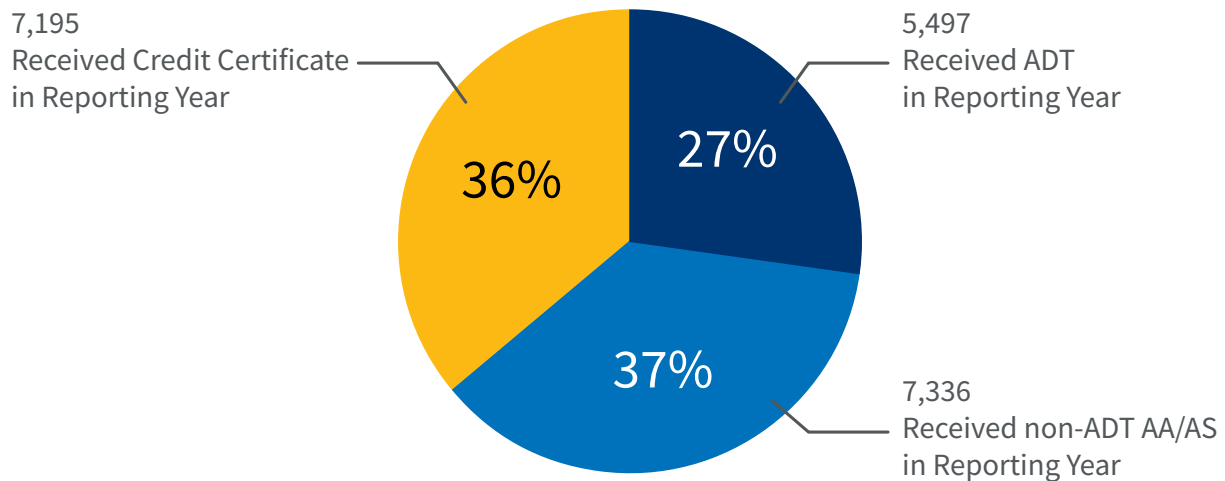
Report Data Element 1

In the 2018-19 academic year, 81,350 California community college students were awarded the SSCG. Although the Chancellor's Office and colleges/districts do not collect data on the credential students pursue while enrolled, students do indicate their education and training goals at application. Students who received the SSCG in academic year 2018-19, initially selected the following credentials as their ultimate educational goals: 51,578 (or 63%) sought an Associate Degree for Transfer, 9,271 (or 11%) sought an associate degree with no plans to transfer, 8,319 (or 10%) sought transfer without an associate degree and 2,643 (3%) selected career and technical education (or career education) certificates.

Among 2018-19 SSCG recipients, approximately 7,195 (or 36%) earned credit certificates, 7,336 (or 37%) earned a non-Associate Degree for Transfer AA/AS and 5,497 (or 27%) earned an Associate Degree for Transfer.

Graph 1. Number of SSCG recipients who received an education outcome in the reporting year.

2018-2019 SSCG Recipients that received a degree/certificate



STUDENT INFORMATION

ATTEMPTED AND COMPLETED UNITS PER ACADEMIC YEAR

Report Data Element 2 & 3

Graph 2 shows the annualized completed units for the academic year (fall, spring and summer) for Student Success Completion Grant (SSCG) recipients. The winter quarter was included for our colleges under the quarter system. The data shows 30% of recipients completing 24 or more but less than 30 units and 25% completing 30 or more units for the academic year. The 44% of recipients completing fewer than 24 units per the academic year include recipients who enrolled less than full time (12 units) for either fall, spring and/or summer terms.

Graph 2. Recipients by annualized completed units for the academic year.

