

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

Recently, the U.S. Congress allocated funding to colleges and universities to assist students affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Higher Education Emergency Fund (HEERF) was created to enable colleges and universities to provide cash grants to current students for expenses related to disruptions to their education due to COVID-19.

At AU, 3.16 million dollars has been allocated to assist students through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. Applications will be considered and approved based on financial need. **The American University HEERF maximum award is \$1,500 per student.**

Students seeking consideration for assistance from the HEERF are advised to complete the AU HEERF application. Students who apply must attest, under penalty of the law, that the expenses detailed in the application are true and accurate and be able to produce documentation of expenses incurred, if requested. **The application will be available from May 6, 2020 to May 16, 2020. Notification of awards will be sent 7-10 business days after the application period has closed.**

Eligibility Criteria:

For consideration, students must meet the following federally established eligibility criteria:

1. Must be enrolled in the semester for which the student is requesting aid
2. Must be a degree-seeking student
3. Must not be enrolled in a fully online program
4. Must be an aid applicant that is eligible for Title IV aid
5. Must have submitted 2019-2020 FAFSA
6. Enrollment was impacted by COVID-19

Eligible Expenses:

Funding may be awarded to cover expenses related to:

- Course materials
- Technology
- Food
- Housing
- Healthcare
- Childcare

Students may not receive funding for costs already reimbursed / funded by AU

To apply, here. Go to [AU Coronavirus](https://www.american.edu/coronavirus/) (<https://www.american.edu/coronavirus/>) site for comprehensive COVID-19 information and resources.

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To access the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), AU signed and submitted to the Department of Education a certification affirming the university will distribute no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. The Secretary of Education advises colleges and universities to prioritize students with the greatest need, but also establish a maximum funding threshold for each student to ensure the widest possible distribution of funds.

At AU, 3.16 million dollars has been allocated to assist students through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. Applications are considered and approved based on financial need. The American University HEERF maximum award is \$1,500 per student.

As of May 26, 2020, approximately, 6300 AU students meet the minimum federally established eligibility criteria. To date 1791 students have applied for HEERF consideration. 1.3 Million dollars have been awarded to 1423 students.

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ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

For consideration, students must meet the following federally established eligibility criteria:

Must be enrolled in the semester for which the student is requesting aid

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Must be a degree-seeking student

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Must be an aid applicant that is eligible for Title IV aid

Must have submitted 2019-2020 FAFSA

Enrollment was impacted by COVID-19

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Funding may be awarded to cover expenses related to:

Course materials

Technology

Food

Housing

Health care

Childcare

Students may not receive funding for costs already reimbursed/funded by AU.

APPLICATION

To apply, students must complete the AU HEERF Application. The HEERF Application will reopen on June 1, 2020. New applications will be reviewed weekly and notifications sent within 7-10 business days of review. The application will remain open until all Higher Education Emergency Relief funds are expended.

For comprehensive information regarding American University's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit AU's COVID-19 Resources page.

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At AU, 3.16 million dollars has been allocated to assist students through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. Applications are considered and approved based on financial need. The American University HEERF maximum award is \$1,500 per student.

As of June 30, approximately, 6,300 AU students meet the minimum federally established eligibility criteria. To date, 2,177 students have applied for HEERF consideration. 1.6 million dollars have been awarded to 1,670 students in HEERF grants. An additional 1.5 million dollars have been awarded to 540 students as one-time fall 2020 housing relief grants.

Students seeking consideration for assistance from the HEERF were advised to complete the AU HEERF application. Students attested, under penalty of the law, that the expenses detailed in the application are true and accurate and must be able to produce documentation of expenses incurred, if requested.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

For consideration, students must have met the following federally established eligibility criteria at the time of application:

1. Must be enrolled in the semester for which the student is requesting aid
2. Must be a degree-seeking student
3. Must not be enrolled in a fully online program
4. Must be an aid applicant that is eligible for Title IV aid
5. Must have submitted 2019-2020 FAFSA

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6. Enrollment was impacted by COVID-19

ELIGIBILITY EXPENSES

Funding may be awarded to cover expenses related to:

- Course materials
- Technology
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- Housing
- Health care
- Childcare

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APPLICATION

The HEERF application is closed as all Higher Education Emergency Relief funds have been expended.

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Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

[Quarterly Budget & Expenditure Reports](#)

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To access the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), AU signed and submitted to the Department of Education a certification affirming the university will distribute no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, Section 314(d)(5) of CRRSAA and section 2003 of the ARP to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. The Secretary of Education advises colleges and universities to prioritize students with the greatest need, but also establish a maximum funding threshold for each student to ensure the widest possible distribution of funds.

At AU, 3.16 million dollars was allocated to assist students through HEERF I. An additional 3.16 million was provided in HEERF II. In mid-May AU received an additional 8.3 million to assist students during the 2021-2022 academic year. Eligible students are considered and approved based on financial need.

As of June 30, 2021, approximately, 6,300 AU students meet the minimum federally established eligibility criteria. Over, 2,100 have been awarded 3.16 million through HEERF I. Over 1400 students received 3.16 million in HEERF II grants. AU is in the process of identifying HEERF III eligible students and will be awarding eligible students throughout the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters until all funding has been expended.

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As of June 30, 2021, approximately, 6,300 AU students meet the minimum federally established eligibility criteria. Over, 2,100 have been awarded 3.16 million through HEERF I. Over 1,400 students received 3.16 million in HEERF II grants.

As of September 30, 2021, 1189 students received nearly 3.3 million in HEERFIII funds. An additional 370 students were awarded approximately \$900,000 in HEERFIII grants as of December 31, 2021. As of March 31, 2022, AU fully expended the remainder of HEERFIII funding as \$4.16 million was allocated to 1,500 students.

For comprehensive information regarding American University's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit [AU's COVID-19 Resources page](#).