

Dear Students,

The coronavirus pandemic has disrupted all of our lives during the last two months. In an effort to address the financial burdens that students have experienced, Congress enacted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the "CARES Act") on March 27, 2020.

Husson University is receiving \$1.337 million as part of this legislation. These funds must be distributed directly to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the pandemic. These expenses include food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and childcare.

Initial guidance about how to distribute these grants was released on April 21, 2020 by the Department of Education (ED). Husson University has been developing fair and equitable standards for the distribution of these funds based on federal government guidance, as we await the receipt of this funding.

Under the U.S. Department of Education rules for the program, these funds can be awarded to Husson undergraduate or graduate students who are pursuing degrees and matriculated at Husson. Unfortunately, the Department of Education's rules prohibit these funds from being used for students who do not qualify for Title IV aid, which is verified by the filing of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®).

As a result, international students, undocumented students and non-matriculated students are not eligible to receive CARES Act distributions. Students enrolled exclusively in online programs prior to the pandemic are also ineligible. To ensure students with the greatest financial need receive support, the University has also decided that employees attending Husson as part of the tuition-waiver benefit cannot qualify for a CARES Act grant, but dependents of employees are considered eligible if they have met all the criteria. The remaining 2629 students who have a current FAFSA on file with the University qualify to receive this funding. These grants will range from \$100 - \$600.

Guidance from the federal government also encouraged colleges and universities to give special consideration to Pell eligible students. As a result, Husson has developed a distribution matrix that takes students' expected family contributions (EFCs) into account. The distribution matrix is based on each student's FAFSA. Whether a student was carrying a full- or part-time academic load for the Spring 2020 semester was another factor taken into consideration.

**Here is what you need to do to receive a CARES Act grant.** If you filed a FAFSA for the 2019-2020 academic year, you need to visit your Student Portal. Once you are there, please acknowledge the certification statement necessary to claim your funds. **This step must be completed by Tuesday, May 12, 2020 if you want to receive a distribution.** Husson will begin making distributions on Friday, May 15, 2020. Should you decide to accept this CARES distribution, the University will electronically deposit any funds you qualify to receive to the specified account indicated in the information Husson has on file for you. If you do take the steps outlined above, the amount for which you are eligible will be redistributed to Husson University students who are able to demonstrate the need for financial support to cover COVID-19 expenses in accordance with the Act.

If you have questions regarding your distribution, please call Husson University Financial Aid at 207-941-7156 or the Student Accounts office at 207-941-7150. Further information can also be found on Husson's COVID Response website at [www.husson.edu/covid-19-response](http://www.husson.edu/covid-19-response) in our COVID-19 FAQ.

While these grants may not meet all of your expenses, we hope they will help lighten some of the financial burdens caused by the COVID-19 crisis.

Please continue to stay safe, healthy and maintain social distancing. We look forward to seeing all of you again and hope to reopen campus in the next few months!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lynne Coy-Ogan". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name "Lynne" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Coy-Ogan".

Lynne Coy-Ogan, EdD  
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost