

## **The University of Scranton**

### **CARES Act Emergency Grant**

The recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, And Economic Security (CARES) Act provides a Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) designated to assist institutions of higher education. At least 50% of funds a school qualifies for must be provided to students in the form of direct grants ["...students for expenses related to disruptions to their educations due to the COVID-19 outbreak, including things like course materials and technology as well as food, housing, health care, and childcare."](#) The University of Scranton submitted a Certification and Agreement and has received approval to award grants up to \$1,469,389 to qualified students within the confines of the CARES Act. The University of Scranton CARES Act Emergency Grant was created to make qualified grants to students.

The Act requires schools to document and report justification for the grant expenditures. In cases where the University can make a determination of student eligibility for assistance, we will do so. However all eligible students should report individual student expenses using our online application available in [my.scranton](https://my.scranton.edu)

To the extent funding allows, the University will attempt to honor all documented student expenses. We anticipate, however, that requests for support will exceed available funds. Should this be the case, we will limit awards in an equitable manner as possible and concentrate funding on the most urgent student needs, particularly addressing health, safety and capability to continue online learning. Further, when necessary, consideration will be given based on students' federal calculated Expected Family Contributions (EFCs) calculated from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

To receive full consideration, all applicants should complete the online application by May 20, 2020. Applications will continue to be reviewed after this date, but awarding is dependent upon availability of funds.

Based on a review of data for undergraduate and graduate students who were enrolled prior to suspension of on-campus classes, and did or could participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education of 1965, we estimate up to 4,000 students may qualify to apply to report qualified expenses. Students who will not be enrolled after May 22, 2020, the last date of our spring term, need to apply by midnight May 20, 2020 to qualify for funding. Others are encouraged to apply as soon as possible to be included in the first review.

As required by the Act, the University will periodically post to our COVID-19 website the total number of students assisted and total grants provided by required reporting dates. Additional guidance concerning grants will be provided to students via notification e-mails as well as posted to our website. Please note no personal identifiable information, PII, will be reported either on our site or to any governmental agency

While the University recognizes many of our students, and their parents may have experienced reduction in income due to unemployment, underemployment, or business losses, the U.S. Department of Education prohibits the use of the CARES Act Emergency Grant to address losses of income.

As our President, Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., noted in his recent email to students and parents, any families who experience reductions of income should also contact the Financial Aid Office. Students should complete a [Student Special Condition Form for 2020-2021](#) or [Parent\(s\) Special Conditions Form for 2020-2021](#). A completed 2020-21 Free Application for Federal Student Aid, FAFSA, must be on file prior to any review of a Special Condition Form. If you have not yet filed your 2020-21 FAFSA, you need to do so at [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov). The Financial Aid Office will take into consideration all documented reduced income when awarding of financial aid begins in mid-June for returning undergraduate students.

The University will offer financial counseling to families requesting special assistance to meet their financial educational expenses. Staff from the offices of Financial Aid and the Bursar will work with students and their families on the development of financing plans, which will include a combination of federal student and parent loans and may allow for the development of special payment plans outside of the University's normal payment policy.

**While we will not be able to fulfill every request, we will do what we can.**

Please know that we continue to pray for the health and well-being of our students and families.