

# We Are Here to Help!

Dear Student,

Hunter College's Office of Financial Aid continues to work remotely to provide you full financial aid-related services. In an effort to best serve you, we are also committed to sharing important financial aid updates, in particular as they relate to COVID-19.

*Please note that the federal government defines affected students broadly to include those students who: could not complete courses for the term, dropped courses due to COVID-19, and/or became sick or impacted by COVID-19 spread, emergencies, or events.*

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the [CARES Act](#), is a law meant to address the economic challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a part of the CARES Act, affected students may receive student grant awards in Spring 2020. These awards were determined by CUNY Central Office of Student Financial Assistance and will be made as payments to students in the form of direct deposit or check. If you are eligible for this award it will be noted on your CUNYfirst accounts. Please select the link below for more information on the CARES Act. The CARES Act applies to full-time and part-time Undergraduates, Graduates, and Doctoral students in credit-bearing degree seeking programs.

**See below for guidance on how various aid programs function as a result of COVID-19.** Please also view our [FAQ](#) page for more information on Financial Aid programs and requirements.

## **If you are a Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) eligible student impacted by COVID-19:**

- Hunter will allow students to take advantage of the [Credit/No Credit Flexible Grading Policy](#) option up until 20 days after receiving letter grades in courses. If students choose to participate in this option for Spring 2020, the TAP award will not be impacted. Award and payments remain unchanged.
- Terms affected by COVID-19 will not count towards a student's lifetime TAP usage.
- Satisfactory Academic Progress and Pursuit standards will not be used to negatively impact your TAP award for the Fall 2020 semester.

## **Excelsior Scholarship eligible students impacted by COVID-19:**

- Hunter will allow students to take advantage of the [Credit/No Credit Flexible Grading Policy](#) option up until 20 days after receiving letter grades in courses. If students choose to participate in this option for Spring 2020, the Excelsior award will not be impacted. Award and payments remain the same.
- Students may participate in the Excelsior program for 4 years. Terms affected by COVID-19 will not count towards a student's 4 year usage.

- Affected students will not be required to meet the 30-credit requirement for this academic year.

### **Students currently participating in the Federal Work Study Program:**

- Participating work study students whose worksites remain open, and who choose to work in person or remotely when allowed and safe, will continue with the traditional work study time-sheet submission process online. This is how you will be paid.
- Participating work study students whose worksites no longer allow them to work in-person or remotely, and students who cannot work due to the impacts of COVID-19 must complete and submit [this form](#). This will allow students to be paid even if they do not work.
- If you have other questions related to Federal Work Study, please send us an email to [fwsjobs@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:fwsjobs@hunter.cuny.edu).

### **Federal Pell Program:**

- Terms affected by COVID-19 will not count towards a student's lifetime Pell usage.
- Further guidance will be distributed in the near future.
- If you have general questions please send us an email to [finaid@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:finaid@hunter.cuny.edu).

### **Federal Direct Loan Applicants:**

- Current and prospective Federal Direct Loan applicants may submit their application via CUNYfirst, on the Student Center page, by selecting the Direct Loan Processing form link.
- For Federal Direct Loans (unsubsidized and subsidized) loan payments and interest are being deferred through September 30, 2020.
- If you have other questions related to Direct Loans please send us an email to [loans@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:loans@hunter.cuny.edu).

### **Scholarships and Institutional Aid:**

- The scholarship process has not changed. Students who have received institutional aid will maintain their awards for Spring 2020.
- If you are in need of emergency funding, again, we encourage you to apply for the [Coronavirus Emergency Assistance Fund](#).
- If you have questions related to Scholarship and Institutional Aid please send us an email to [sships@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:sships@hunter.cuny.edu).
- Enrolling in Hunter this summer, may make you eligible to receive a Summer Scholarship. Students may receive the scholarship award by enrolling and successfully at least one summer course. Please select the link below for more information on the [Summer Scholarship](#).

### **General Information and Document Submission to the Financial Aid Office:**

- The Office of Financial Aid will continue to collect documents using the student document upload feature by logging into CUNYfirst, Selecting Campus Solutions, Self Service, and Document Upload. For more information on how to upload documents [click here](#). These documents may include verification forms, loan applications, tax documents, COVID-19 work study documentation, etc.
- If you are required to submit citizenship document(s), the [custom affidavit form](#) must be completed and submitted.
- Please **do not** fax documents to our office, we are not onsite to receive them.

We look forward to supporting you as we conclude the Spring 2020 semester and prepare for the summer ahead. You will continue to receive updates from us throughout this time; we are all in this together.

[Contact Us →](#)

Office of Financial Aid  
Hunter College, CUNY