

Information about the CARES Act

Automatic Payments

Eastern Connecticut State University has been awarded federal funding to provide direct financial relief to our students due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds will be made as automatic, direct payments to eligible students.

CARES Grant Specifics

The majority of funds will be dispersed as automatic, direct emergency aid payments, while a small percentage is set aside for use as emergency grants.

To be eligible for the automatic payment under the CARES Act, students must meet the following criteria:

- Been enrolled in classes as of March 27, 2020.
- Filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2019/2020 financial aid year.
- Been determined to be Title IV eligible.
- Completed all Office of Financial Aid verification requirements.

For those students who have not filed a 2019-2020 FAFSA, we strongly encourage you to do so by June 30, 2020 at www.fafsa.ed.gov, so that you are eligible for the CARES funding. Upon completing the FAFSA, please be sure to use the Eastern school code 001425 so that it will be routed to us for processing.

Most of the funding will be issued via automatic payments to eligible students, with full-time Pell eligible students receiving \$666 and full-time and non-Pell eligible students receiving \$476. Part-time eligible students will receive a pro-rated value, with the amount based on the number of credits they were enrolled in as of March 27, 2020.

The grant funding will be issued by direct deposit to the bank account on file. For students without direct deposit, a check will be mailed to the home address indicated in Banner. To avoid delay, students are encouraged to sign up for direct deposit.

What is the CARES Act?

The CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) are federal funds to provide emergency financial aid grants to eligible students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the Coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care).

How much will my CARES payment be?

Full-time Pell eligible students will be receiving a \$666 grant payment. Full-time non-Pell eligible students will be receiving a \$476 grant payment. Part-time eligible students will receive a pro-rated value, with the amount based on the number of credits they were enrolled in as of March 27, 2020.

Do I need to do anything to receive the direct automatic emergency aid grant funded as part of the CARES act?

If you are eligible, there is no action needed on your part. The eligibility requirements are noted above under CARES Grant Specifics.

How will I receive my automatic emergency grant aid?

The grant will be issued automatically via direct deposit to the bank account on file or a paper check mailed to the home address indicated in your Eastern Student Account on the date of payment.

How do I know if I've been issued a CARE Grant payment?

You will see the disbursement on eWeb under Account Activity, listed as *CARES Emergency Relief Grant*.

Will my CARES Grant payment be reduced by my outstanding account balance at Eastern?

No. These payments are direct payments to students and will not be used to reduce a student account balance. The CARES Act requires institutions to provide the emergency financial aid grants to students. We may not use the portion of the set aside for emergency financial aid grants to students to satisfy a student's outstanding account balance. The Department of Education notes that the student may use his or her emergency financial aid grant for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the Coronavirus.

Am I eligible for the CARES Grant automatic aid?

To be considered you must:

- have been enrolled in minimum of 3 credits of on-ground courses as of March 27, 2020
- have filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov for the 2019-2020 financial aid year on or before, June 30, 2020.
- have been determined to be Title IV eligible (see below)
- have completed all Office of Financial Aid verification requirements
- be a matriculated student
- be making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
- be registered for Selective Service (if male)
- not be in default on federal loans
- be a US citizen / permanent resident
- have not received a waiver of your tuition/course fees related to:
 - State employee /employee's dependent
 - High school students
 - Hartford Consortium
 - Over 62 Exemption
 - Reciprocity Agreement

What is TITLE IV eligibility?

To be a Title IV-eligible student under Section 484 of the Higher Education Act, a student must:

- be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a degree, certificate or other recognized educational credential (including a program of study abroad approved for credit by the eligible institution at which such student is enrolled)--that is, a regular student under [34 CFR 600.2](#);
- be maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) if the student is a currently enrolled student;
- not be in default on a Title IV loan;
- be a U.S citizen or national, a permanent resident, or an eligible non-citizen;
- have his Selective Service registration verified (the Title IV aid ineligibility for failure to register is in the Selective Service Act §3811(f));
- have a valid SSN, except for residents of the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau; and
- not have a federal or state conviction for drug possession or sale, with certain time limitations.

How I can I confirm verification requirement?

All requirements are listed in your eWeb account under the Financial Aid Tab under "Financial Aid Requirements". If you have questions related to these requirements, please direct them to financialaid@easternct.edu.

I have not submitted a FAFSA, can I still participate in the CARES Act?

You have until June 30, 2020 to submit a **2019-2020 FAFSA** at www.fafsa.ed.gov. In addition to submitting a FAFSA, you will need to complete any applicable verification requirements from the Office of Financial Aid. Once you have met the eligibility requirements noted above, the automatic grant aid payment will be issued to you.

I was only enrolled in on-line classes as of March 13, 2020, why am I not eligible for an emergency grant under the CARES Act?

Pursuant to Department of Education guidance, the grant excludes students who were exclusively enrolled in distance education courses as of March 13, 2020.

Who can I contact for more information?

For Title IV eligibility questions, please email financialaid@easternct.edu. For questions related to the status of a CARES grant distribution, please email the Bursar's Office at bursar@easternct.edu