

CARES Act - Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

The CARES Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump on March 27, 2020, to provide economic relief for students due to COVID-19. The Act establishes the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund for schools to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19. Each institution has significant discretion on how to award this emergency assistance to students. The only statutory requirement is that eligible students must use the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare.

CARES Act Agreement with:

The Department of Education (DOE) required each institution to sign the funding Certification and Agreement and submit to the DOE. Each institution is required to report regularly how the funds were disbursed to students, and the eligibility criteria for student eligibility.

1. Golden West College has signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification of Agreement with the intention of using 50% of the funds received to provide direct assistance to students who have expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID 19.
2. Golden West College has received \$2,159,074 from the Department of Education as direct assistance to students.

CARES Act Student Eligibility Criteria:

1. Spring 2020 student eligibility criteria
 - 19-20 FAFSA completed & submitted
 - EFC (Expected Family Contribution) between 0 to 500
 - Disbursed a Pell Grant from GWC
 - Remaining unmet need of at least 2775
 - Enrolled in 6 units minimum
 - Online students prior to the campus closure are not eligible
 - Complete and submit the CARES Act Self- Certification Form.
 - Emailed to students who met the eligibility criteria
2. Summer 2020 student eligibility criteria: Students may fall into one of the following 2 groups for summer eligibility:
 - First Group: Continuing CARES Act Grant recipients from spring 2020 may be eligible, if they meet all of the following:
 - Enrolled in a minimum 6 units at GWC
 - Meet Student Academic Progress for summer 2020

- Second Group: must have been enrolled during spring 2020 and completed the term. In addition, the following criteria applies:
 - EFC (Expected Family Contribution) of 1 to 1000.
 - This is determined by the 19-20 FAFSA
 - 19-20 FAFSA submitted
 - Disbursed a Pell Grant from GWC
 - Enrolled at GWC for summer 2020 in a minimum of 6 units
 - Meet Student Academic Progress for summer 2020
 - Complete and submit the CARES Act Self Certification Form.
 - Students who meet the criteria will be emailed the link to the form.

CARES Act Awarding Process:

Students who meet the eligibility Criteria, are notified via their student email and are provided the link to complete and submit the Self-Certification Form. The form is an online form, that provides student(s) with an e-signature. Once signed it is automatically sent to the financial aid office.

Once the Financial Aid Office receives the Self-Certification form, students will be awarded the CARES Act Grant according to their enrollment status.

- Student may view their award amount by logging on to their MyGWC account.
- Students are emailed a Financial Aid Revised Award Letter, reflecting the CARES Act Grant to their student email.

CARES Act Award Amounts and total disbursed:

Total CARES Act money disbursed as of 5/28/20 = \$873,500

- Total number of CARES Act Grant recipients = 703

1. Spring 2020 CARES Act student award allocation:

- Full-Time Students (12+ units) = \$1500
- Three Quarter Time Students (9-11.99 units) = \$1000
- Half-Time Students (6-8.99 units) = \$500

2. Summer 2020 CARES Act student award allocation:

- Full-Time Students (12+ units) = \$1000

- Three Quarter Time Students (9-11.99 units) = \$750
- Half-Time Students (6 -8.99 units) = \$500