

May 6, 2020

Dear UAHT Students:

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 as well as loss of employment or a reduction in work hours.

Since the announcement of the availability of these funds, the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope-Texarkana has been working to detail the federal guidance on student eligibility and develop a plan to distribute the funds within the federal requirements. I am pleased to share with you that UAHT has now received access to these funds and will begin the distribution process of emergency financial aid grants to eligible students the week of May 11, 2020.

This update is to provide you 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 OF THE FEDERAL CARES ACT:

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. Eligibility is verified by student completion of the following two items:

1. If not already completed, students must complete a 2019-2020 **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** in order to demonstrate the needed eligibility to participate in programs under Section 484 of the HEA. This application must be received by UAHT by Wednesday June 10th and can be completed at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
2. UAHT has identified the currently enrolled students who we believe meet the eligibility requirements to be considered for a CARES Act student emergency grant. These students will be sent an email at their UAHT student email address with a link to the **UAHT Emergency Grant Certification Form**. Students will complete the certification form to document they have experienced a disruption of their education and have expenses due to the coronavirus in order to be considered for an emergency financial aid grant if the student otherwise qualifies.

Students who were enrolled exclusively in online courses on March 13, 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.

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 the emergency financial aid grant.

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 13, 2020, and the student’s Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) as determined by their completed 2019-2020 FAFSA.

Students who have a completed FAFSA on file and those students who have been determined to be eligible for Federal Student Aid will be awarded the grant. 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.

UAHT faculty and staff are proud of you - our students. We have seen and heard first-hand of your incredible heart and determination in this pandemic. You’ve been caring for your family and yourself; working; and continuing your educational pursuits. UAHT faculty and staff would like to extend to you our best wishes for successfully completing your final exams, and we invite you to continue your educational pathway this summer and through the Fall 2020 semester. Registration is open for summer and fall terms now.

Students qualifying for the CARES ACT funds please be aware that the payment will be mailed to you. Please make sure your mailing address is correct in myUAHT Campus Connect. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the financial aid office and finaid@uaht.edu.

Please stay safe. You are an important member of our UAHT family! We look forward to seeing you as we get ready to return to campus this fall.

Most sincerely,

Brian Berry
Vice Chancellor for Student Services
University of Arkansas Community College at Hope-Texarkana