

COVID-19 Financial Aid Policies

Emergency FSEOG Policy

On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Pub. L. No. 116-136, which provides flexibilities with Campus-Based Aid (CBA). This includes Federal Work Study (FWS) and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG). Flexibilities included:

1. Allowing institutions to “use any amount of its FSEOG allocation (including funds transferred from FWS) to award emergency financial aid grants to assist undergraduate or graduate students for unexpected expenses and unmet financial need as the result of a qualifying emergency. Eligibility for grants is determined by each institution within the parameters established in the CARES Act (grants to be made for unexpected expenses and unmet financial need).”
2. “FSEOG awarding rules, i.e. exceptional need, with grants made first to Pell-eligible students having the lowest Expected Family Contributions, are waived for the purpose of making FSEOG Emergency Aid Grants”.
3. “FSEOG Emergency Aid Grants are not considered Estimated Financial Assistance.” This means it cannot cause an over-award to students. Fully packaged students are eligible.

Berkeley College had exhausted FSEOG funds provided by the Education Department, but had extra FWS funds to move into FSEOG and be used as “emergency awards.”

The College, consistent with other COVID-19 policies, and as informed by DOE provided guidance, believes that all students attending our winter 2020 semester were impacted by the pandemic.

All eligible students as calculated in our HEERF policy, who are also registered for the spring 2020 semester, received an Emergency FSEOG (ES) award of \$225.

When the funds were applied to the student accounts, if there was an open balance, the ES helped cover that balance. Students without a balance were refunded the ES within 14 days of the creation of the credit. There are students, prior to the awarding of ES, who were provided significant credits against tuition due to their circumstances. In these cases, the Berkeley Credit (which was provided due to “emergency”) was reduced and absorbed the ES award.

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