



SCHOLARSHIP 2024-2025

THE CUESTA PROMISE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Cuesta College Promise?

The Cuesta College Promise is a scholarship program available to all San Luis Obispo County high school graduates. The Promise offers all local graduates, including undocumented students—who come straight to Cuesta following their graduation—two years of attendance fee-free (two consecutive fall and spring semesters). The Cuesta Promise will pay fees for students that are California residents or AB540 students.

What fees does the Promise pay for?

The Promise covers these costs for the Fall and Spring semesters:

- Enrollment (\$46 per unit)
- Health (\$19)
- ASCC Student ID Card (\$10)
- Student Center (\$10)
- Student Rep (\$2)
- Course Materials Fees*

The Promise will pay for all unit fees, whether a student is full or part-time. It does not cover digital materials fees.

How do I qualify for the Promise?

All graduates from San Luis Obispo County high schools, who earned their diplomas between the dates of July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025, including students who receive their GED or are home-schooled, must attend Cuesta College’s Fall 2025 semester. If you attend in the Spring or Summer terms after you graduate high school, but before the Fall 2025 term, you would need to apply for financial aid separately for those terms.

If I am an undocumented student, can I apply for the Promise?

Yes, follow the steps and make sure you submit the California Dream Act Application. dream.csac.ca.gov

What if I want to take a break and not attend the second consecutive year at Cuesta, can I still get the second year free when I decide to come back later?

No, you must return to Cuesta for the next consecutive year in order to qualify for the second-year fee-free.

What happens if I miss the deadlines?

You won’t be eligible for the Promise Scholarship.

I’m not a senior this school year. Will I be able to get the Promise in the future?

Yes! The Cuesta College Foundation has established an ongoing fund so that the Promise will be around for future generations of SLO County high school students.

APPLICATION STEPS:

- 1 Submit your Cuesta College Fall 2023 admissions application **October 1, 2024–August 1, 2025**
- 2 Submit your Scholarship application (*Apply by priority deadline, March 2, 2024, to be considered for additional scholarships*) **October 1, 2024–August 1, 2025**
- 3 Complete the FAFSA or the Dream Act application **December 1, 2024–August 1, 2025**
- 4 Complete the Cuesta College Online Orientation starting **October 1–August 1, 2025**
- 5 Register for your classes **Beginning May –August 1, 2025**

QUESTIONS?

Visit us online at the [Financial Aid Page](#), email us at finaid@cuesta.edu, or [ask Cougie!](#)



QUESTIONS? ASK COUGIE!

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* Fees indicated in the course description on Class Finder; does not include books or items the instructor requires in his/her syllabus.

Just remember: after you graduate, you must attend Cuesta College the Fall semester immediately following your commencement to obtain the Promise Scholarship.

Do I qualify for the Cuesta Promise Scholarship if I earned a GED, graduated from a home school or passed the CHSPE between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025?

Yes. If you are a San Luis Obispo County resident and earned your GED, graduated from a home school or received your CHSPE results between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025, and you indicated this on your Cuesta College admissions application, you qualify for the Promise and must begin using the Cuesta Promise during Cuesta College's Fall 2025 semester. If you attend in the Spring or Summer terms after you graduate high school, but before the Fall 2025 term, you would need to apply for financial aid separately for those terms.

What should I do if I don't see my high school listed on the Cuesta College admissions application?

If you do not see your high school on the Cuesta College admissions application, please email promise@cuesta.edu to ensure that your high school or home school qualifies for the Cuesta Promise Scholarship and find out if you will need to submit a Promise Appeal.

What if I received the Promise in the Fall—do I need to do anything extra to get it in the Spring?

No. Just register for classes and your fees will be paid.

What if I received the Promise for Fall and Spring—do I need to do anything extra to get it for the next Fall and Spring?

You will need to meet the following academic requirements to qualify for year two fee-free:

- Complete more than 50% of the units attempted in the Fall and Spring semesters
- Earn a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.00 or higher during the Fall and Spring semesters
- Renew the FAFSA or Dream Act before August 1 of the next academic year

If you meet these requirements, simply register for classes and your fees will be paid.

What should I do if I am being charged out of state tuition?

Double-check that your residency status is correct with Enrollment Services. If it is not, then you may need to fill out a Statement of Legal Residence or California Nonresident Tuition Exemption request. More information available at bit.ly/cuestapromiseresidency.

How do I check the status of my Promise application?

You can check the status of your Promise application in the same place you check your financial aid status. Instructions available at bit.ly/promisestatus2021.

Once I've completed all the requirements, when will I be awarded the Promise?

Cuesta begins awarding the Promise each year in May. When you've been awarded, you will receive an email in your *myCuesta* email account and be mailed a congratulatory letter to your home address. You can also double-check your account balance in *myCuesta* to see if the fees have been paid! Find it in *myCuesta*: Student Self Service > Student Accounts > Account Detail for Term and Payment Information.

What if I think I've done all of the requirements, but I don't see the Promise on my student account?

Double-check that you have completed all of the requirements and allowed enough time for those changes to be processed. If you still don't see the Promise on your student account, please email promise@cuesta.edu for assistance.

LET US HELP YOU

Paying for the cost of a college education requires a partnership among parents, students, and the college. As the cost of higher education continues to rise, we want you to know that Cuesta College offers a full array of financial aid programs—grants, work study, scholarships, federal loan programs, and fee waivers. These programs are available to both full- and part-time students who are seeking a degree or certificate. For those who qualify, financial aid is available to help with tuition, fees, books and supplies, food, housing, transportation, and childcare. Please log on to our website for additional information: cuesta.edu/student/studentservices/finaid.

FINANCIAL AID OFFICES

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Building 3000
Room 3126
(805) 546-3143

Paso Robles Campus:
Room N1100
(805) 591-6202



QUESTIONS? ASK COUGIE!



bit.ly/cuestapromiseapplicationsteps