

CARES ACT Guidelines

Overview: The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress and signed into law to provide economic relief from COVID-19. One section of the CARES Act established the Higher Education Emergency Relief fund and sent money to schools to use for emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. CARES Act grants will be made to students based on Expected Family Contribution (EFC) reported in a student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for 2019-2020. Consistent with U.S. Department of Education guidance, distribution will be based on a tiered approach with students with the greatest need, according to their EFC, being awarded higher amounts. Northwest Technical Institute expects a distribution of \$218,609 to be awarded as student grants.

Eligibility: In the initial distribution, all diploma students enrolled during the Spring 2020 semester as of March 16, 2020 who meet the criteria established by the U.S. Department of Education detailed below and have completed a FAFSA for 2020 as of June 1 are eligible for these emergency grants. Northwest Technical Institute will use FAFSA data to determine eligibility and the amount of the grant based on EFC tiers. Additionally, students who meet the criteria and complete a FAFSA by July 1, but who did not receive funds in the initial distribution, are eligible for an emergency grant on a first come, first served basis until funding is exhausted. Students who are eligible but have not yet filed a FAFSA for 2019-20 can do so on the Federal Student Aid website. By accepting the funds, students are confirming that they incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care or childcare costs. If necessary after July 1, 2020, the 2020-21 FAFSA may be used. Funds not distributed after July 31, 2020 may be redistributed among those already awarded. Students may apply for the CARES Act grant at: <https://forms.gle/trg21rpu9LtV61AA9>

U.S. Department of Education Eligibility Requirements for CARES funding: These requirements will be verified by Northwest Technical Institute through submitted FAFSA documents.

- U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen
- Valid Social Security number
- Registered with Selective Service if the student is a male
- Earned a high school diploma, GED or completed high school in an approved homeschool setting
- Student is not in default on a Title IV loan
- Certification of a statement of educational purpose
- Student does not owe a refund on grants previously received at any college
- Maintaining the minimum satisfactory academic progress standards
- Student has not been convicted of a crime involving fraud in obtaining Federal financial aid
- Student has not been convicted of a drug offense while receiving Federal financial aid



Distribution Process and Distribution Chart: Students will need to complete the application in order to receive the funds. Funds will be distributed by check mailed to the address on file for the student.

EFC per 2019-20 FAFSA	Distribution Amount
0-10,000 EFC	\$1,250
10,000 + EFC	\$1,000

Update 06/25/2020: Northwest Technical Institute signed and returned the Recipients Funding Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students on June 1, 2020 and the institution intends to use the funds to provide the mandated amount of at least 50 percent of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) grants to students.

- The institution received its distribution of \$218,609 on June 5, 2020. As of June 25, 2020, \$0 of those funds have been distributed to students.
- NWTI estimates that approximately 200 students are eligible to participate in Title IV programs. As of June 25, 2020, zero (0) eligible students have received an emergency grant.
- NWTI is in the process of reviewing applications and expects the first distribution of student grants to occur around July 1, 2020.

Update 07/31/2020:

- The institution received its distribution of \$218,609 on June 5, 2020. As of July 31 2020, \$141,500 of those funds have been distributed to students.
- NWTI estimates that approximately 200 students are eligible to participate in Title IV programs. As of July 31, 2020, 114 eligible students have received an emergency grant.

Update 10/6/2020:

- The institution received its distribution of \$218,609 on June 5, 2020. As of October 6, 2020, \$151,000 of those funds have been distributed to students. An additional \$13,000 is in the process of being prepared for distribution.
- NWTI estimates that approximately 200 students are eligible to participate in Title IV programs. As of July 31, 2020, 122 eligible students have received an emergency grant.