

**VENTURA COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE
4667 TELEGRAPH ROAD
VENTURA CA 93003
(805) 654-6369**

Ability to Benefit Information

The Financial Aid Office received conflicting information on your FAFSA application regarding the question, "Are You A High School Graduate?"

Beginning in 2006, California residents are required to pass the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) in order to receive a diploma. If you have passed the CAHSEE and received your high school diploma, you must bring a copy of your diploma to the Financial Aid Office. If you received a 'Certificate of Completion' from a California high school, please be advised this is NOT considered a high school diploma and you will be required to pass the Ability to Benefit test.

If you graduated or received the equivalent of a diploma from an out-of-state high school, you also must bring a copy of your diploma or equivalent to the Financial Aid Office.

The following is a list of acceptable equivalents:

1. High school diploma
2. Foreign high school diploma
3. GED Certificate
4. Certificate of equivalency
5. High School Proficiency Exam Certificate

If you do not have a high school diploma or the equivalent, be aware that Federal regulations require that students have the "ability to benefit" from college. Students who do not have a high school diploma or its equivalent, and are beyond the age of compulsory education (18 in California), must complete an approved Department of Education Ability to Benefit test prior to receiving financial aid. If you are at least 18 years old, please contact the test administrator, Stephen Manriquez, at 654-6402 for testing information.

If English is your second language and you are currently enrolled in either English as a Second Language (ESL) or English Proficiency (EP) courses, you may be eligible to take the CELSA test. Contact Raul Barraza at 525-7136, extension 6581, for further information on this test.

