

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) Details – Winter 2021

The CRRSAA authorized the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) and directed institutions to use this new federal funding to provide direct emergency financial grants to students for expenses related to any component of their cost of attendance, including: tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health), and childcare. Unlike the CARES Act, the CRRSAA requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants. *UCSB distributed HEERF II funding during Winter 2021.*

This funding program is separate from the one authorized in the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. [UCSB distributed HEERF I funding during Spring 2020.](#)

Eligibility for CRRSAA Funding Through HEERF II

To establish eligibility for funding at UCSB, undergraduate students are required to complete the 2020-21 [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) in order to accurately determine financial need.

COVID CRRSAA Grant

UCSB Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships (OFAS) established the COVID CRRSAA Grant to make direct awards to eligible undergraduate students. Award amounts are based on financial need: Pell Grant recipients received the largest awards, followed by non-Pell Grant recipients that were otherwise grant-eligible, and non-grant recipients with demonstrated financial need received the most modest awards. Targeted populations in each of the three categories received special consideration, including: student parents, formerly incarcerated students, former foster youth, unaccompanied homeless youth, and students with an approved dependency override appeal.

Eligible undergraduate students were awarded on March 3, 2021. If you were determined eligible, you can view your COVID CRRSAA Grant or UCSB COVID19 Relief Grant on [My Aid Status](#). *A total of 11,193 students received awards ranging from \$450 to \$1,250, equaling \$9,690,350 in emergency funding.*

Institutional Support for Dream Scholars UCSB COVID19 Relief Grant

Current guidance excludes Dream Scholars from being considered for funding through CRRSAA. However, this population is eligible for state and institutional aid, and because we recognize that Dream Scholars are also affected, the UCSB Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships has committed funding to award undergraduate Dream Scholars using parallel eligibility criteria. Eligible Dream Scholars with a complete 2020-21 [California Dream Act Application](#) have been awarded the UCSB COVID19 Relief Grant. Award amounts range from \$450 to \$1,250.

International Student Support

International students who have experienced financial hardship as a result of the current COVID-19 pandemic can reach out to the Financial Crisis Response Team to be considered for emergency funding. Please email financialcrisis@sa.ucsb.edu.

Graduate Student Support

The Graduate Division will soon be awarding eligible students through their established process. More information will be provided in a forthcoming message from the Graduate Division.

Refund Timeline and Processing

FAFSA Applicants: The COVID CRRSAA Grant will be refunded in full. This means that funds will not be applied to any outstanding balance on BARC. **CA Dream Act Applicants:** The UCSB COVID19 Relief Grant may result in adjustments to other aid to ensure compliance with Cal Grant regulations. Funding for this grant is provided by UCSB, as we are committed to providing parallel funding for Dream Scholars, but awards must be counted for Cal Grant purposes. Typically, students will only see reductions to previously accepted loans.

Students enrolled in eRefund (direct deposit) with BARC can expect to receive their funding during the week of

March 8th. If you are not signed up for eRefund, a refund check will be mailed to the permanent mailing address you have on file with BARC and is expected to be delivered during the week of March 15th.

Appealing for Support

We recognize that all students have been affected by the current situation in one way or another. Though we were not able to award all students, we have established an appeal process so that students can notify us of their circumstances. If you are a student that did not receive the COVID CRRSAA Grant nor the UCSB COVID19 Relief Grant but have experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19, please [complete the appeal](#). This process is open to undergraduate students only and will be open **between March 3rd and April 1st**.

Summer Emergency Awards

We understand that enrolling in Summer courses plays a critical role in ensuring that students earn their degree in a more timely manner. Since financial aid availability for Summer is typically more limited, approximately \$1.4 million has been set aside for Summer emergency awards.

Differences in Grant Amounts: CARES (Spring 2020) and CRRSAA (Winter 2021)

If you received a COVID-related grant in Spring 2020 and again in Winter 2021, you might notice that they are different amounts. There are several reasons this might be the case, including but not limited to:

- The authorizing legislation of the two funding sources, and therefore the guidance to colleges and universities, differs slightly.
- Different student financial aid applications were used to determine eligibility: the 2019-20 application in Spring 2020 and the 2020-21 application in Winter 2021.
- Campus enrollment fluctuates from quarter to quarter.
- A modest amount of funding was set aside for Summer 2021 Emergency Awards as described above.

You might also notice that other colleges and universities are distributing funding differently (e.g. an application is required). In both Spring 2020 and Winter 2021, UC Santa Barbara's automatic distribution process was designed after careful review of our student financial aid application information, and in order to provide emergency funding as quickly as possible, to as many eligible students as possible.

CRRSAA Student Aid Portion & Reporting

UCSB received \$12,602,098 in HEERF II funding for Student Aid. Those funds are being distributed proportionally to undergraduate and graduate students.

- Undergraduate student aid (\$11,152,117) from HEERF II includes COVID CRRSAA grants, new applicants and successful appellants, and the Summer Emergency Awards.
- Graduate student aid (\$1,449,981) from HEERF II is being managed by the Graduate Division.

UCSB will publish a quarterly CRRSAA Student Aid Portion report on the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships website for the duration of the program.