

Dear Skyhawks,

The Department of Education recently released funding for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERFII) created as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). The University of Tennessee at Martin has received \$2,555,156 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 enrolled during the Spring 2021 term and have a 2020-21 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students who have not filed a 2020-21 FAFSA and would like to be considered should complete the 2020-21 FAFSA at www.studentaid.gov. Other eligibility criteria are:

- Be enrolled as a regular student in an eligible degree or certificate program
- Be a US Citizen or eligible noncitizen
- Have a valid social security number
- Have **unmet need** based on the Department of Education's guidance

| |
|-------------------------------------|
| Cost of Attendance Budget |
| -Expected Family Contribution (EFC) |
| -Total Awards |
| = Unmet Need |

As outlined by the Department of Education, the following students are ineligible to receive CARES Act funds: International students, DACA or undocumented students.

UTM will provide emergency financial grants for COVID-19-related expenses. Any student who meets the eligibility criteria will be given a portion of these emergency funds.

Below is a table outlining 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 - \$5,711 (Pell range) | 1937 | \$850 | \$1,646,450 |
| \$5,711 - \$10,000 | 363 | \$850 | \$308,550 |
| Above \$10,000 | 289 | \$600 | \$173,400 |

Distribution of Funds –We expect to identify eligible students by the end of February 2021. Once available, eligible students can start certifying their 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 may submit an application for additional funds. Any amount requested must be for expenses that *exceed* the amount given from

the grant based on EFC (see Table 1 for reference). Decision will be made and notification sent within 5 business days of application. ([Click here to apply](#))

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.

Click here: for additional information about student allocations and the CARES Act.

For any questions, please contact Jana Cox, Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships at jcox110@utm.edu or 731-881-7042.