

CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants *(posted at usm.edu/covid-19-May 5, 2020)*

- **The University of Southern Mississippi will receive \$6,753,021 in CARES Act funding designated for Emergency Financial Aid Grants for students. University officials are finalizing a process for distributing those funds directly to students, in consultation with the State Institutions of Higher Learning system office and the United States Department of Education. Although institutions have been given a one-year time frame to distribute all funds, USM's goal is to distribute CARES Act funds as soon as possible.**
 - **Students must meet eligibility requirements determined by the United States Department of Education and have a 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file to confirm eligibility for CARES emergency funds.**
 - **Specific eligibility requirements and FAFSA filing instructions have been sent to students via email.**

Complete a FAFSA for CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants



USMMailout <USMMailout@usm.edu>
To: all-students@usm.edu

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The University of Southern Mississippi will receive \$6,753,021 in CARES Act funding designated for Emergency Financial Aid Grants for students. University officials are finalizing a process for distributing those funds directly to students, in consultation with the State Institutions of Higher Learning system office and the United States Department of Education. Although institutions have been given a one-year time frame to distribute all funds, USM's goal is to distribute CARES Act funds as soon as possible.

Students must have a 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file to confirm eligibility for CARES emergency funds.

- Students who have not filed a FAFSA, but believe they are eligible according to the criteria below, should [complete a 2019-2020 FAFSA online](#). The USM school code is 002441.
- Priority will be given to students who submit a completed 2019-2020 FAFSA by **June 1, 2020**.

Students must meet the following eligibility requirements determined by the United States Department of Education.

- **Students are not eligible** if they were enrolled exclusively in an online program on March 13, 2020, the date a national emergency was declared.
- **Students must be Title IV Eligible** under Section 484 of the Higher Education Act, meaning the student must:
 - Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a degree program.
 - Not be enrolled in an elementary or secondary school.
 - Be making satisfactory academic progress, if currently enrolled.
 - 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
 - A statement of educational purpose.
 - Student's SSN.
 - Be a U.S. citizen or national, permanent resident, or other eligible non-citizen.
 - Have returned fraudulently obtained Title IV funds if convicted of, pled guilty to, 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.
 - Have Social Security Number verified.
 - Not have a federal or state conviction for drug possession or sale, with certain time limitations.

CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants will be distributed to eligible students who have completed a 2019-2020 FAFSA and meet all eligibility requirements as soon as the process is finalized. Additional information will be shared with students via email.

Questions regarding eligibility requirements or completing a FAFSA may be directed to financial.aid@usm.edu.

CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants *(posted at usm.edu/covid-19-May 8, 2020)*

- **The University of Southern Mississippi has finalized the process for distributing \$6,753,021 in CARES Act funding designated for Emergency Financial Aid Grants for students.**
 - **Students who believe they are eligible to receive CARES emergency funds must complete an online application to certify that they have incurred qualifying expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19, in accordance with United States Department of Education guidelines.**
 - **Reminder: Students must also complete a 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to confirm eligibility for CARES emergency funds.**
 - **Specific application instructions and eligibility requirements have been sent to students via email.**

Apply for CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants



USMMailout <USMMailout@usm.edu>
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Fri 5/8/2020 4:04 PM

The University of Southern Mississippi has finalized the process for distributing CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

Students who believe they are eligible to receive CARES emergency funds must complete an online application to certify that they have incurred qualifying expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19, in accordance with United States Department of Education guidelines. As a reminder, students must also complete a 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to confirm eligibility for CARES emergency funds.

Eagles CARES Act Grant Application Steps

1. Log into [SOAR](#)
2. Click on the Eagles CARES Act Grant tile located on the Student Homepage
3. Complete all application questions to certify qualifying expenses
4. Click "Submit"
5. Students who have not filed a 2019-2020 FAFSA, but believe they are eligible according to the Student Eligibility Requirements below, should [complete a 2019-2020 FAFSA online](#). The USM school code is 002441.

The Office of Financial Aid will determine eligibility based on the Eagles CARES Act Grant Application and 2019-2020 FAFSA data. Priority will be given to students who submit both items by **June 1, 2020**.