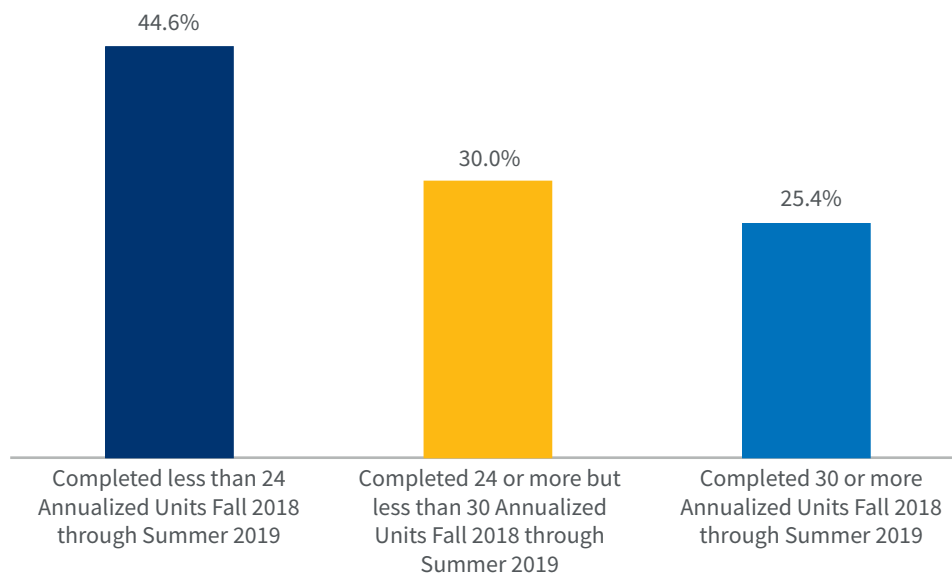


Table B-1 and B-2 below summarizes the number of units SSCG recipients were enrolled in during the fall and spring term. While nearly 80% of students attempted at least 12 units in both the fall and spring term, only one quarter of all students enrolled in 15 more units. According to various researchers, in order to complete a credential within two-years, community college students should enroll in 15 or more units each term. While full-time course-taking is the goal, the cost of living in California requires that many students work despite the low tuition and fees at community colleges.

Table B-1: 2018-19 SSCG Recipients by Units Attempted by Term, Fall 2018

Units Attempted	Number of Students	Proportion of Students
0 to 5.9	1,325	2%
6 to 11.9	10,252	13%
12 to 14.9	47,536	60%
15+	19,943	25%
Total	79,056	100%

Table B-2: 2018-19 SSCG Recipients by Units Attempted by Term, Spring 2019

Units Attempted	Number of Students	Proportion of Students
0 to 5.9	2,659	4%
6 to 11.9	14,700	20%
12 to 14.9	37,537	50%
15+	19,970	27%
Total	74,866	100%

Table B-3 compares unit completion data for students who received the SSCG, federal financial aid only and no financial aid. At the end of the 2019-20 award year, 25% of all SSCG recipients completed 30 or more units compared to only 5.9% of students that received federal financial aid only and 3.47% who received no financial aid at all.

Table B-3: Comparison of Students that Received SSCG, Federal Aid Only or No Financial Aid

Award Year	Number Students Receiving SSCG*	Percentage of SSCG Recipients Completing 30+ Units	Number Students Receiving Federal Awards Only	Percentage of Federal Awards Recipients Completing 30+ Units	Number Students Receiving No Financial Aid Awards	Percentage of Students Receiving No Financial Aid Completing 30+ Units
2017-18	18058	21.9	715	8.78	38956	4.1
2018-19	20023	24.5	678	9.1	37288	3.85
2019-20	20760	25.19	485	5.9	32390	3.47

*The 2017-18 SSCG data includes the former Full-time Student Success and the Community College Completion grants that were combined to create the Student Success Completion Grant in 2019.

STUDENT INFORMATION

GRADE POINT AVERAGE

Report Data Element 4

Table C below summarizes data on SSCG grant award recipients grade point average (GPA) for the 2018-19 academic year. Sixty percent (60%) of SSCG students earned a 2.7 or higher annual GPA. Just over one-quarter of these students (27%) earned between a 1.7 and 2.69 GPA and only 13% earned less than a 1.7 GPA.

