

May 8, 2020

Dear Trailblazer 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 will administer these funds and provide them to higher education institutions for 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 child care.

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

This update is to provide ASU-Mountain Home students with information on eligibility requirements to receive an emergency financial aid grant and the process that will be used to award the grants.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Students who were enrolled exclusively in online courses on March, 1 2020, the designated date of the President’s Official 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 courses on March 1, 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 grant.

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 1, 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 and those students who have been determine to be eligible for Federal Student Aid will be awarded the grant once the FAFSA is filed. 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.

All of us at ASUMH are proud of our students and their resilience during this incredible and historic event in our nation’s history. We wish each of you all the best as we near the end of this semester and look forward to the summer term. The funds will be direct deposited or mailed to those who qualify. Please stay safe and remember that we are looking forward to being back together with you very soon!

With Warmest Regards,

Robin Myers, Chancellor
Arkansas State University – Mountain Home