Student Eligibility Requirements determined by the United States Department of Education:

- **Students are not eligible** if they were enrolled exclusively in an online program on March 13, 2020, the date a national emergency was declared.
- **Students must be Title IV Eligible** under Section 484 of the Higher Education Act, requiring institutions to confirm eligibility of the following items:
 - **Determined from information on the FAFSA:**
 - Not owe an overpayment on Title IV grants or loans.
 - Not be in default on a Title IV loan.
 - Be a U.S. citizen or national, permanent resident, or other eligible non-citizen.
 - Have returned fraudulently obtained Title IV funds if convicted of, pled guilty to, 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 the student is a male between the ages of 18 and 26.
 - Have Social Security Number verified.
 - Not have a federal or state conviction for drug possession or sale, with certain time limitations.
 - File "as part of the original financial aid application process" a certification that includes a statement of educational purpose if requested by the Department of Education.
 - **Determined by the institution:**
 - Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a degree program.
 - Not be enrolled in an elementary or secondary school.
 - Be making satisfactory academic progress, if currently enrolled.

For more information and additional details about eligibility, visit usm.edu/financial-aid/eagles-cares-act.php. Questions may be directed to financial.aid@usm.edu.

Eagles CARES Act webpage was published May 8, 2020

<https://www.usm.edu/financial-aid/eagles-cares-act.php>

Financial Aid

Student Resources

Parent Resources

Financial Literacy

Frequently Asked Questions

Consumer Information

Staff

Contact Us

Office of Financial Aid

Kennard-Washington Hall
(KWH) 101
118 College Dr. #5101
Hattiesburg, MS 39406

USM Home / Financial Aid / Eagles CARES Act

Eagles CARES Act

The University of Southern Mississippi will receive \$6,753,021 in CARES Act funding designated for Emergency Financial Aid Grants for students. USM's goal is to distribute CARES Act funds as soon as possible, and to disburse all funds in the allotted one-year time frame.

+ Who is Eligible?

+ How to Apply?

+ How are Funds Distributed?

+ Frequently Asked Questions

— Who is Eligible?

Students must have a current 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file to confirm eligibility for the Eagles CARES Act Grant. Students who have not filed a FAFSA, but believe they are eligible according to the criteria below, should complete a FAFSA online [here](#). The Southern Miss school code is 002441.

- Students are not eligible if they were enrolled exclusively in an online program on March 13, 2020, the date a national emergency was declared.
- Students must be Title IV Eligible under Section 484 of the Higher Education Act requiring institutions to confirm eligibility of the following items:
 - Determined from information on the FAFSA:
 - Not owe an overpayment on Title IV grants or loans.
 - Not be in default on a Title IV loan.
 - Be a U.S. citizen or national, permanent resident, or other eligible non-citizen.
 - Have returned fraudulently obtained Title IV funds if convicted of, pled guilty to, or no contest to charges.
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 - Have Selective Service registration verified if the student is a male between the ages of 18-26.
 - Have Social Security Number verified.
 - Not have a federal or state conviction for drug possession or sale, with certain time limitations.
 - File "as part of the original financial aid application process" a certification that includes a statement of educational purpose if requested by the Department of Education.
 - Determined by the institution:
 - Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a degree program.
 - Not be enrolled in an elementary or secondary school.
 - Be making satisfactory academic progress, if currently enrolled.

More information about the CARES Act and eligibility can be found [here](#).

— How to Apply?

To be considered for the Eagles CARES Act Grant, students must complete the [2019-2020 FAFSA](#) online and the [Eagles CARES Act Grant Application](#) located in SOAR. On the Student Homepage, students can click on the Eagles CARES Act Grant tile to submit the application. **For priority consideration, students should apply and submit the FAFSA by June 1, 2020.**

Students who have completed the 2019-2020 FAFSA, submitted the Eagles CARES Act Grant Application in SOAR, and meet all eligibility requirements will receive an initial award expeditiously after eligibility is determined. Initial awards are based off of qualifying expenses such as housing, meals, travel, and online learning expenses. Students who believe they experienced additional costs, exceeding the initial award, can indicate this on the Eagles CARES Act Grant Application, and additional aid may be awarded based on fund availability after the June 1, 2020 priority deadline.

— How are Funds Distributed?

If you are eligible to receive the Eagles CARES Act Grant, they will be awarded to your financial aid account and then disbursed to your student account. The funds will not be used to pay any charges on your account; they will be refunded to you using your BankMobile refund preference. For information about setting your refund preference, visit BankMobileDisbursements.com.



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who may be eligible for the Eagles CARES Act Grant?

