

FAQs

Q 1: How does the Contra Costa Community College District's FT3 Promise work?

A 1: Contra Costa Community College District (4CD) is invested in your success! The "First Time + Full Time = Free Tuition" (FT3) program offers free tuition for eligible students. Students who qualify may receive free tuition for their first two academic years of college (fall and spring terms only).

Here's how it works:

- Be a first-time college student
- Enroll in a minimum of 12 units
- Be a California resident or otherwise exempt from paying non-resident tuition fees (e.g. AB540)
- Complete the [FT3 Promise Pledge](#)
- Complete the Federal Application for [Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) or [California Dream Act application](#)
- To maintain eligibility for future terms, students must complete a minimum of 12 units per term with a GPA of 2.0 or higher

Your award will be applied to your account after the end of each academic term (fall and spring terms only).

Once you have successfully completed your first term as an FT3 student, we will automatically enroll you in the program again for following term. As long as you meet the above requirements each term, you will remain an FT3 student and receive free tuition through the end of your second academic year of college (four consecutive terms for students who start in the fall term, and three consecutive terms for spring start students).

Q 2: What is the Contra Costa Community College District promising?

A 2: Whether seeking an AA degree, pursuing transfer opportunities for a higher degree or retooling their education and skills with a short-term career or technical education certificate, students participating in the FT3 Promise will receive:

1. An education plan, including academic and career advising to achieve their education goals, along with related academic and student support services.
2. Priority enrollment during the first year attending the Contra Costa Community College District (4CD) colleges.

3. Up to two academic years (up to four consecutive terms) of free tuition at any Contra Costa Community College District (4CD) college using a combination of funding resources (including federal, state, local, and private resources). The FT3 program does not cover tuition for summer courses.
4. In addition, resources for textbook assistance, transportation, dependent care and other education expenses may also be available during the first year of enrollment to those who qualify for federal or state financial aid assistance.

Q 3: Which colleges are included in the Contra Costa Community College District's FT3 Promise?

A 3: The Contra Costa Community College District's FT3 Promise includes attendance at any or all of the Colleges and Education Centers.

- Contra Costa College, San Pablo
- Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill Campus
- Diablo Valley College, San Ramon Campus
- Los Medanos College, Pittsburg Campus
- Los Medanos College, Brentwood Center

Q 4: Who may apply for the FT3 Promise?

A 4: 4CD students who are California residents as well as those exempt from paying non-resident fees.

In addition, 4CD students who meet the eligibility criteria for an AB540 fee exemption and are eligible to file a California Dream Act application are also eligible to apply for the FT3 Promise Program.

Q 5: What is the FT3 Promise eligibility criteria?

A 5: Students who would like to be included in the FT3 Promise must:

1. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADA).
 - Applications must be complete and fully processed. Incomplete applications will not result in eligibility for the FT3 program.
 - Although a complete application needs to be submitted, students do not need to be awarded other financial aid funds to be eligible for FT3.
2. Complete the [FT3 Promise Pledge](#)
3. Enroll full-time (a minimum of 12 units per primary term) at a 4CD college.

- Maintain a 2.0 GPA while participating in the FT3 Promise program.

Q 6: How do I apply to participate in the FT3 Promise?

- A 6:**
- Complete the 4CD admissions application (CCCapply)
 - Complete the [FT3 Promise Pledge](#) by April 1 during the Spring term.
 - Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act application

Q 7: I already have or will qualify for another type of Financial Aid. Should I still complete the FT3 pledge?

- A 7:** Yes! We recommend that all first time college students review the FT3 program requirements and complete the pledge.

Q 8: How long can I receive free tuition as an FT3 student?

- A 8:** FT3 is a two-year program, so you may be eligible to receive free tuition through the end of your second academic year of college. An "academic year" is defined as a fall term followed by a spring term. So, students who begin taking classes in the fall term may be eligible to receive funding for up to four consecutive terms, while students who start in the spring may be eligible for up to three consecutive terms. As long as you meet the FT3 requirements each term, 4CD will automatically enroll you in FT3 through the end of your second academic year of college. Your award will be applied to your account after the end of each term.

Q 9: How do I remain eligible for the FT3 Promise?

- A 9:** Students receiving an FT3 Promise must do the following to maintain eligibility.

1. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADA) each academic year.
2. Complete a minimum of 12 units each primary term (fall and spring terms) at a 4CD college.
3. Maintain a 2.0 GPA while participating in the FT3 Promise program.

Q 10: I was not able to meet the FT3 requirements for this semester due to extenuating circumstances. What should I do?

A 10: If you experienced extenuating circumstances that resulted in you not meeting the FT3 requirements, you may appeal your status by submitting an appeal form to your campus financial aid office. Use the links below to access the appropriate form:

- [CCC FT3 Appeal Form](#)
- [DVC FT3 Appeal Form](#)
- [LMC FT3 Appeal Form](#)

Q 11: I was awarded FT3 last semester, but do not meet the requirements this term. Can I pledge next semester and be eligible again?

