

Panhandle State CARES Act Higher Ed Emergency Relief Policy



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Approved by: Elizabeth McMurphy, Associate VP Fiscal Affairs

Policy Owner: Office of the Bursar

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CARES Institutional Funds HEERF II and III Policy

The Office of the Bursar will administer funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF II and III), in accordance with the requirements and guidance set forth by the Department of Education.

The grant is to provide emergency relief to students by discharge of student debt.

Eligibility

Students eligible for discharge of student debt under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (HEERF II and III) will be discharged of the outstanding balance of the account as of June 30, 2021.

Eligible students must:

- Be enrolled on or after March 13, 2020. This would include enrollment in semesters of Spring 2020, Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Summer 2021.

Disbursement

Students with an outstanding balance as of June 30, 2021 are not required to complete an application to be considered for the funds.

The Office of the Bursar will consider applications for accounts at a \$0 balance as of June 30, 2021 if a student was enrolled during the eligible semesters. Applications will also be considered for eligible accounts where the account balance may have been paid partially or in full prior to the discharge of student debt.

The application is available at opsu.edu/emergency-relief and must be completed and received by September 30, 2021. The application deadline date is in accordance with the federal fiscal year end for federal grant funding.

Disbursement will occur to the student's bursar account. The Office of the Bursar will email students receiving discharge of student debt to their OPSU email.

Award Methodology

Category One

Students with account balance as of June 30, 2021

Total amount to discharge student debt: \$1,499,429

Total students: 564

Total students eligible: 564

Category Two

Students with \$0 in outstanding account balance as of June 30, 2021

Total students: 1189

Total students eligible: 1189

Disbursement

Disbursement will occur to the student's bursar account leaving a remaining balance of \$0 on balances on or prior to June 30, 2021.

Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF II and III)

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 represents the third stream of funding appropriated for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) and Oklahoma Panhandle State University is a recipient of institutional funds.

Eligibility

The Department of Education's final ruling, the term "student," as used in the HEERF programs is now defined as any individual who is or was enrolled at an eligible institution on or after March 13, 2020.