

Federal CARES Act Student Emergency Funds at BGSP - Spring 2020

As a result of Congress passing the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, BGSP has been allocated **\$12,803** in emergency student aid through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) student portion. This funding is intended to assist eligible students who incurred “expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child-care expenses.” BGSP signed and returned the necessary funding certification and agreement form in order to receive this funding and received confirmation of the award on April 26, 2020.

As required by the Department of Education, these funds may only be distributed to those students who meet the eligibility criteria in [Section 484 of the Title IV Higher Education Act of 1965](#), as amended (HEA). This includes, but is not limited to, the demonstration of the following: be making satisfactory academic progress; not owe an overpayment on Title IV grants or loans; not be in default on a Title IV loan; file "as part of the original financial aid application process" a certification that includes statement of educational purpose and valid Social Security Number, be a U.S. citizen or national, permanent resident, or other eligible noncitizen; have returned fraudulently obtained Title IV funds if convicted of or pled guilty or no contest to charges; not have fraudulently received Title IV loans in excess of annual or aggregate limits; have repaid Title IV loan amounts in excess of annual or aggregate limits if obtained inadvertently; have Selective Service registration verified (if student is a male); not have a federal or state conviction for drug possession or sale, with certain time limitations. While this does not specify students must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the only way to determine if a student meets the Section 484 requirements is for a FAFSA to be filed.

Students at BGSP, NYGSP, and BGSP-NJ who were enrolled in at least 2 credits in the Spring 2020 semester but did not complete a 2019-20 or 2020-21 FAFSA were notified by email of the opportunity to do so, in order to be considered eligible to receive these HEERF student emergency funds. At the same time, those students who had already completed either a 2019-20 or 2020-21 FAFSA were notified of the emergency funding, and were given the opportunity to opt out of receiving the funding if they did not have qualifying expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.

Emergency funds will be allocated on a pro-rated basis to all eligible students (who did not opt-out) based on enrollment status in the Spring 2020 semester. The allocation percentages by number of credits enrolled are as follows:

- 8 credits or more – 100%
- 6 - 7.5 credits – 75%
- 4 - 5.5 credits – 50%
- 2 - 3.5 credits – 25%

As of May 22, 2020, the following information is true:

- A total of **37** students are eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), and therefore are eligible to receive an emergency grant.
- The allocation calculations are complete, and all **37** eligible students will receive funds in the coming weeks.
- The total amount of the funding that has been disbursed is currently \$0. We plan to distribute all \$12,803 of received emergency grant funds directly to students in the coming weeks.

This disclosure was created to comply with the reporting requirements in Section 18004(e) of the CARES Act, as outlined in the May 6, 2020 [Electronic Announcement](#) from the Department of Education. This is the initial 30-Day Fund Report, and will be updated every 45 days hereafter, until all funds are disbursed.