

CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Funds

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, passed by Congress, is designed to assist students taking ground or on-campus classes whose education was impacted due to COVID 19, which required the student to transition to virtual learning. The funds are designed to assist eligible students with cost of attendance (COA) requirements such as housing, food, childcare costs, technology costs and medical related expenses. The funds are NOT provided to cover tuition costs.

Each eligible student awarded Higher Education Emergency Funds will be required to complete a certification acknowledging their understanding and confirming the funds will be used solely for the items intended by Congress.

We know many of our students have questions. We are providing the following question and answer document to answer those questions. If you have additional questions that are not listed below, please contact your Financial Aid Advisors/Finance Counselors.

Are all students eligible for the Higher Education Emergency Funds?

The CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Funds apply to students who attend ground campus and whose courses moved to virtual format. Students enrolled in solely online classes are not eligible as their education was not impacted by COVID 19¹.

Students actively enrolled and attending ground classes in a virtual format who are eligible for federal student aid (Title IV funds) are eligible.

What are the requirements for federal student aid (Title IV funds)?

1. Filed a 2019-2020 FAFSA
2. Resolve all items noted on the 2019-2020 Institutional Student Information Report
 - a. Verification Codes
 - b. C Codes
3. High school graduate
4. US Citizen or Eligible Non-Citizen
5. Male students: Register with Selective Service
6. Not be in default on a federal student loan

Do I have to apply for the Higher Education Emergency Funds?

No. South University has allotted funds using a need-based scale for all eligible students currently taking classes in the Spring term based on each eligible student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as noted on the 2019-2020 FAFSA.. South University will notify each student of their EFC and the grant award amount. Students may review their paper Student Aid Report (SAR) or log into www.fafsa.gov to view the 2019-2020 EFC.

When will I receive my funds?

¹ Per the guidance issued by the US Department of Education, "at institutions that provide both online and ground-based education, those students who were enrolled exclusively in an online program on March 13, 2020, the date of the President's Proclamation, "Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak," *Federal Register* Vol. 85, No. 53 at 15337-38, are not eligible for emergency financial aid grants. The formula provided by Congress for calculating the distribution of funds to institutions excludes students who were exclusively enrolled in distance education courses. Additionally, the emergency financial aid grants to students are for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, and students who were enrolled exclusively in online programs would not have expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus."

South University is in the process of reviewing each student to determine eligibility. Each eligible student will be notified of their scheduled grant amount. Funds will be disbursed to eligible students by mid-May 2020.

How long do I have to provide the necessary documentation to resolve eligibility items?

Students with outstanding verification, C Code, or conflicting information items will be required to resolve any federal student aid eligibility items prior to receiving the emergency funding.

Students must provide all documentation within 90 calendar days from the date of the South University announcement. Students who do not resolve the eligibility items within 90 days will forfeit their grant.

I am an international student. Can I receive the grant?

South University is authorized to disburse Higher Education Emergency Funds to US Citizens or eligible non-citizens as outlined in the CARES Act.

Why are other students' grant amounts different from mine?

South University based the grant amounts on each student's EFC with the lowest EFCs receiving the highest grant and the highest EFC receiving smaller grants. This allows us to equitably and fairly disburse the funds to all eligible students.

Will the emergency grant funds impact or change the amount of financial aid I am receiving?

No. The emergency grant funds will not impact your federal, state, or institutional aid.

Can I use the Emergency Relief funds to pay a Past Due balance at South University?

No. Funds cannot be used for tuition costs. Funds will be used solely for the items intended by Congress.

How will I receive my emergency grant funds?

South University will disburse each grant amount to each eligible student's ledger card (using a CARES fund source code) and immediately issue the grant funds using our normal stipend process, Bank Mobile. The funds will be issued based on the distribution election (bank account deposit, Bank Mobile card, or paper check) you made regarding funds on the Bank Mobile website. If you did not make a selection on Bank Mobile's site, a paper check will be issued.

To set up or change your selection method, please visit www.RefundSelection.com. Set up and changes take approximately five to seven business days. Depending on the timing of the disbursement and requested changes on Bank Mobile, your changes may not be processed prior to disbursement

Please note, according to Bank Mobile, it could take up to 14 calendar days to issue paper checks to students due to the high volume during the CARES distribution funding process.