

UC SANTA BARBARA

Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships: CARES Act

BACKGROUND

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act was signed into law March 27, 2020. The Act provides nearly \$14 billion in aid to address higher education challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Of this amount, \$12.6 billion is allocated directly to colleges and universities. UC Santa Barbara is eligible for a total allocation of \$25,204,196.

Of the amount received by each institution, at least 50 percent must be used "to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus". UC Santa Barbara has a total allocation of \$12,602,098 for this purpose. Institutions shall not use these funds to reimburse themselves for any costs or expenses, including, but not limited to, any costs associated with significant changes in the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus and/or any refunds or other benefits that the institutions previously issued to students.

A [letter](#) from the Secretary of Education, released April 9, 2020 and the associated [Funding Certificate and Agreement](#) make it clear that colleges and universities have broad discretion in awarding these funds. The Secretary indicates, "...each institution may develop its own system and process for determining how to allocate these funds, which may include distributing the funds to all students or only to students who demonstrate significant need... With that said, I would like to encourage the leadership of each institution to prioritize your students with the greatest need, but at the same time consider establishing a maximum funding threshold for each student to ensure that these funds are distributed as widely as possible."

Table 1: Shares of CARES Act Funding, April 9, 2020.

University	Allocation	Min. Fin Aid
University of California, Berkeley	\$30,440,627	\$15,220,314
University of California, Davis	\$33,871,763	\$16,935,882
University of California, Irvine	\$36,731,629	\$18,365,815
University of California, Los Angeles	\$35,906,870	\$17,953,435
University of California, Merced	\$13,037,897	\$6,518,949
University of California, Riverside	\$29,734,626	\$14,867,313
University of California, San Diego	\$34,889,769	\$17,444,885
University of California, San Francisco	\$867,955	\$433,978
<i>University of California, Santa Barbara</i>	<i>\$25,204,196</i>	<i>\$12,602,098</i>
University of California, Santa Cruz	\$19,327,201	\$9,663,601
TOTAL	\$260,012,533	\$130,006,270

University of California Office of the President Guidance

- Ensuring that students can continue to make progress towards graduation despite the financial and other challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic should be the overarching goal of campuses' plans.
- The funding is authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act. As such, the campus Financial Aid Office will be in the best position to administer in compliance with existing and forthcoming regulations. Reporting requirements will be extensive, including student-level reporting 30 days from the initial awards and every 45 days thereafter.
- UC Financial Aid Offices are requested to consult with other key leaders on campus, including the Graduate Division, Basic Needs Centers and campus Associated Students, as they develop their process and plans, although not on individual awarding decisions.
- Campuses are making myriad decisions about COVID-19 and therefore need flexibility as they develop their local emergency grant funding to meet the needs of their students. In general, the plans should reflect the following principles:
 - Efficient Delivery: Campuses should prioritize delivery in Spring and, if necessary, Summer 2020. Feedback from both the department and our understanding of the congressional intent is that the funds be delivered as quickly as possible.
 - Equity: Campuses may provide broad-based support (e.g. a base award to all students), but are also encouraged to provide additional support to groups that may require additional assistance (e.g. low income, student parents).
 - Direct Emergency Grant Payments: The Department's guidance is clear that funds should be delivered directly to students, not to pay for past due bills, to reimburse prior expenditures by the campus (e.g. to pay back the campus for purchased laptops), or to replace lost wages.
 - Beyond the Cost of Attendance: The Department has also made it clear that this funding can be made available to students without regard to the normal total cost of attendance limits.
- Campuses are encouraged to take the following considerations, among others, into account as they consider how to deploy the federal funds in conjunction with their own institutional financial aid.
 - The Department has limited the awards to students eligible for Title IV financial aid authorized under the Higher Education Act. Undocumented students and international students are not eligible for support using these federal dollars. Campuses are encouraged to coordinate the use of these funds with their own institutional aid resources to ensure that emergency grants are available to all undocumented students in need who are eligible to receive state support (e.g. AB540 students).
 - Students who have not filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) may be required to complete a shorter application form with the campus to receive these funds to confirm their eligibility for Title IV funding.
 - Campuses are also encouraged to consider targeting particularly vulnerable populations for additional support, e.g., student parents, former foster youth, disabled students, and formerly incarcerated students.
 - While the FAFSA is one of the best measures of a student's financial resources, it is not necessary to receive emergency support. In addition to information provided on a student's FAFSA or DREAM Application, other indicators (e.g. borrowing at the maximum annual or cumulative allowable level of federal student loans) may help inform the assessment of whether a student's financial resources were precarious even before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The UC Office of the President will help coordinate the sharing of information between campuses and with outside stakeholders. UCOP will not be involved in the allocation of the funding, which will come from the US Department of Education.
- Campuses are encouraged to work with the Office of the President on summarizing their financial aid plans, as well as on future reporting requirements to ensure systemwide coordination for both state and federal policymakers, including tracking of appeals.