Table C: Annual Grade Point Average of SSCG Recipients, 2018-19

GPA	Number of Students	Proportion
Below 1.7	10,464	13%
1.7 to 2.69	21,449	27%
2.7 to 3.69	34,828	43%
3.7 to 4.0	14,334	18%
Total	81,075	100%

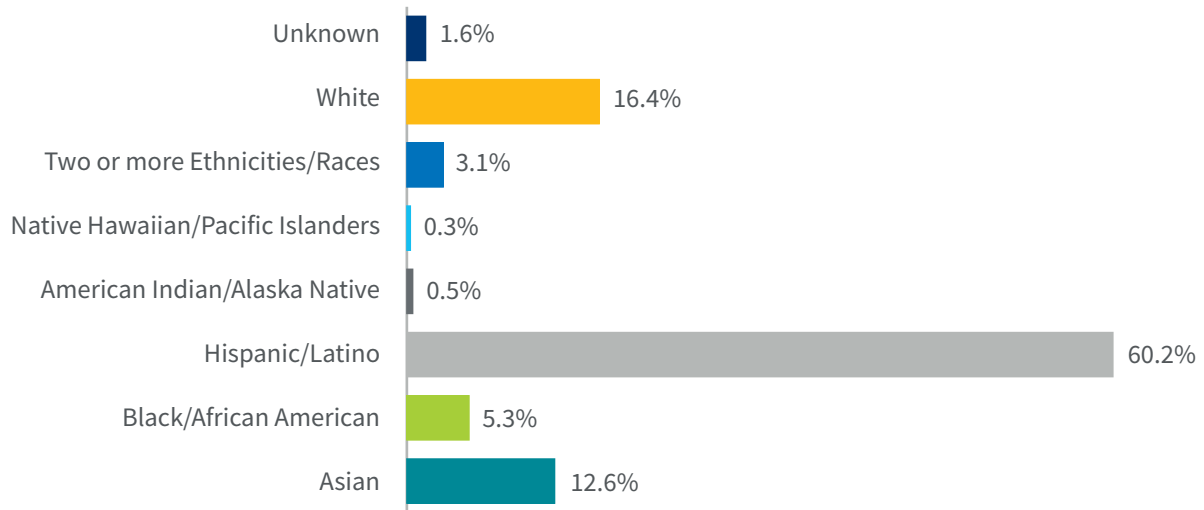
STUDENT INFORMATION

RACE AND ETHNICITY

Report Element 5

The California Community Colleges is very diverse in terms of ethnicity and race, as reflected among SSCG recipients. The majority of SSCG recipients are Hispanic/Latino (60.2%), followed by white (16.4%) and Asian (12.6%). In future reporting years, data will be available to compare these distributions with the 2018-19 base year.

