



Emergency Financial Grants to Students under Section 18004 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Policy

Purpose

This document outlines Athens Technical College's policy on the Emergency Financial Aid Grants offered to Athens Technical College's students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. In addition to policy this document also addresses implementation guidance.

Policy

Athens Technical College will implement the CARES Act and strictly adhere to the Department of Education guidance.

Background

On March 27, 2020, the Secretary of Education authorized payment of \$2,983,204 to Athens Technical College in grant funds under the CARES Act. Athens Technical College is required to use no less than \$1,491,602 (50%) of the funds received to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care).

Guidance

For the student funds, Athens Technical College will not apply CARES Act funds to student balances, nor will Athens Technical College reimburse itself for any costs or expenses, including but not limited to any costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus and will not reduce previously awarded federal, state, or institutional financial aid awards. The only statutory requirement is the funds be used to cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. Funds awarded under the CARES Act are not considered Federal financial aid under Title IV of the HEA.

Eligible Athens Technical College students who were enrolled in Spring 2020 (even those who have withdrawn from one or more courses with a 'Z' grade) will be issued a grant for the cost and disruption of their on-campus coursework as they transitioned to an online platform. The Department of Education indicates students who filed or who are eligible to file a FAFSA may receive emergency financial aid grants, if they were otherwise eligible for Title IV funding. However, students who were enrolled exclusively in online courses for Spring 2020 are not eligible for emergency financial aid grants.

The Financial Aid and Veteran's Services Office will report awarded grants to the Secretary of Education thirty (30) days from the date of signing the CARES Act Certification and Agreement and every forty-five (45) days thereafter. The report will include information regarding the expenditure of CARES Act funds, and may specify how grants were distributed to each student, how the amount of each grant was calculated, and any instructions or directions given to students about the grants. Athens Technical College will report copies of any communication (social media, email blasts, etc.) concerning the availability of the CARES Act funds to Secretary of Education. Awarding CARES Act Grant funds to Students GL #: Grant Expense: 40-00212-79100-00 The CARES Act Grant is awarded to provide emergency financial aid grants to Athens Technical College students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care). The Financial Aid and Veteran's Services will award and manage the grant awards based on the criteria outlined within this policy directly to students. All eligible students will be considered for grant awards. Approximately 70% of \$1,491,602 will be utilized for Spring semester awarding to 1,968 students with a \$549.00 grant. Approximately 30% of the \$1,491,602 received will be awarded to approximately 998 eligible students with an award of \$412.00 in CARES Grant funding.