

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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What is the CARES Act Emergency Grant?

The CARES Act Emergency Relief Grant Fund provides federal emergency financial aid assistance to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus as stipulated by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act that was signed into law March 27, 2020. Awards will be distributed to eligible UC Irvine undergraduate students based on need as determined by the 2019-20 FAFSA with an emphasis on providing additional support to the neediest populations. Funding for Title IV eligible graduate/professional students will also be distributed.

Who is eligible to receive a CARES Act Emergency Grant?

Federal regulations require schools to confirm that a student receiving any CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Grant meets the following requirements:

- Is a US Citizen or an eligible noncitizen
- Has a valid Social Security number
- Is registered with Selective Service, if you're a male (you must register between the ages of 18 and 25)
- Is not in default on a federal student loan
- Does not owe money on a federal student grant
- Was enrolled in at least 6 units for spring quarter 2020

Additional information about eligibility can be found [here](#).

How is the eligibility for the CARES Act Emergency Grant determined?

Undergraduate students must file a 2019-20 [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) by May 30, 2020, to be considered for an emergency grant. Please note, undergraduates must have **need** as determined by the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) results from their FAFSA to be considered for assistance.

Graduate and professional students are encouraged to file a 2019-20 [FAFSA](#) or complete a self-certified affidavit with the campus confirming eligibility for Title IV funding by June 30, 2020, to receive assistance. A link to the affidavit will be emailed to qualified graduate/professional students.

Students must also be enrolled part-time, at least 6 units, to be considered.

How much CARES Act Emergency Grant will eligible students be awarded?

The CARES Act Emergency Grant is one-time funding awarded to eligible undergraduate and graduate/professional students. Funding for eligible graduate/professional students will be distributed equally amongst the population. Awards will be distributed to eligible undergraduate students based on need as determined by the 2019-20 FAFSA with an emphasis on providing additional support to the neediest populations as follows:

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ENROLLED FULL-TIME FOR THE SPRING 2020 QUARTER:

Students w/ dependents and At-risk populations: \$1,500

Students with an Estimated Family Contribution from 0-2000: \$1,100

Students with an Estimated Family Contribution from 2001-5576: \$900

Students with an Estimated Family Contribution > 5576 and Need > 9000: \$700

Students w/ Need > 499 and < 9000: \$500

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ENROLLED PART-TIME (AT LEAST 6 UNITS) FOR THE SPRING 2020 QUARTER:

Qualified students enrolled part-time: \$500

UNDOCUMENTED AB540 STUDENTS:

Undocumented AB 540 students who completed a 2019-20 California Dream Act application will receive institutional emergency grants equivalent to the awards provided to Title IV eligible students.

BUSINESS AND MEDICINE GRADUATE STUDENTS ENROLLED SPRING 2020 QUARTER:

Students who filed a 2019-20 FAFSA: \$700

Medicine students who complete an affidavit certifying federal aid eligibility: \$700

Business students who complete an affidavit certifying federal aid eligibility: \$500

GRADUATE/PHD AND LAW STUDENTS ENROLLED SPRING 2020 QUARTER:

Students who filed a 2019-20 FAFSA: \$500

Students who complete an affidavit certifying federal aid eligibility: \$500

When will eligible students receive their CARES Act Emergency Grant?

Awarding began Friday, May 8, 2020, and students should receive their funds 1-2 business days after the award is available to view in MyAid if they are signed up for direct deposit. If you meet the eligibility criteria described above **and have not received funding by May 22, 2020**, please contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships by email with the subject [“CARES Act.”](#) In the meantime, please sign up for [direct deposit](#) and/or verify that your [mailing address](#) is accurate.

Do I need to provide receipts for my COVID-19 expenses?

Federal regulations state that the CARES Act grants are intended to assist students with economic hardships related to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds may be used to cover: Travel and moving expenses associated with the transition to on-line learning, housing, food and utilities, child care, technology or other resources needed for online coursework, and medical expenses. You must use these funds for coronavirus-related expenses. You may be asked to provide substantiation that such expenses were (1) related to coronavirus-caused campus disruption, and (2) actually incurred and paid by you, and you should be prepared to provide such substantiation if ever requested.

Why didn't I receive a CARES Act Emergency Grant?

UCI students who are eligible for need-based federal financial aid programs and meet one of the [award criteria](#) are eligible for federal CARES Act Emergency Grant consideration. If you are eligible for federal need-based aid and meet one of the [award criteria](#) but did not receive a CARES Act Emergency Grant, you can submit an appeal online. [Click here for instructions on how to submit an appeal.](#) Students who appeal and are approved will be awarded a \$500 CARES Act Emergency Grant.

If you are NOT eligible for a CARES Act Emergency Grant, and your family was significantly affected by issues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, you can submit an appeal online. [Click here for instructions on how to submit an appeal.](#) Students who appeal and are approved will be awarded a \$500 CARES Act Emergency Grant.

Grant.

If you will be a UCI student in 2020-21 and your family's financial circumstances have changed, you can file a Special Circumstance Appeal beginning July 2020.

If I receive a CARES Act Emergency Grant and then withdraw from the university in the spring or summer quarter, do I have to return the grant?

No, the CARES Act funding is intended to provide one-time relief funding to mitigate the disruption caused by COVID-19.