

# GEERF Student Aid

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is GEERF?

Congress set aside a portion of the relief allotted to the Education Stabilization Fund through the CARES Act for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEERF). \$117,600 of this funding was allocated to the University by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) in order to provide one-time direct financial assistance grants to eligible undergraduate students from Virginia who incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### How will I know if I will receive a GEERF grant?

Students who qualify for a grant will be notified by an email from the Office of Financial Aid.

### How were the grant amounts determined?

Grant recipients had to be Virginia residents and meet Title IV eligibility requirements. Institutions were also advised to prioritize the students with the greatest financial need. In order to meet this criteria, the University awarded GEERF emergency grants to active undergraduate (ABJ and SPCS) students who had been awarded both a VTAG (Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant) Grant and a Federal Pell Grant for the Spring 2021 term as of January 22, 2021.

### Do I have to repay this money?

No. Funds issued to you through GEERF is considered emergency grant money and does not need to be repaid.

### Do I need to certify or provide documentation to show that I am using this money for eligible expenses?

Your acceptance of the funding serves as your certification that you incurred or expect to incur eligible expenses. You will not be expected to provide additional supporting documentation for coronavirus-related expenses that you incurred. However, if you feel you did not incur or will not incur any eligible expenses, please notify the Office of Financial Aid at (804) 289-8438 or [finaid@richmond.edu](mailto:finaid@richmond.edu) no later than January 27, 2021 to decline or modify your award.

### Can I hold these funds on my student account?

No. These grants must be directly distributed to students to pay for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. The University cannot use these funds to offset student charges automatically. However, once the money has been deposited in your account, you may choose to apply the funds to your student account to cover any component of your cost of attendance.

### Do I have to set up direct deposit to receive my grant money?

To receive your award in the shortest time possible, you should sign up for direct deposit on [BannerWeb](#). Instructions on how to sign up for direct deposit for accounts payable items can be found on the [Bursar's Office webpage](#). If direct deposit is not an option, please verify your mailing address on [BannerWeb](#) and email [bursar@richmond.edu](mailto:bursar@richmond.edu) to request payment by check.

### Will this funding affect my financial aid?

No. GEERF emergency grants do not count towards Estimated Financial Assistance (EFA) and do not impact future financial aid eligibility.

### Is this grant money taxable?

No. GEERF emergency grants are not treated as taxable income.

### Who do I contact if I have questions about GEERF and these grants?

Contact the Office of Financial Aid at (804) 289-8438 or [finaid@richmond.edu](mailto:finaid@richmond.edu).