



May 14, 2020

Dear Gulf Coast Student,

The Department of Education has provided Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds to colleges to provide emergency financial aid grants (CARES Grant) to assist students with expenses related to the disruption of campus activities due to the COVID-19 crisis.

In order to receive a CARES grant, students must be eligible for Title IV aid as stated in Section 484 of the Higher Education Act. The most efficient and preferred method to prove eligibility is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Completing the FAFSA may also provide you with additional grants from the state or federal government.

Our records indicate that you have not filed or completed a FAFSA. We encourage you to file one as soon as possible to determine eligibility for a CARES grant. If for some reason you are unable to complete the FAFSA, you may complete a Certification of Eligibility. Students who self-certify by completing the Certification of Eligibility may qualify for a grant.

Please be aware that submitting a FAFSA rather than a Certification of Eligibility may qualify you for a larger grant. **Students may submit either a FAFSA or a Certification of Eligibility to determine eligibility for a cares grant, not both.** Once a Certification of Eligibility is received, the FAFSA will not be used to determine eligibility.

Sincerely,

Dr. Phil Bonfanti
Vice President for Student Services and Enrollment Management

[FAFSA Application](#)