UC Santa Barbara CARES

Table 1: CARES Emergency Grant Allocation for Title IV eligible students for Spring 2020 by Enrollment Type.

Enrollment Type	Headcount	%
Undergraduate	21,646	88.6% of enrolled students
Graduate	2,786	11.4% of enrolled students
Total	24,432	
Ineligible Students	3,178	
Estimate of Title IV Eligible Students	21,254	
Total Student Award Allocation	\$12,602,098	
Undergraduate	\$11,165,459	88.6% of student award allocation
Graduate	\$1,436,639	11.4% of student award allocation

Table 2: CARES Act Emergency Grants for Undergraduate Students

FAFSA Filer Type	Headcount	Amount	Funding
Pell Grant Recipients	5,477	\$1,100	\$6,024,700
Vulnerable Pell Grant Recipients*	195	\$1,700	\$331,500
Other Grant Recipients	4,760	\$875	\$4,165,000
Vulnerable Grant Recipients*	21	\$1,475	\$30,975
Non-Grant Recipients with Financial Need	933	\$650	\$606,450
Vulnerable Non-Grant Recipients with Financial Need	1	\$1250	\$1250
Total Funding Disbursed			\$11,159,875
Remaining Balance**	11,339		\$5,584

*Vulnerable populations include: student parents, formerly incarcerated students, former foster youth, unaccompanied homeless youth and students with an approved dependency override appeal.

Table 3: CARES Act Emergency Grants for Graduate Students

	Headcount	Amount	Funding
FAFSA Applicants	1,628	\$650	\$1,058,200
Approved Appeals	81		\$98,250
Remaining Balance*			\$280,189

* Remaining balance will be used to award new FAFSA applicants and for students that submit an appeal to be considered for additional funding.

Email Communication:

Undergraduate Students:

Email#1 – April 30, 2020

Subject: UCSB CARES Emergency Grant

Dear Student,

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships is happy to inform you that you have been awarded the UCSB CARES Emergency Grant, which has been made available through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.

Award amounts are based on 2019-2020 FAFSA information and are intended to help cover educational expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare and child-care expenses.

To avoid delays in receiving your funding, we encourage you to sign up for direct deposit. Sign up now to receive an eRefund by logging in to [MyBARC](#) and following the instructions found [here](#). Students signed up for direct deposit before Wednesday should expect to receive the funds in their bank accounts on Friday.

THIS IS A SYSTEM GENERATED E-MAIL. PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS E-MAIL NOTICE.

If you have questions, please contact us at the address and phone number listed below.

Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships
University of California, Santa Barbara
(805) 893-2432

Email#2 - May 4, 2020

New Awards Providing Financial Relief

Important financial support was provided this week to eligible undergraduates through the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships. Made possible by the CARES Act and the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, eligible students received support to help offset expenses related to the campus response to COVID-19.

Eligibility for funding was based on demonstrated financial need on the 2019-20 FAFSA, so not all students were able to receive these awards. However, we recognize that ineligible students may also be experiencing financial strain, so we have established an appeal process. [Read more](#) about this funding and [complete the appeal](#) to share your unique circumstances.

Dream Scholars: Financial Aid & Scholarships committed and awarded funding that exactly mirrors the CARES Act program to eligible California Dream Act applicants that have financial need. If you are a student that did not receive that funding, then you are also eligible to submit the same appeal.

Read more about these awards on the [Financial Aid & Scholarships website](#). Note that graduate students with similar eligibility were awarded through the Graduate Division.

