

SCC Update: CARES Act Information

May 4, 2020 | SCC Financial Aid Office

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, a Federal Law enacted by Congress, provides funds to assist qualified students in need during the pandemic. This assistance is known as the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). Spartanburg Community College (SCC) curriculum students enrolled in the 2020 spring semester who meet the qualifications below, will receive a disbursement of the HEERF. If the student has set up direct deposit with the College, the funds will be sent to that designated account. Students not on direct deposit will be mailed a physical check. Should you have questions please use the contact information below.

For qualification questions: (864) 592-4180 or FA-Questions@sccsc.edu

For disbursement questions: (864) 592-4665 (leave message) or BusinessOffice@sccsc.edu

Q: Who qualifies for the CARES Act Funds?

A: To be eligible for a HEERF disbursement you must meet all the following criteria:

- 1) You must have been enrolled in curriculum courses for the 2020 spring semester at SCC as of March 16, 2020 - the day Governor McMaster's executive order required colleges to close to the public and move to an online instructional format due to COVID-19 outbreak. You are not considered to be enrolled in courses you withdrew from prior to March 16, 2020.
- 2) You must have completed a 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and listed SCC as one of the schools eligible to receive your FAFSA data. Your FAFSA results must have been received by SCC by April 27, 2020.
- 3) Demonstrate you are eligible to participate in Federal Title IV aid programs by meeting ALL of the following requirements as of April 27, 2020:
 - a. Be a high school graduate, have a GED or be home-schooled in accordance with state law requirements.
 - b. Be either a US Citizen or an eligible non-citizen.
 - c. Have a valid Social Security Number or Alien Registration Number (eligible non-citizen).
 - d. Not be in default of any educational loans at any school attended.
 - e. Not owe a refund on grants at any school attended.
 - f. Be registered with Selective Service or demonstrate that registration is not required, as applicable. This is for male students only.
 - g. Be enrolled as a regular student in an eligible program.
 - h. Be making Satisfactory Academic Progress in a course of study.
 - i. Have a signed Statement of Educational Purpose on file.
 - j. Have repaid any grant or loan funds obtained fraudulently.
 - k. Not have borrowed in excess of annual or aggregate maximum loan limits.
 - l. Not have a Federal or State conviction for the possession or sale of a controlled substance during a period of enrollment when receiving a Federal grant, loan, or work assistance.

Students who are **NOT** eligible for HEERF include but are not limited to:

- International students
- Dual enrollment students
- Transient students
- Non-degree seeking students
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students
- Students not eligible to participate in Title IV programs based on their FAFSA results

Q: How and when will I receive the disbursement?

A: Students who already have direct deposit established with the College will receive their emergency funds by direct deposit and if not, a check will be mailed to the address you have listed on your SCC record, at the College. Direct deposits or checks will be mailed to the students the week of May 4, 2020.

Q: How do I know how much I will be awarded?

A: Check your MySCC student portal account to view your disbursement amount. It will be listed as a financial aid award and will show up as Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. Your award will be based on the number of credit hours you were enrolled in as of March 16, 2020. Any classes you withdrew from prior to March 16, 2020 will not be counted. Your HEERF disbursement will be calculated at a specific amount per credit hour. The per credit hour amount is currently in the process of being determined. An email will be sent to all SCC email address of all HEERF eligible students and will provide detailed disbursement information.

Q: How can I use the disbursement?

A: According to the U.S. Department of Education, HEERF can be used for expenses related to the cost of college attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care. The HEERF regulations do not require you submit documentation of how the funds were used, but it is highly advisable you document how you spent the funds and keep any receipts for future reference.

Q: Will my disbursement be applied towards any outstanding balances I may still owe the College?

A: No. If you meet the eligibility requirements, your disbursement amount will **NOT** be applied to any outstanding balances you may owe the College.

Q: Will I be required to pay this money back?

A: No, this is a grant and you will not be required to pay it back.