

CARES ACT FINAL REPORT – HEERF (a)(1) Student Portion

The Coronavirus Assistance, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was approved by Congress and includes support for higher education, including emergency grants for students facing expenses due to COVID-19. Hartford Seminary is set to receive \$17,007, of which \$8,504 is designated for emergency grants to students. The remaining funds are designated for use by the institution to cover unexpected expenses, such as (1) pro-rated refunds for residential housing, (2) COVID-19 equipment/supplies, and (3) transition costs associated with remote learning.

The estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004 (a) (1) of the CARES Act is 40.

The grants must 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 childcare). The grants may not fully cover the expenses a student has incurred due to the disruption.

Given the limited pool of funds available and wanting to be as equitable as possible, it is the recommendation of the Hartford Seminary's Financial Aid Office that the funds be distributed equally among all students meeting the following criteria:

- Student has a completed FAFSA on file **and** student meets all eligibility to participate criteria as defined under section 484 of the HEA. Students will have until June 15 to file a FAFSA **or** resolve C codes and errors on an existing FAFSA.
- Students must be enrolled in an eligible program as follows:
 - COOP MDIV/MARS/MATLS/GC Islamic Chaplaincy – 6 or more credits
 - D.Min. – 3 or more credits

Since HEERF funds are intended to assist students with expenses related to COVID-19 disruption, students enrolled **exclusively** in online or already completed J-Term courses prior to March 27, 2020 will not be eligible to receive HEERF funds.

A preliminary analysis of Spring 2020 students results in an approximate grant of **\$212 per student**. Given the relatively modest amount of the projected grant, it is the further recommendation of the Financial Aid Office that students be given an option to decline their grants, and those funds be placed back into the general pool to be distributed equally among remaining eligible students.

A deadline of June 15, 2020 has been determined for students to either file or bring their FAFSA into an error free state based on a June 30, 2020 distribution date.

Students will receive an email from the Office of Financial Aid that details the following:

- Basic information on the HEERF funds

- The amount the allocation Hartford Seminary received under the CARES act
- Eligibility criteria and methodology as determined by Hartford Seminary
- The amount of the project grant, or a notice as to why the student does not meet eligibility requirements

As of June 30, 2020, **\$8,504** of Emergency Financial Aid Grants have been fully distributed to students. **26 students** qualified to receive these emergency grants (**\$327.07 per student**).