Graduate Students:

Email #1 – April 30, 2020

Subject: CARES Act Emergency Relief Grant: Check your account during the week of May 4th

Dear Graduate Student,

This email is to inform you that **you will be receiving a \$650 Emergency Relief Grant** as part of the federal government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The funding for this program originates with the CARES Act, which was signed into law on March 27th. That Act authorized the Department of Education to provide funds to colleges and universities, half of which is to be directly allocated to students "to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus." The amount provided to UC Santa Barbara students was \$12.6 million. Of that, 11.4% was allocated to the Graduate Division for distribution to eligible graduate students, proportional to their percentage in the overall student population.

As this is a federal financial aid program, eligibility is the same as for other Title IV programs and students must have completed a FAFSA for 2019-20 to qualify. **As the campus has your FAFSA on file, these funds are now being disbursed through the normal campus financial channels and should reach your bank account during the week of May 4th, provided you have direct deposit configured as your preference with the BARC office.** Instructions on how to set up direct deposit can be found [here](#). If your preferred method of payment is a physical check, you will be contacted by the BARC office via email to confirm delivery address and/or options to convert the payment to a direct deposit. **If you have not received these funds by May 11th, contact financial@graddiv.ucsb.edu.**

Because you have a FAFSA on file, [you are also eligible to apply for a Supplemental Emergency Relief Grant](#). These grants are for students who have expenses related to the coronavirus that have not been covered by other programs. We know that many graduate students have incurred financial costs due to the coronavirus, including loss of income, loss of summer support, unexpected housing or childcare costs, costs related to technology, and unreimbursed travel expenses. Some students have received funds to address these shortfalls through the GSA COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grant or the Financial Crisis Team. In addition, most students have received the \$1200 stimulus checks and some may have received unemployment. If you have expenses related to the coronavirus that have not yet been covered by other programs, you are eligible [to apply for a Supplemental Emergency Relief Grant](#). These funds need to be expended as soon as possible. Distributions will be made until the funds are depleted. If you still have coronavirus-related expenses, we encourage you to apply soon.

Sincerely,

The Graduate Division Financial Support Unit

Subject: Submit a FAFSA to receive your CARES Act Emergency Relief Grant funding

Dear Graduate Student,

This email is to inform you that **you may be eligible to receive a \$650 Emergency Relief Grant** as part of the federal government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students are eligible if they are U.S. citizens or permanent residents, meet [basic eligibility criteria](#) for Title IV aid, and have filed a [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) for 2019-20.

The funding for this program originates with the CARES Act, which was signed into law on March 27th. That Act authorized the Department of Education to provide funds to colleges and universities, half of which is to be directly allocated to students "to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus." The amount provided to UC Santa Barbara students was \$12.6 million. Of that, 11.4% was allocated to the Graduate Division for distribution to eligible graduate students, proportional to their percentage in the overall student population.

UC Santa Barbara does not currently have a FAFSA on file for you, but you can still submit one for this year (2019-20, not 2020-21). We urge you to do this as soon as possible, but no later than May 22nd. The form takes about 30 minutes to complete, and is typically received by campus in about a week, after federal processing. Once the information is returned to campus, the \$650 Emergency Relief Grant will automatically be processed and should appear in your bank account within another week. **These funds must be disbursed expeditiously, so it is important that you complete and submit the FAFSA as soon as possible.** If you have not already done so, you may also want to consider setting up direct deposit through the BARC office, which will allow you to receive funds more quickly than via a mailed check. Instructions on how to set up direct deposit can be found [here](#). If you have not received the funds within two to three weeks following FAFSA submission, you can contact financial@graddiv.ucsb.edu.

Once you have filed a FAFSA, you will also be eligible to [apply for a Supplemental Emergency Relief Grant](#). These grants are for students who have expenses related to the coronavirus that have not been covered by other programs. We know that many graduate students have experienced financial challenges due to the coronavirus, including loss of income, loss of summer support, unexpected housing or childcare costs, costs related to technology, and unreimbursed travel expenses. Some students have received funds to address these shortfalls through the GSA COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grant or the Financial Crisis Team. In addition, most students have received the \$1200 stimulus checks and some may have received unemployment. If you have expenses related to the coronavirus that have not yet been covered by other programs, [you are eligible to apply for a Supplemental Emergency Relief Grant](#). You will receive this supplemental grant once your FAFSA is processed and returned to campus, as long as funds remain available. If you have eligible coronavirus-related expenses, we encourage you to apply.

Sincerely,

The Graduate Division Financial Support Unit