

Subject: Federal Student Aid to Assist with COVID-19 Expenses

Dear Students,

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act is a federal law that was passed on December 27, 2020. The law provides financial relief to higher education institutions to address the economic impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19). UA Little Rock will disburse approximately \$4 million in student aid directly to eligible students. UA Little Rock's goal in using the funds is to help students meet the critical needs due to COVID-19 as students pursue a degree from UA Little Rock.

The funding is available to eligible undergraduates and graduate students. Awards will occur during spring 2021, summer 2021, and fall 2021 terms. The majority of funds will be awarded to eligible students this spring, and remaining funds will be awarded over the summer and fall terms to eligible students.

There are two methods for students to receive funds for the spring 2021 awards.

Method 1: Direct Aid for Undergraduates

The first method is through the CARES Act Direct Aid for Undergraduates, which will be used to award funds directly to undergraduate students enrolled in the spring 2021 term. Initial disbursements are expected by March 12, 2021. Eligible undergraduates will receive an award posted to their BankMobile account (see below for BankMobile instructions). The award amount is based on multiple factors, including the number of enrolled credit hours as well as unmet financial need as determined from the FAFSA. Students who receive funds through the CARES Act Direct Aid for Undergraduates must meet eligibility requirements provided by the U.S. Department of Education, including:

- Enrolled as a degree-seeking undergraduate as of March 1, 2021.
- Submitted a FAFSA for the academic year 2020-21.
- As part of the acceptance of the funds, the student agrees that the funds will be used for "expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care)." Students who do not agree to use the funds for this use must complete the form [here](#) to opt-out of CARES Act funding. If the opt-out form is completed after March 11, 2021, students will need to contact the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships about the process to return CARES Act funds.

There is no action required for eligible undergraduates to receive these funds except verifying your BankMobile account (see below).

Method 2: CARES Act Aid Application

The second method to receive funds is through the CARES Act Aid Application. Eligible undergraduates and graduates, including students enrolled at the Bowen School of Law and the Clinton School of Public Service, may apply to receive reimbursement of COVID-19 related expenses through the CARES Act Aid Application.

All students, **undergraduate or graduate**, should use the [CARES Act Spring 2021 Application](#) to apply for funding. Undergraduates should only submit a CARES Act Aid Application if they received no or insufficient funding through Method 1, CARES Act Direct Aid for Undergraduates. Graduates, including Bowen School of Law and Clinton School of Public Service, should also apply via the application linked above.

Students who receive funds through the CARES Act Aid Application must meet eligibility requirements provided by the U.S. Department of Education, including:

- If a student submitted a valid FAFSA for the academic year 2020-21, then the student may receive emergency financial aid grants. If you have not submitted a FAFSA you may do so now. Emergency grants will not be paid until your FAFSA is received.
- Enrolled as a degree-seeking undergraduate as of March 1, 2021.
- Further, a student who receives funds must agree that the funds will be used for "expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care)."

Awards for approved applications will be disbursed periodically, usually weekly, depending on the number of applications received and the availability of funds.

Important: Please Verify Your BankMobile Account

UA Little Rock intends to disburse the funds as quickly as possible to eligible students. To ensure there are no delays in processing, please verify you have signed up to receive refunds through BankMobile. If you are unsure of the process, or have not signed up, please review the instructions for BankMobile at ualr.edu/bursar.

Questions?

Awards will be posted to your BankMobile account. If you have questions about BankMobile, please contact the Bursar's Office at studentaccounts@ualr.edu.

Students with questions concerning the CARES Act Aid Application may submit questions to caresact@ualr.edu.

UA Little Rock intends to provide eligible students with funding through an equitable and expedient process. We hope these funds will help you address the critical needs you're experiencing due to COVID-19.

Sincerely,

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University of Arkansas at Little Rock

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