CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants  
Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grant?
A. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, recently signed into law, gives Bloomsburg University the ability to award emergency financial aid grants to students to cover expenses related to the disruption of normal campus operations due to the coronavirus.

Q. How do I qualify for an Emergency Financial Aid Grant?
A. Based on guidance received from the Secretary of Education, universities are encouraged to prioritize the students with the greatest need, while establishing a maximum funding threshold to ensure that funds are distributed as widely as possible. Therefore, students who are eligible for Title IV funding and whose expected family contribution (EFC) is between $0 - $13,000 will be automatically awarded between $500 - $1000, depending on their EFC tier and student type (undergraduate or graduate/doctoral). Students receiving the award will be notified by the Financial Aid office. Note: students enrolled exclusively in an online program are not eligible for a CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grant, regardless of their Title IV eligibility or EFC.

A portion of the funding will be reserved for “Special COVID-19” grants where students impacted by the coronavirus can apply for funding for the spring, summer, fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters. Applications will be reviewed by the Financial Aid office and awards will be based on the student’s EFC. If a student’s EFC exceeds $13,000, a maximum award of $500 will be awarded based on individual circumstances. [View the application here.]

Q. How do I know if I’m eligible for Title IV funding?
A. In order to be eligible for Title IV funding, you must have a 2019-20 FAFSA on file and any outstanding verification or financial aid issues must be resolved. If you have questions regarding your Title IV eligibility, please contact the Financial Aid office at buaid@bloomu.edu.

Q. Are the CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants available for both undergraduate and graduate students?
A. Yes.

Q. Can I use my CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grant to help cover a current/outstanding balance or can it be applied toward a future semester’s charges?
A. Yes. Students are entirely responsible for directing the use of their CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grant award. Students who are automatically eligible for the award, based on their EFC, will receive instructions for applying the award to their student account, if they chose to do so, in the notification/award letter. Students receiving an award from the “Special COVID-19” fund can also choose this option and will be instructed on how to do so when they are notified of their award.

Q. Due to the coronavirus disruption, I will need to attend summer 2020 semester to finish course work or to complete an internship/clinical that was postponed due to COVID-19. Is there funding available to assist with this?
A. Yes. Deans/Departments will inform the Financial Aid and Bursar offices of students who fall into this category. Funding will be available to assist with the additional costs incurred by these situations.

Q. Who should I contact if I have additional questions?
A. Please contact the Financial Aid office at 570-389-4297 or buaid@bloomu.edu.