Graph 5. Student Success Completion Grant (SSCG) Recipients by Ethnicity



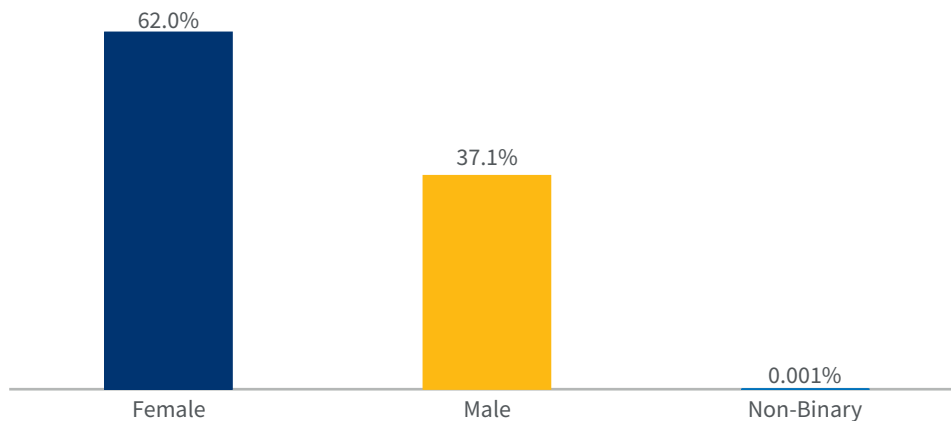
STUDENT INFORMATION

GENDER

Report Element 5

Graph 3 shows the distribution of male and female SSCG recipients for the reporting year. The data shows that more Student Success Completion Grant (SSCG) recipients are females (62%). This percentage is higher than that of female student population at community colleges. For more than 20 years, the ratio of female students has stood at roughly 55% of the total student population. We will continue to observe and report on the trend in future year reports.

Graph 3. Student Success Completion Grant (SSCG) Recipients by Gender



STUDENT INFORMATION

SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

Report Element 5

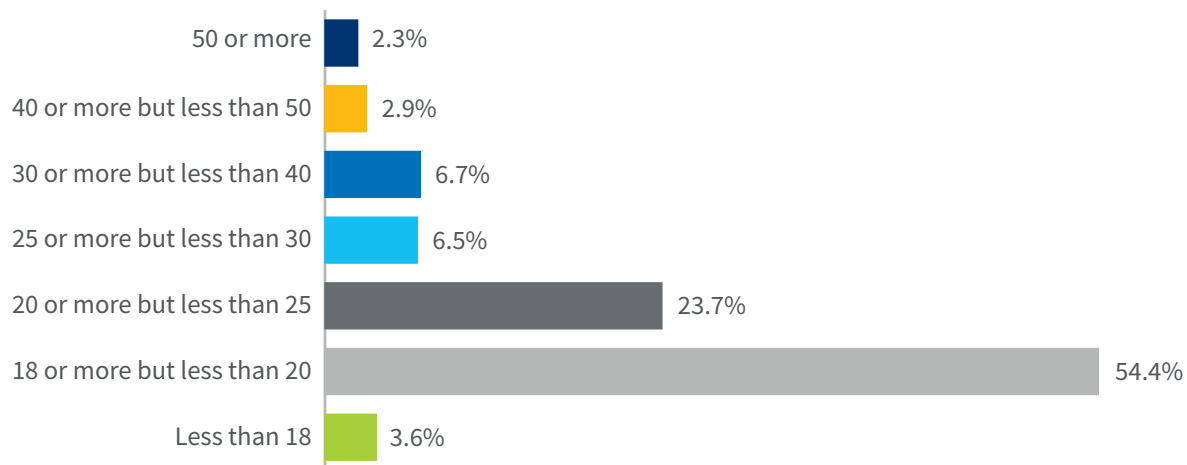
In terms of socioeconomic status, all SSCG award recipients are considered low-income by definition of Cal Grant B or Cal Grant C eligibility. While these funds are meaningful, 90% of SSCG recipients have an estimated family contribution (EFC) of \$2,000 or less annually. Given that the average total cost of attendance at a California community college (i.e., including transportation, books, childcare and housing) is significantly more than \$4,000, most students have significant outstanding financial need.

STUDENT INFORMATION

AGE

Students who receive the award skew much younger than the average California community college student. The data shows that significantly more recipients age 18 or more but less than 20 receive the Student Success Completion Grant (SSCG) awards, more than double the next age group, which includes recipients between 20 and 25. Additionally, the number of students receiving SSCG shrinks by 75% after students turn 25, and then there is an additional drop of 50% for students 40 and older. This graph illustrates the additional challenges for adult learners to access the necessary financial support to pursue educational opportunities in the community colleges. In future reporting years, data will be available to compare these distributions with the 2018-19 base year.

Graph 4. Student Success Completion Grant (SSCG) Recipients by Age



Front cover photo: Citrus College

Photo at right: Solano College

Back cover photo: San Jose City College



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