

CARES Act Frequently asked Questions (FAQs)

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1. What is the CARES Act?

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) was passed by Congress to help provide financial relief from the health and economic impacts of COVID-19. Part of the CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grant established the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund to distribute funds to institutions of higher education nationwide. Half of the funds these institutions receive must be given directly to their students to assist students with unanticipated expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19. Notre Dame de Namur University (NDNU) has received \$560,725 under this program to be disbursed directly to our students. CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grant funds disbursed by NDNU to students as emergency financial aid grants will be labeled "CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grant".

2. What unanticipated expenses does this grant cover?

These funds can assist with unforeseen expenses for a student's cost of attendance (e.g. food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, child care and transportation) due to COVID-19 disruptions.

3. Who has the Department of Education determined to be eligible to receive the CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grant?

Under the U.S. Department of Education guidance, eligible students are those who are eligible for federal financial aid and enrolled in a program that was conducted on-site prior to March 13, 2020.

4. Who is not eligible to receive the CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grant?

Under the U.S. Department of Education's guidance, students who are not eligible for the CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grant include online-only students, international students, DACA students, and undocumented students.

5. Who will receive the CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grant?

All continuing students who are eligible to receive CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grant funding under the U.S. Department of Education rules and are enrolled in summer 2020, fall 2020, or spring 2021.

6. How much money will I receive and how are funds allocated?

In accordance with ED's guidance, NDNU is prioritizing the distribution of funds to Title IV eligible students demonstrating the greatest need. A student's level of need is determined using information available to the NDNU Office of Financial Aid and the Business Office, including, but not limited to: Pell eligibility and expected family contribution. NDNU is currently developing the needs based allocation method. Because NDNU anticipates that students will continue to be affected by the pandemic throughout the next academic year, funds will be allocated to eligible continuing students enrolled in summer 2020, fall 2020, and spring 2021.

7. When will I receive the CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grant funds?

CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grant funds for summer 2020 were placed in your student account between June 15, 2020 and June 26, 2020 will be distributed by check within 7 business days. Funds for fall 2020 are expected to appear in student accounts in the third to fourth week of September, while the timing for funds for spring 2021 is yet to be determined. In each case, funds will be distributed by check within 7 business days after appearing in your account.

8. Where will I receive my check?

Students will receive checks mailed to the permanent home address listed on the student portal.

To update the address, please log onto your campus portal using the following link: <https://campusportal.ndnu.edu/ics/> and click on the head in the upper right-hand corner.

- Select My profile & settings
- Click Contact Information
- Drop down the Addresses window and complete update

Please know that the change may take several days to appear on your portal. If you have further questions or need assistance with updating your address, please immediately contact the Office of the Registrar at registrar@ndnu.edu.

9. Will I receive notification of my award?

Students will receive notification of their grant prior to the posting of the grant to their student account.

10. I am eligible to receive CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid funding under the Department of Education rules, but I am not enrolled summer 2020 or beyond. Will I receive CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid funding? If not, why not?

No. Colleges and universities have significant discretion on how to allocate CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid grant funding. Because NDNU anticipates that students will continue to be affected by the pandemic throughout the next academic year, funds will be allocated to eligible continuing students enrolled in summer 2020, fall 2020, and spring 2021. NDNU's decision to provide CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students enrolled in summer 2020, fall 2020, and spring 2021 aligns with the Board of Trustees resolution to focus resources on students who can graduate by spring 2021.