- Students are not eligible if they were enrolled exclusively in an online program on March 13, 2020, the date a national emergency was declared.
- Students must be Title IV Eligible under Section 484 of the Higher Education Act requiring institutions to confirm eligibility of the following items:
 - Determined from information on the FAFSA:
 - Not owe an overpayment on Title IV grants or loans.
 - Not be in default on a Title IV loan.
 - Be a U.S. citizen or national, permanent resident, or other eligible non-citizen.
 - Have returned fraudulently obtained Title IV funds if convicted of, pled guilty to, or no contest to charges.
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 - Have Social Security Number verified.
 - Not have a federal or state conviction for drug possession or sale, with certain time limitations.
 - File "as part of the original financial aid application process" a certification that includes a statement of educational purpose if requested by the Department of Education.
 - Determined by the institution:
 - Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a degree program.
 - Not be enrolled in an elementary or secondary school.
 - Be making satisfactory academic progress, if currently enrolled.

2. Who determines my eligibility?

The Office of Financial Aid, will take information acquired from the FAFSA, Eagles CARES Act Grant Application, and other entities on campus to determine your eligibility for the Eagles CARES Act Grant.

3. Am I eligible if I am a new student starting in the Summer 2020 or Fall 2020 semester?

No. Students must have been enrolled as of March 13th, 2020 in an on campus program during the Spring 2020 semester to be eligible.

4. Can the Office of Financial Aid use my 2020-2021 FAFSA to determine my eligibility?

No. You must submit the 2019-2020 FAFSA to be considered for the Eagles CARES Act Grant.

5. How and when will I know any final decisions made for the disbursement of funds?

Students who have completed the 2019-2020 FAFSA, submitted the Eagles CARES Act Grant Application in SOAR, and meet all eligibility requirements will receive an initial award expeditiously after eligibility is determined.

6. Is Selective Service Registration required for every student?

No. Selective Service Registration is only required for males between the ages of 18-26.

7. How much will I be eligible to receive?

The amount per student will vary based off student responses and remaining funds.

Students who have completed the 2019-2020 FAFSA, submitted the Eagles CARES Act Grant Application in SOAR, and meet all eligibility requirements will receive an initial award expeditiously after eligibility is determined. Initial awards are based on qualifying expenses incurred such as housing, meals, travel, and online learning expenses. Students who believe they experienced additional costs, exceeding the initial award, can indicate this on the Eagles CARES Act Grant Application, and additional aid may be awarded based on fund availability after the June 1st priority deadline.

8. I'm a fully online student at USM. Am I eligible for the Eagles CARES Act Grant?

No. Students enrolled in an exclusively online program as of March 13th, 2020 are not eligible for the Eagles CARES Act Grant.

9. How do I apply for the Eagles CARES Act Grant?

Students can navigate to the Eagles CARES Act Grant tile on their Student Homepage in SOAR. Applications must be submitted by June 1, 2020 for priority consideration. All applications must be accompanied by an official 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To complete the FAFSA click [here](#).

10. How will I receive the funds?

If you are eligible to receive the Eagles CARES Act Grant, they will be awarded to your financial aid account and then disbursed to your student account. The funds will not be used to pay any charges on your account; they will be refunded to you using your BankMobile refund preference. For information about setting your refund preference, visit BankMobileDisbursements.com.

11. I have not been eligible for financial aid (federal loans or grants) during the regular fall or spring semesters. Will I be eligible for the Eagles CARES Act Grant?

Just because a student is not eligible for federal loans or grants, does not necessarily mean they are not eligible for the Eagles CARES Act Grant. If your 2019-2020 FAFSA and the Eagles CARES Act Grant Application have been submitted by the June 1, 2020 priority deadline. The Office of Financial Aid will determine if you are eligible.

12. Do students qualify for the Eagles CARES Act Grant funding since the university switched to an online delivery method?

Students enrolled in an exclusively online program as of March 13, 2020 are not eligible for the Eagles CARES Act Grant. The closure of campus does not impact your program designation in SOAR. Your eligibility will be determined based off your program delivery mode prior to the campus closure.

13. I am an international on an F1 visa. Am I eligible to apply for the Eagles CARES Act Grant?

No. Student's on a F1 visa are not eligible. Students must be a U.S. citizen or national, permanent resident, or other eligible non-citizen to be eligible for the Eagles CARES Act Grant.

14. Do I have to repay this award after I am no longer in school?

The Eagles CARES Act Grant is not a loan. It is gift-aid from the federal government that is not required to be repaid.

15. If I already have a FAFSA on file for 2019-2020, do I need to file a new one or does the one already filed suffice?

If your 2019-2020 FAFSA has already been received by Southern Miss, you are not required to file a new one.

16. If I am still completing the verification process for my 2019-2020 FAFSA, do I still qualify for the EAGLES CARES Act Grant?

It depends on the student situation. Please contact the Office of Financial Aid for further clarification.