

ARP (HEERF III) Student Aid Frequently Asked Questions

What is ARP (HEERF III)?

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) appropriated funds for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) and represents the third stream of funding appropriated to support students and Higher Education with expenses and financial needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This new Congressional COVID stimulus bill included \$39.6 billion for higher education institutions and students, using the same model established in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

How will I know if I will receive a CRRSAA (HEERF II) 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?

The ARP requires institutions to prioritize students with exceptional need.

Summer 2021

For Domestic Students enrolled in Summer School during the Summer 2021 term, students (both undergraduate and graduate) who received a summer Federal Pell Grant will receive a grant of \$2,500, students who did not receive a summer Federal Pell Grant, but have a Federal EFC of less than \$10,000, will receive a grant of \$2,000, and students who did not receive a summer Federal Pell Grant, have an EFC of \$10,000 or greater, and borrowed a summer Federal Loan, will receive a grant of \$1,500.

For International Students enrolled in Summer School during the Summer 2021 term, students who applied for aid and whose IM EFC was less than \$10,000 will receive grants of \$2,000, and students who applied for aid and whose IM EFC was \$10,000 or more will receive grants of \$1,500.

Fall 2021

For Domestic Students enrolled during the Fall 2021 term as of September 22, 2021, undergraduate students who had a Federal Pell Grant eligible EFC as of September 22, 2021 will receive a grant of \$2,400. Students (both undergraduate and graduate) who did not receive a Federal Pell Grant during the 202110 term as of September 22, 2021, but have an EFC of less than \$10,000 as of September 22, 2021, will receive a grant of \$1,800. All other students who applied and received Federal Aid as of September 22, 2021 will receive a grant of \$1,095.

For International Students enrolled during the Fall 2021 term as of September 22, 2021, students who received aid and whose IM EFC was less than \$10,000 as of September 22, 2021, will receive grants of \$1,800. All other international students received need-based aid as of September 22, 2021 will receive \$1,095.

Do I have to repay this money?

No. Funds issued to you through ARP (HEERF III) are considered emergency grant money and do 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 no later than July 18, 2021 (for Summer 2021) or October 1, 2021 (for Fall 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 to request payment by check.

Will this funding affect my financial aid?

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

Is this grant money taxable?

No. ARP (HEERF III) emergency grants are not treated as taxable income.

Are students who are not U.S. citizens or legal residents eligible for student grants under CRRSAA (HEERF II)?

Yes. Eligible Students will be notified by an email from the Office of Financial Aid.

Who do I contact if I have questions about CRRSAA (HEERF II) and these grants?

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