



CARES ACT: EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AID GRANTS

Congress recently passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act which will deliver emergency assistance to East Mississippi Community College in the form of funds to be further distributed to its students and used to cover 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 child care). The CARES Act provides institutions with significant discretion on how to award this emergency assistance to students. Each institution may develop its own system and process for determining how to allocate these funds.

The US Department of Education has stated that recipients must be Title IV eligible which include the following:

- must have a high school diploma or other recognized equivalent
- must be a citizen of the US or an eligible non-citizen
- must have a valid social security number
- must not be in default on a student loan
- males must have registered with Selective Service
- must be meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements
- must not have been 100% online prior to March 13, 2020
- if selected for V4/V5 Verification, must have submitted the Identity Statement of Educational Purpose
- other criteria may be forthcoming as guidelines are released

East Mississippi Community College, in adherence to the federal guidelines required the following from a student to meet eligibility guidelines:

- Complete the FAFSA meeting Title IV eligibility requirements
- Enrolled in courses as of March 13, excluding students strictly enrolled in online programs
- Complete an online institutional CARES application that had to be signed certifying expenses were incurred related to food, course materials, technology, healthcare, or childcare due to the novel coronavirus

Acknowledgement

East Mississippi Community College signed and returned the Agreement to the US Department of Education and has used, or intends to use, no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide emergency financial aid grants to students.

Group Assignment

All students who met the above criteria and were enrolled at East Mississippi Community College on March 13, 2020, have been assigned to the group named "FAFSA filers". This group included approximately 1600 students who met eligibility requirements.

This group of students were disbursed funds on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 via BankMobile student accounts. Additional students who wish to apply for relief funds may continue to do so through May 29th for the spring term. Summer students may apply for relief funds through Wednesday, June, 10, 2020. In order to receive a summer disbursement, students must have met the spring requirements outlined by the federal government as well as be enrolled in summer courses through East Mississippi Community College.

An email announcement was used to explain to students how to meet the requirements and the requirements and the criteria used to be eligible for the CARES grant. A sample email has been included at the back of this document.

Calculation of Funds for Awarding/Disbursing

EMCC has disbursed \$525,750 to date. The breakdown for awarding/dispensing CARES Act funds is outlined as such:

639 total CARES matches			
Hours enrolled	Total Students	Awd/Student	Total Award
15	519	900	467,100
11-14	79	600	47,400
7-10	34	300	10,200
1-6	7	150	1,050
	639		525,750

Students were paid at \$60.00/credit hour and calculated against each eligible student's enrollment as detailed in this chart.

We do not know if students in the second round of disbursement will complete the institutional CARES application as directed. The remaining funds will be awarded in order of FAFSA received date and will be spent on a first come, first served basis at a rate of \$60.00/student until all funds are expended. It is our intent to distribute all of the CARES Act funds that have been allocated to EMCC for students. It is also our intent to be as fair as possible.