

CARES Act –Frequently Asked Questions

What is the federal CARES Act?

The Federal Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides a variety of financial support to individuals. These funds will be provided to help individuals cover expenses related to food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, childcare, and the cost of attendance. Bacone College is committed to distributing these funds directly to students experiencing financial challenges because of the COVID-19 outbreak as quickly as possible.

Who is eligible to receive CARES Act funds? Who gets the money?

Bacone College, following all guidelines from the federal Department of Education, is distributing funds to eligible, qualifying students. To qualify, the student must:

- ★ Submit a student information update form with your correct mailing address (posted in Moodle)
- ★ must be a degree-seeking student enrolled in at least one credit hour on March 23, 2020
- ★ must be enrolled in at least one class which was originally offered on-ground on March 23, 2020 (**cannot be enrolled exclusively online on March 23, 2020**)
- ★ must be eligible for federal Title IV financial aid by having a current Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file
- ★ must be eligible under Section 484 of the Title IV Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (eligible to receive funds such as a Pell grant or eligible to take out a student loan)

Am I eligible to receive CARES Act funds if I am not making satisfactory academic progress (SAP)?

No. Federal guidance from the Department of Education states that a student must be eligible for Title IV federal financial aid, and students who are not making satisfactory academic progress (SAP) are not eligible for CARES Act funds.

I am a student who was exclusively enrolled in only online courses this semester. Am I eligible to receive CARES Act funds?

No. Federal guidance from the Department of Education states that a student who was exclusively enrolled in all online courses is not eligible for CARES Act funds because there is not a disruption for a student who originally planned to attend all online courses. If you were enrolled in face-to-face, main campus courses and those courses were moved online on March 23, 2020; you are still eligible for CARES Act funds because those courses were originally main campus, face-to-face courses.

I am enrolled this spring as a dual credit/dual enrollment student. Am I eligible to receive CARES Act funds?

No. Federal guidance from the Department of Education states that a dual credit or dual enrollment student is not eligible for Title IV federal financial aid and is not eligible for CARES Act funds.

I am an international student. Am I eligible to receive CARES Act funds?

No. Federal guidance from the Department of Education states that an international student is not eligible for Title IV federal financial aid and is not eligible for CARES Act funds.

I have a spring bill and have not paid it yet. Is the money going to be applied to my student account balance?

No. Federal guidance from the Department of Education states that the funds should be distributed directly to students. If you wish to make a payment on your college bill, you will need to make a payment to Bacone College once you receive your CARES Act funds.

Can I use the CARES Act funds to pay off my Bacone Student account?

Yes. A student can use CARES Act funds to pay their bill. The CARES Act states that a student can use these funds to pay for the costs of attending Bacone College.

How much will I get if I am eligible?

Since the federal Department of Education has not provided final guidance on CARES Act funding, amounts distributed to students are not yet final. However, CARES Act fund amounts distributed to each student is based on enrollment status:

- ★ Full-Time – 12+ hours
- ★ Part-Time – 7-11 hours
- ★ Half-Time – 6 or fewer hours

Those who are receiving a Pell grant will receive a larger distribution than those who are not receiving a Pell grant.

How will students get their money?

The funds will be processed and distributed to students by a paper check issued by the Bacone Business Office. The checks will be MAILED to your address on file. Please make sure you update your mailing address to avoid delay. You can update your address on Moodle. If you need help with your login, please email harjok@bacone.edu

When will students get the money?

The federal Department of Education is still guiding colleges and universities about who should receive CARES Act funds. Bacone is committed to distributing the funds quickly but must wait on final guidance from the Department of Education regarding student eligibility.

Will I have to pay back the CARES Act funds I receive?

No. The CARES Act is providing emergency grants (free money) to students to help cover expenses related to food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, child care, and the cost of attendance who have also experienced financial challenges and disruptions related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Is the CARES Act money a part of the federal financial aid I receive each semester? Is it considered part of my Pell grant?

These funds are not part of your Bacone financial aid award and are not considered part of your Pell grant.

Is the CARES Act money considered taxable income?

The federal Department of Education has not yet determined if the CARES Act funds are considered taxable income.

Will I receive a 1098-T after getting the CARES Act money?

The federal Department of Education has not yet determined if you will be issued a 1098-T if you received CARES Act funds. A form 1098-T, Tuition Statement, is used to help figure education credits (and a tuition and fees deduction) for qualified tuition and related expenses paid during a tax year.

If I have questions about the CARES Act that are not addressed here, who should I call?

You may contact Kaila Harjo via TEXT: 918-360-7771 or EMAIL: harjok@bacone.edu for any other questions regarding the CARES Act. With the amount of overwhelming calls that I am receiving, I suggest text or email for a faster response.