

Helms College CARES Act Student Emergency Grants Policy

Helms College has adopted a flexible approach to administering emergency grants to students negatively impacted by the COVID-19 economic crisis. In creating this policy, the College sought to achieve five goals:

- To expeditiously develop and implement a plan to distribute CARES Act funds to Helms College Students.
- To adhere to CARES Act requirements and Department of Education interpretive guidance in distributing funds.
- To create a process for awarding of funds that is defensible, replicable, and equitable – a process which will stand up to predictable future scrutiny (auditors, legislators, media, etc.).
- To distribute funds in a manner that best ensures student support in light of COVID-19 and economic challenges.
- To utilize existing processes in awarding, distributing, and tracking the funding with the greatest degree possible.

Eligibility

Title IV (federal financial aid) Status

Only students who are, or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), may receive emergency financial aid grants. The criteria to participate in programs under Section 484 of the HEA include but are not limited to the following: U.S. citizenship or eligible noncitizen; a valid Social Security number; registration with Selective Service (if the student is male); and a high school diploma, GED, or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting.

Student Status

A student must have been enrolled full or part-time, or on an approved leave of absence, or an academic gap caused by the COVID Pandemic.

Initial Grant Aid

In an effort to distribute aid to students in an expeditious manner, and recognizing that Helms College students disproportionately rely on income from Georgia's impacted service economy, all eligible students will receive a one-time grant. In order to qualify for this funding, students must have been enrolled as full-time or part-time students, or on an approved leave of absence or scheduled gap.

One-time grant awards for HC students meeting all eligibility requirements will be made as follows:

- Full-time with EFC of 0 – 1000 = \$1,300
- Part-time with EFC of 1000+ = \$900

Students will automatically receive grant funds via check and must receive the payment in person so that any questions or concerns may be immediately expedited.

Approximately 90% of CARES Act funds specified for students will be distributed through Initial Grant Aid and students should receive notification of their grant awards via Moodle June 3, 2020.

Exigent Funding Grants

Beginning with the July academic term and through December 2020, HC students may also apply for grants due to financial emergencies related to the COVID-19 economic crisis. Grants are based on demonstrable economic hardship directly attributable to the COVID-19 economic crisis. Students' financial need as determined by their FAFSA will be given priority in awarding Exigent Funded Grants. However, all students who have filed a FAFSA, or eligible veterans receiving military benefits to study at Helms College, are eligible to apply.

Students will automatically receive emergency grant funds via check or direct deposit.

Students who received Initial Grant Aid may also apply for Emergency Grants. This will require an application. The application window will be posted on this page once the dates are determined so please check back for details.

Approximately 10% of CARES Act funds specified for students will be distributed through Exigent Funded Grants. Applications may be obtained through student services and an exigent funding committee will approve or deny as quickly as possible. Students will receive notification by student services via phone and email.