



Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated May 21, 2020

Where is this money coming from?

This money is part of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) created in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Funding allocations were set by the Department of Education and given directly to institutions.

Who is eligible to receive the HEERF funds?

Students must meet all Title IV eligibility requirements in order to receive HEERF funds. This means that you are:

- A U.S. citizen, or eligible noncitizen
- Have a valid social security number
- Are registered with Selective Service (if you're a male between the ages of 18 and 25)
- Are enrolled in an eligible degree program
- Not in default on a Title IV loan, or owe an overpayment on Title IV grants or loans
- Have maintained Satisfactory Academic Progress

Students who have filed a FAFSA for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic years will be given priority in terms of review for the funds. Students who are Title IV eligible and have not filed a FAFSA will be required to submit an affidavit to the Office of Financial Aid proving eligibility (and in some cases, the student may be asked to provide additional documentation).

Who is not eligible to receive the HEERF Funds?

The following groups are not eligible to receive HEERF funds:

- Students not eligible for federal student aid
- Students enrolled in an online program
- Students who are still currently enrolled in high school (i.e. dual enrollment students)

Can graduating seniors receive HEERF Funds?

We are still waiting for guidance from the Department of Education, but until then, we will operate under the assumption that graduating seniors can be eligible for funds until they graduate. After the graduation date, a student is no longer considered eligible for Title IV aid. **Graduating Seniors should submit their request no later than May 14th in order to be considered for funding.**

Can I receive funding if I did not file a FAFSA?

The Department of Education has stated that you must be Title IV eligible to receive funding. If you have not filed a FAFSA for the 2019-2020 academic year, the University will do their best to confirm eligibility for Title IV aid, but cannot promise that HEERF funding will be granted.

What is the criteria for receiving funds?

Block Grants

The University made the determination that students who met the following criteria are eligible to receive a block grant:

- Filed a FAFSA for the 2019-2020 Academic Year
- Are not enrolled in an Online Only Program
- Are currently enrolled at the University
- Are making Satisfactory Academic Progress
- Do not have any flags on their FAFSA that would make them ineligible for financial aid

Funds in addition to the Block Grant

Students must submit the application showing expenses they have incurred related to the disruption of campus operations due to the novel coronavirus. The expenses can be related to housing, food, course materials, technology, health care, or child care.

Will this count towards my financial aid?

No, the HEERF funds are not counted towards financial aid for the 2019-2020 academic year or the 2020-2021 academic year. HEERF funds will also not count as income for the calculation of your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) or estimated financial assistance (EFA).

Can the funds be used to pay my outstanding balance?

No, the funds cannot be used to pay an outstanding balance. Likewise, the University cannot hold a portion of any amount given to a student to cover an outstanding balance.

How much money can I receive?

Block Grants

Students will receive \$500 if their Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is under 5,576. Students will receive \$400 if their EFC is over 5,576.

Funds in addition to the Block Grant

The University is allowing students to receive any amount up to \$6,000. Funds received from the block grant will be deducted from the total amount.

How was the block grant amount determined?

Please visit this link ([link](#)) to view the block grant determination

Is there a deadline for receiving funds?Block Grants

Students must file their FAFSA for the 2019-2020 Academic Year, or submit a completed affidavit to the Financial Aid Office by June 1, 2020.

Funds in addition to the Block Grant

Students must file their application by June 1, 2020. Applications will be reviewed in the order in which they are received.

Do I need to provide receipts to receive the HEERF Funds?

Not unless the University deems it to be necessary. Please remember that when you fill out the application, this is a legal document that the University will maintain in the event the Department of Education requires information on how the funds were awarded. Though not directly related, any person caught lying on the FAFSA is subject to penalties of up to five years in prison and a fine of \$20,000 under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

Examples of ineligible reasons to receive HEERF funds

- Lost wages due to loss of job as a result of COVID19
- Paying rent for an apartment that you were previously living in prior to the disruption of campus operations
- Technology expenses that were previously purchased prior to the disruption of campus operations (i.e. purchased laptop at the beginning of the school year, already have WIFI at home)