



# SOUTHWESTERN

AN OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

June 9, 2020

Southwestern Oregon Community College applied for and received the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding (HEERF) under the CARES Act in the amount of \$540,845, from the Department of Education. These funds were used to provide emergency assistance to students in spring term 2019-2020. Southwestern's goal was to serve as many students as possible within federal guidelines.

1. On April 16, 2020, Southwestern Oregon Community College completed and submitted the Certification and Agreement online to request the emergency grant funding through the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.
2. On April 25, 2020, Southwestern received notification that our request for grant funds was approved. The approved grant amount for HEERF funds is \$540,845.
3. The estimated number of students eligible to receive funding under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive HEERF grants is 896.
4. Funds disbursed to student accounts on June 8, 2020 and processed by the Business Office on June 9, 2020. A separate subsidiary was created, as to guarantee no HEERF funds inadvertently were used to cover any college accounts receivables. Funds were distributed directly to the students via EFT and check.
5. Southwestern will be disbursing funds directly to students via direct deposit or check that meet the following requirements:
  - a. Title IV eligible and meet all basic eligibility requirements
  - b. In good standing for Satisfactory Academic Progress
  - c. Degree-seeking
  - d. Enrolled in on-campus courses winter term 2019-2020 and transitioned to all online classes spring term 2019-2020.
6. The number of students who met the criteria in 5 and received funding were 755.
7. Southwestern awarded \$540,825 of the \$540,845.

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Southwestern Oregon Community College is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

8. Southwestern determined that all students have been impacted by the transition to online courses. Students received funding based upon their enrollment status as of May 19, 2020. The following were determinations in supporting funding for all students:
  - a. All students impacted by move to all online.
  - b. Coos and Curry Counties are rural communities with subpar internet access and availability. The costs associated with obtaining or increasing internet access locally, are between \$240 - \$300 for three months.
  - c. Oregon K-12 shut down immediately and began a "Distance for All" program throughout the state.
  - d. Families sharing devices in the home. Many students had to purchase a phone, tablet, or laptop in order to complete homework and interact with the online learning management system at Southwestern.
  - e. Funding determined:
    - i. Full-time = \$775
    - ii. Three-quarter-time = \$675
    - iii. Half-time = \$575
    - iv. Less-than-half-time = \$475

9. Notification sent to students on June 9, 2020

Dear «First\_Name»,

Congratulations! You have been awarded funding from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, which is a subset of the CARES Act of 2020. You should receive the funding via a check in the mail or direct deposit.

This funding is to be used to cover expenses incurred due to the college transitioning all courses online for Spring Term 2019-2020.

For more information, please visit the Department of Education's FAQ for students at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/studentfaqs515.pdf>.

Sincerely,  
Financial Aid Team  
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