



POLICY AND PROCEDURES for the ARP Act

July 20, 2021

The US Government has once again expanded on the emergency relief funds available to students by passing the most recent American Rescue (ARP) Act 2021. The available funds are also known as HEERF III, or Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III funds. As such, the ARP represented the third stream of funding appropriated for HEERF to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. Taken together, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (Pub. L. 116–136), the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) (Pub. L. 116-260), and the ARP represent HEERF I, HEERF II, and HEERF III, respectively.

The institution has currently been authorized to disburse \$26,960.00 to students for any component in the students Cost of Attendance. This includes room, board, transportation and personal expenses or expenses due to COVID. In addition, the funds may be used for tuition and fees, but only with the express written consent of the student. The school will accept written authorization, including an email, from a student if they want to designate the funds be applied to their tuition and fee account.

Similar to the HEERF II, students do not have to be Title IV eligible to receive HEERF III. Student eligibility requirements under Section 484 in Title IV of the HEA of 1965 do not apply when awarding HEERF III. Additionally, HEERF III is also available to undocumented students, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students, dreamers and students studying abroad.

It is the intent of this institution to administer HEERF III funds to students whom demonstrate exceptional financial need, such as students who receive Federal Pell Grants. Students who are not eligible to receive Federal Pell Grants may still be eligible for the HEERF III funds depending upon the student population, funds available and the school's policy below. Students not eligible to receive Federal Pell Grants must demonstrate exceptional need due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

HEERF III Student Selection Criteria

- The pool of students awarded HEERF III funds will include all currently enrolled and attending students as of 7/20/2021 who have not withdrawn or been terminated as of the date the funds are distributed to the student. Students on an Approved Leave of Absence are also eligible based on the above selection criteria review.

- \$24,960 will be distributed first to our Pell Grant eligible students, as they have demonstrated exceptional need. The remaining funds will be awarded at \$500 each to non-Pell Grant eligible students.
- Students who wish to receive funds must complete a certification form that certifies they have an exceptional need due to the COVID-19 pandemic regardless of Pell Grant eligibility.
- Should a student withdraw or be terminated before HEERF III funds are distributed to them, their funds will be redistributed to the remaining eligible students.

The institution will not (1) condition the receipt of financial aid grants to students on continued or future enrollment in the institution, (2) use the financial aid grants to satisfy a student's outstanding account balance, unless it has obtained the student's written (or electronic), affirmative consent, or (3) require such consent as a condition of receipt of or eligibility for the financial aid grant.

ARP Act emergency student funding is only available to students that are enrolled and attending classes as of **7/20/21**. Students on an Approved Leave of Absence are also eligible based on the above selection criteria review.

The institution will not discriminate in the awarding of ARP grant funds and will evaluate students based on prioritizing Pell Eligible students and all students on their demonstration of exceptional need.

The institution will apply the grant to the student by check or crediting their student account upon receiving written/electronic consent to do so.

NOTE: HEERF grants are not Title IV funds, so Title IV awarding/packaging rules do not apply. It is understood based on released guidance from the USDE that HEERF III grants are not treated as estimated financial assistance (EFA) when packaging students. Likewise, HEERF III grants are not treated as taxable income or untaxed income for Title IV federal student aid purposes.