

Dear Skyhawks,

The Department of Education recently released funding for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERFIII) created as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). The University of Tennessee at Martin has received \$7,934,411 from these funds to support students facing needs created by the coronavirus pandemic through emergency financial aid grants for eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and childcare.

To be eligible for the grant, students must be or have been enrolled on or after March 13, 2020, and have exceptional need based on the Department of Education's guidance, such as students who receive Pell Grants or undergraduates with extraordinary financial circumstances. Students do not need to be eligible for Title IV funds to receive HEERF III funds.

As outlined by the Department of Education, the following students are now eligible to receive HEERF III funds: International students, DACA or undocumented students.

UTM will award emergency financial grants for COVID-19 related expenses to any student who has exceptional need as determined by the 2021-22 FAFSA and has not already received the maximum CARE III funds in summer or fall of 2021.

Below is a table outlining Expected Family Contribution (EFC) ranges, number of current students in each of the three ranges, the approximate amount to be given to each student by EFC range, and the approximate total cost by range.

Table 1

	Current Students	Amount Per Student (Max)	Cost
0 - \$5,846 (Pell range)	2271	\$2,000	\$4,542,000
\$5,847 - \$10,000	370	\$1,000	\$370,000
Above \$10,000	428	\$600	\$256,800

Distribution of Funds –We expect to identify and notify eligible students throughout the month of October. Once available, eligible students can start certifying they incurred expenses due to COVID-19 by following the link found in their UTM email. This link will take them to a page in Banner Self-Service that has their CARES award information and instructions on accepting the award and choosing an option for disbursement.

Students who incurred more allowable expenses than the amount given from the CARES Act or did not complete a 2021-22 FAFSA, may submit an application for funds. Any amount requested must be for expenses that *exceed* the amount given from the grant based on EFC (see Table 1 for reference). Applications will be available on utm.edu/financialaid after the initial awards have been made. Decision will be made, and notification sent within 10 business days of application.

We encourage students who have not already done so to sign-up for electronic funds transfers (EFT) to receive refunds. The following link is provided to help with the process: <http://www.utm.edu/departments/bursar/E->

[Refunds.php](#). EFTs can be managed through Banner Self-Service. Students who already have enrolled for EFT should use this time to ensure the current banking information is reflected. EFT is the quickest way to receive refunds. Paper refund checks will only be mailed to the permanent address on file. This address can be updated on Banner Self-Service.

For any questions, please contact the Financial Aid and Scholarships at financialaid@utm.edu or 731-881-7040.