

Saginaw Valley State University
CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants
Fall 2020
Frequently Asked Questions

- Q1 Why are the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act emergency financial aid grants being awarded by Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) limited to up to \$450?
- A1 SVSU was awarded a \$3,455,532 grant from the US Department of Education for emergency financial aid grants to help students cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus. Total grants in the amount of \$1,632,165.95 were previously awarded to students enrolled during the Winter 2020 semester. The maximum grant award of \$450 was determined based on the dollar amount of funds remaining and the response rate from students who were potentially eligible for the Winter 2020 semester. See other questions and answers for more information on student eligibility.
- Q2 Does the CARES Act emergency financial aid grant have to be repaid?
- A2 No. The funds are a grant, not a loan that needs to be repaid. If you meet the eligibility requirements, you do not have to repay the grant.
- Q3 Is the CARES Act emergency financial aid grant considered taxable income to me?
- A3 No. The Internal Revenue Service has indicated that the emergency financial aid grants under the CARES Act for unexpected expenses, unmet financial need, or expenses related to the disruption of campus operations on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as unexpected expenses for food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, or childcare, are qualified disaster relief payments under section 139 of the Internal Revenue Code and as such are not includible in gross income for federal income tax purposes. However, please consult your tax adviser to determine how these and other rules may impact you. More information can be found at <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/faqs-higher-education-emergency-relief-fund-and-emergency-financial-aid-grants-under-the-cares-act>
- Q4 If I am enrolled at SVSU but am also still in high school (Great Lakes Bay Early College, dual enrolled, etc.) am I eligible for the CARES Act emergency financial aid grant?
- A4 No. Per the US Department of Education, the grants are for students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. One of those requirements is that you must have a high school diploma, GED, or have completed high school in an approved homeschool setting.
- Q5 If I was a guest student or post baccalaureate student at SVSU during Fall 2020 am I eligible for the CARES Act emergency financial aid grant?
- A5 No. Per the US Department of Education, the grants are for students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. One of requirements is that you be enrolled or accepted into a degree program or certificate program. If you are a guest student or post baccalaureate student at SVSU you are not considered enrolled or accepted into a degree program. At SVSU the only eligible certificate program is the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Post Graduate Certificate program.

- Q6 I am an international student enrolled at SVSU. Am I eligible for the CARES Act emergency financial aid grant?
A6 In accordance with the restriction in 8 US Code Section 1611, an alien, who is not a qualified alien as defined in US Code Section 1641, is not eligible for any Federal public benefit. As a result, most international students are not eligible. Please contact thecaresact@svsu.edu if you feel you meet the “qualified alien” definition in US Code Section 1641 and did not receive an email with the link to the application from SVSU.
- Q7 If I was enrolled at SVSU for the Fall 2020 semester in an exclusively online program, am I eligible for the Cares Act emergency financial aid grant?
A7 No. The US Department of Education’s frequently asked questions #12 states: “The formula provided by Congress for calculating the distribution of funds to institutions excludes students who were exclusively enrolled in distance education courses. Additionally, the emergency financial aid grants to students are for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, and students who were enrolled exclusively in online programs would not have expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.”
- Q8 I enrolled at SVSU for Fall 2020 but dropped all my courses. Am I eligible for the CARES Act emergency financial aid grant?
A8 No. Students must be enrolled in classes at the time the grant application is processed to be eligible to receive a CARES Act emergency financial aid grant.
- Q9 How do I apply for a Cares Act emergency financial aid grant?
A9 If you are potentially eligible for a grant, you should have received an email from SVSU with a link to the online application. If you have not received an email, and you do not meet one of the eligibility exceptions noted in the prior questions, please contact **thecaresact@svsu.edu**.
- Q10 Once I complete the application, how will I receive the Cares Act emergency financial aid grant?
A10 If you are determined to be eligible and are awarded a grant, the CARES Act emergency financial aid grant funds will be sent to you by direct deposit (if you have previously signed up for direct deposit for student refunds) to the bank account on record. Otherwise a check will be issued and mailed to your address on file at the time the application is received.
- Q11 The communications from SVSU indicate that I may apply for a CARES act emergency financial aid grant of up to \$450. How do I determine how much to apply for?
A11 The CARES act requirement is that the funds be used by students to cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student’s cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare). The application asks you to mark the types of expenses you have incurred from the list provided in the act. You can request up to the amount of eligible expenses you have incurred, not to exceed \$450.