

CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting

Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

The Baptist College of Florida signed and returned the Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to the U.S. Department of Education April **11, 2020**. The Baptist College of Florida received **\$262,085 April 27, 2020** and intends to use no less than **\$131,043** of the funds received under section 18004 (a) (1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

To be eligible for a grant, a student must have been taking on campus (face to face) courses at The Baptist College of Florida during the Spring 2020 semester. Additionally, a student must have filed a **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** and be eligible to participate in financial aid programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

30 Day Report

As of **May 27, 2020**, The Baptist College of Florida has distributed **\$68,936** to provide CARES Act Emergency grants to approximately **90 students**.

Eligible Students

The Baptist College of Florida uses the presence of a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine students who are eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. Students must meet these conditions for consideration for CARES Act Emergency Grants.

Application Method and Instruction to Students

Eligible students were emailed an application May 20, 2020 notifying them of the availability of CARES Act Emergency Funds. CARES Act Emergency Grants are released directly to students for qualifying expenses such as food, housing, unexpected travel, technology needs, childcare expenses, medical expenses, and other expenses resulting from the campus disruption. Students request assistance by submitting the application to the Financial Aid Office, provide an explanation of their request and attest that their request is related to the campus disruption caused by COVID-19. Staff reviews applications to confirm the request and the explanation are aligned. The total maximum grant per student will not exceed \$3,000. The maximum amount considered in each category is adjusted based on the student's career (undergraduate vs. graduate) and Expected Family Contribution as determined by the FAFSA. Categories of food and housing are included in the cost of attendance. Maximum amount in each

category is determined by multiplying the weekly amount from the cost of attendance category by the number of weeks of campus disruption. Other categories are not necessarily included in the cost of attendance and as such are evaluated by staff to determine the amount approved.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an emergency financial aid grant?

Under the Federal CARES Act, colleges and universities received funding to provide cash grants to students for expenses related to disruption to their education due to the COVID-19 outbreak, including things like course materials and technology as well as food, housing, unexpected travel, health care, and childcare. More information can be found at the U.S. Department of Education website: <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus>.

How do I apply?

Applications were emailed to eligible students on May 20, 2020.

Who is eligible for an emergency financial aid grant?

Any student who was taking an on campus (face to face) class at The Baptist College of Florida during the Spring 2020 semester, has filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and is eligible to participate in financial aid programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. More information can be found at the U.S. Department of Education website: <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus>.

How did BCF develop student eligibility criteria for this grant?

We followed guidance from the U.S. department of Education:
<https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus>.

Is it too late to file a FAFSA?

It is not too late, you can complete the 2019-2020 FAFSA through June 30, 2020 at:
<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>.

How will I know if I am Title IV eligible?

General eligibility requirements for Title IV Aid include that you are a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen, and are enrolled in an eligible degree program at The Baptist College of Florida. Other basic eligibility criteria can be found at the following website:
<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility/requirements>.

How much will I get?

The amount of each grant will vary based on a student's Title IV financial aid status. The average grant is expected to be approximately \$1,000.

Will I have to repay any money I receive from CARES?

No. Any money you receive from the CARES Act is a federal emergency grant that is not required to be repaid.

Is money I receive from this grant considered income for tax purposes?

No. According to the IRS, this money will not be includible in your gross income. Learn more at the following website: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/faqs-higher-education-emergency-relief-fund-and-emergency-financial-aid-grants-under-the-cares-act>.

How will I receive my grant?

Students will receive their CARES Act Grant via paper check. The check will be mailed directly to the student.

What kind of expense is covered by this grant?

The funds can be used to offset expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus, including food, housing, unexpected travel, course materials, technology, health care, or child care.

Can online students apply?

No. Federal guidelines require that these grants are awarded to on campus (face to face) students who were affected by the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.

Can international students apply?

Because international students are typically not eligible to receive Title IV aid, most international students will not be eligible for CARES Act Student Emergency Grant.

If I have questions or concerns, who should I contact?

Contact Stephanie Powell, Director of Financial Aid at (850) 263 9061 or sepowell@baptistcollege.edu.