

CARES Act Distribution Plan

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“Cares Act”) was signed into law by President Trump on March 27, 2020. The Act, in part, provides funds to institutions of higher education through the United States Department of Education (ED), and stipulates that at least 50% of the funds must be provided students as emergency relief grants.

Athens Technical College will utilize significant discretion on awarding these emergency assistance grants to eligible students. The only statutory requirements are that students use the funds for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19 and students are eligible to receive Title IV funding based on the criteria outlined under Section 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA).

Student Eligibility Requirements

Students who meet basic eligibility criteria for federal financial aid (Title IV) funding can be considered for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). The Office of Financial Aid will use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as well as Admission and Academic criteria to determine student eligibility.

Under the guidance provided by the Department of Education, funds can be awarded to students that meet the following conditions:

- Were enrolled on/after March 13, 2020 in at least one (1) credit hour for a Title IV eligible program that leads to a certificate, diploma, or degree.
- Has a FASFA for the 19/20 award year.
- Has a FAFSA/ISIR with no outstanding verification requirements.
- Has an eligible Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) status.
- Has met the college’s admission requirements.
- U.S. Citizen, Resident or eligible non-resident

Ineligible Students

Under the guidance provided by the Department of Education, Athens Technical College has determined the following students are ineligible to receive the emergency assistance grants.

- Dual Enrolled (HS) students
- Foreign Students
- DACA Students
- Transient Students
- Non-credit recipients
- Students that have actively defaulted student Loans, overpayments or other loan eligibility restrictions
- Students enrolled only in a part-of-term (POT) that ended prior to March 13, 2020.

Distribution Plan Models

The COVID-19 Pandemic has disrupted students in a number of ways generating financial hardships related to employment, housing, childcare, food, utilities, and medical expenses. To provide our eligible spring students the available financial assistance Athens Technical College will award students emergency aid grants based on the following distribution formula.

Even Distribution: Athens Technical College has identified 1,968 students for the spring semester and approximately 1,100 for the summer semester that meet the eligibility criteria and Athens Technical College has identified this student population as having been ‘impacted or disrupted by COVID-19’.

Total Approved CARES Act funding is \$2,983,204

First Distribution Plan: Allocate \$1,080,432.00 for students by May 27, 2020

Second Distribution Plan: Allocate \$6,588.00 for students by June 12, 2020

Total Number of Spring Eligible Students: 1,980
 Spring disbursement: \$549.00
 Spring Eligible Enrollment: \$1,087,020.00 Available – approximately 73%

Total Allocation	Total Students (Spring)	Per Student Award Amount	Total Awarded
\$1,087,020.00	1984	\$549.00	\$1,070,550.00

Third Distribution Plan: Allocate \$404,582.00 for students by August 1, 2020. – DELAYED due to application process – Funding was disbursed by August 31, 2020

\$16,470 returned for non-cashed checks – several attempts to contact student failed – rolled to Fall

Total Number of POSSIBLE Summer Eligible Students: 511
 Summer disbursement: \$549.00
 Summer Eligible Enrollment: \$404,582.00 Available – Approximately 27%

Total Allocation	Total Students (Summer)	Per Student Award Amount	Total Awarded
\$404,582	746	\$549.00	\$204,228

Summer and Fall CARES awards MUST be applied for. These funds were disbursed to all students who applied showing COVID related justification for receiving funds.

Fourth Distribution Plan: Allocate \$199,256.00 for students by October 15, 2020 and then monthly until funds are depleted.

Plus \$16,470 rolled from Spring returned funds

Total Number of POSSIBLE Summer Eligible Students: 1900
 Fall disbursement: \$300.08
 Fall Eligible Enrollment: \$216,824.00 Available – Approximately 13%

Total Allocation	Total Students (Summer)	Per Student Award Amount	Total Awarded
\$215,726	694	\$300.08	\$208,504.44

Summer and Fall CARES awards MUST be applied for. These funds will be disbursed to students who applied showing COVID related justification for receiving funds on a first come first serve basis. The application will not be made available until September 14, 2020 and was closed on November 3, 2020 due to limited funding.

All funds were disbursed at the time of disbursement. Additional returned funds from Spring semester were made available December 20, 2020 in the amount of \$8319.56

These funds will be carried forward and added to the HEERF II funding and disbursed to students according to the new regulations.

Total award allocation for Spring 2020, Summer 2020 and Fall 2020 is \$1,491,602.00 which is 50% of total approved **CARES Act award of \$2,983,204.00.**

Athens Technical College will award students to the best of its abilities and based on the current guidance available. Any remaining funds available will be equally redistributed among all previously eligible students for the current/future term(s).