A 11: Unfortunately, no. You must meet the requirements for FT3 each semester in order to remain eligible. Since you do not meet the requirements this semester, you will not be eligible for subsequent semesters.

Q 12: How will I know if my application to participate in the FT3 Promise is approved?

A 12: You will be notified when your application has been reviewed and you have been approved.

Q 13: How many units do I have to complete to be considered "full-time" for the FT3 Promise?

A 13: You must complete 12 or more units per primary term (fall and spring). Completing a class means receiving a final grade in the course (including A, B, C, D, F, P, NP, but not including W, FW, I, MW).

Q 14: What if I am a part of a specialized program that has already approved my "full time" status to be 9 units rather than 12 units for the FT3 Promise?

A 14: If you are part of a program such as DSPS or CalWORKs, and have an approved exception from the program manager, your eligibility for FT3 will be based on a full-time status of 9 units instead of 12 units. As long as you meet the other eligibility requirements, you do not need to take any additional action.

Q 15: What does the FT3 Promise cover?

A 15: The FT3 Promise will cover the \$46 per unit enrollment/tuition fee at all 4CD colleges. FT3 students are responsible for any books, supplies and materials fees that a class requires, as well as other non-tuition fees.

Q 16: When can I expect to see the FT3 Promise award on my account?

A 16: Your award will be applied to your account after the end of each term.

Q 17: Do I need to add a 4CD College to my FAFSA?

A 17: Yes, if you have not already done so, you need to add one of the Contra Costa Community College District colleges to your FAFSA application to verify that you meet the FAFSA application eligibility requirement. Alternatively, if you filled out the California Dream Act Application (CADA), you will need to add a 4CD college to verify eligibility.

Q 18: If I have any early college credit or took classes in the summer term immediately prior to my first fall term, am I eligible to apply for the FT3 Promise Grant?

A 18: Yes! You are still eligible to apply for FT3. Students who take college classes while in high school are still considered first-time college students, as are those who take summer classes immediately prior to their first fall term at a 4CD college.

Q 19: If a student qualifies for the grant in the Fall term, does it cover the tuition for the Summer prior as well?

A 19: No. The FT3 Promise only covers tuition in fall and spring terms. Tuition for classes taken during the summer will not be covered.

Q 20: Would a student need to enroll full-time in that summer session in order to remain eligible for the grant?

A 20: No. As a non-primary term, summer is independent from the full-time (12 or more unit) requirement that is placed on the fall and spring terms.

Q 21: What if a student comes for the fall term, sits out the spring term, then returns the following fall. Does the "first year" have to be consecutive terms?

A 21: Yes, a student must enroll in consecutive terms. A student can be eligible for FT3 for up to two academic years, which is the equivalent of four consecutive terms (fall and spring only). If they choose to leave a term and return, their eligibility will not be extended.

Q 22: I didn't know about the FT3 program when I enrolled for the first time in the fall. Can I start the FT3 Promise in the spring of my first year in college?

A 22: If students do not submit the FT3 pledge by the deadline of their first semester and/or fail to meet other FT3 eligibility requirements or deadlines then they may file an FT3 Extenuating Circumstances Appeal to be reconsidered for program eligibility. The deadline to appeal for fall eligibility is February 15th and the deadline for spring eligibility is July 15th of each year. If a student's appeal is approved, they will be reimbursed the cost of their tuition for the semester for which they appealed and will be considered eligible in future semesters if all FT3 program requirements are met.

- [CCC FT3 Appeal Form](#)
- [DVC FT3 Appeal Form](#)
- [LMC FT3 Appeal Form](#)

Q 23: I already paid my tuition for this term. Will my tuition be reimbursed if I qualify for FT3?

A 23: Yes, your tuition will be reimbursed after the end of term if you qualify for the FT3 program.

Q 24: Do other scholarships and financial aid affect whether or not I receive an FT3 Promise Grant?

A 24: The FT3 Promise Grant is an initiative designed to cover up to two academic years of enrollment fees for full-time students through various funding streams. If you receive a

Community College Promise Grant (formerly known as the BOG Fee Waiver), your enrollment fees will be paid through that grant. In the event that you are not eligible for the Community College Promise Grant, and you are eligible for the FT3 Promise Grant, you will receive the FT3 Promise Grant to pay for enrollment fees.

Private scholarships awarded to students outside of federal or state financial aid will not affect receipt of the FT3 Promise Grant unless the cost of attendance has been reached.

Q 25: If I qualify for financial aid, can I turn down the financial aid and instead receive the FT3 Promise Grant?

A 25: No. However, please take note that if state or financial aid does not fully cover the cost of tuition, students who meet all other eligibility requirements for the FT3 Promise Grant will have the remaining tuitions costs covered by the FT3.