

April 29, 2020

Dear Vanguard Students,

As you have likely heard from news sources, the federal CARES Act (“Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act”) contains provisions for funding of emergency financial aid grants to eligible students who have experienced disruption to their education due to COVID-19. The U.S. Department of Education administers these funds and provides them to higher education institutions for the disbursement to eligible students. These grants are to cover a student’s expenses related to the disruption to their education, including eligible expenses under a student’s cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare.

Since the announcement of these funds, ASU-Beebe administration has been working to understand the federal guidance on student eligibility and to design a plan to distribute the funds within the federal requirements. I am pleased to share that ASU-Beebe has now received access to these funds and will begin distribution of emergency financial aid grants to eligible ASU-Beebe students the week of May 4, 2020.

This update is to provide ASU-Beebe students with information on eligibility requirements to receive an emergency financial aid grant and the process ASU-Beebe will use to award the grants.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Students who were enrolled exclusively in online courses on March 13, 2020, the date of the President’s Proclamation, “Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak,” are not eligible for emergency financial aid grants.
- Any student enrolled in one or more face-to-face or internet assisted course on March 13, 2020, did experience a disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus and will be considered for an emergency financial aid grant if the student otherwise qualifies.
- Students who are non-degree seeking, do not have a high school diploma or GED, are in Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status, or are an international student are not eligible for emergency financial aid grants.
- Only students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), may receive emergency financial aid grants.
- If a student has filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), then the student has demonstrated eligibility to participate in programs under Section 484 the HEA, and we have that information on file.

DISBURSEMENT OF EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AID GRANTS

- The amount of each award will be based on the number of credit hours in which a qualified student was enrolled on March 13, 2020, and the student's Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) as determined by their current and complete FAFSA.
- Students who have a completed FAFSA on file with the ASU-Beebe Financial Aid office will not need to take any action to be considered for an award. We have the information needed to process your award.
- Students who have not filed a FAFSA or have an incomplete FAFSA but who are eligible to file a FAFSA also may receive emergency financial aid grants. These students will be directly contacted by our Financial Aid office so that steps can be taken to complete or file a FAFSA and/or certify eligibility to participate in programs under Section 484 of the HEA. The criteria to participate in programs under Section 484 of the HEA include, but are not limited to, the following: U.S. citizenship or eligible noncitizen; a valid Social Security number; registration with Selective Service (if the student is male); and a high school diploma, GED, or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting.
- The CARES Act expressly requires that institutions provide the emergency financial aid grants directly to students "for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare)." Funds may not be used for other purposes.

As I have shared before, I am amazed at our students' grit and determination and am very proud of the character our students have displayed as we have weathered this public health crisis.

We also look forward to having everyone back on campus when it is safe to do so. Please continue to follow all public health guidance. Continue to communicate with your faculty often and please access our remote support services, which are linked here: [ASUB Remote Services](#).

Let's finish the Spring 2020 semester #VanguardStrong.

Thank you,



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