April 3, 2020

Dear Students,

We are grateful and impressed that our community has met the challenges of the transition to remote learning and offering virtual services during this crisis. Today, we write to remind you that Hunter College continues to be here for you, and to share important financial aid updates.

**Resources for students:**

Hunter has instituted a **long-term laptop loan program**. If you are a student in need of a laptop, please request one here. We are distributing laptops on campus in a limited way, but are moving to mailing students technology, where possible. In-home broadband access is also available for free to CUNY students. Please visit the [CUNY Continuity For Students](https://www.cuny.edu/coronavirus/access/) website for more information. In addition, we encourage students to apply for a grant from the [Coronavirus Emergency Assistance Fund](https://www.cuny.edu/coronavirus/grants/) if they have unexpected expenses related to the current crisis. Students can apply here. Likewise, the 68th Street **Food Pantry** remains open with limited hours, but we are open. Please check the [Food Pantry website](https://www.foodpantrycuny.org/) before you visit.

Resources for students continue through the services we offer in the **Office of Financial Aid at Hunter College**. In an effort to best serve our students, during the COVID-19 pandemic, our staff are working remotely providing robust and full services. As part of our contributions, we are committed to providing you updates from the federal government, in particular as they relate to COVID-19. The **Federal government defines affected students broadly to include: those that could not complete courses for the term, those that dropped courses due to COVID-19, those students that became sick or impacted by COVID-19 spread, emergencies or events**. If you have questions about the below programs, please email finaid@hunter.cuny.edu. We consistently review this account, and are dedicated to providing you timely responses.

Below is information about various financial aid programs.

**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 option up to 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 term. At the end of the term, students will be invited to apply for this option.

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

- Hunter will allow students to take advantage of the Credit/No Credit option 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 timesheet 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.

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.

Federal Direct Loan Applicants:

- Current and prospective Federal Direct Loan applicants may submit their application to finaid@hunter.cuny.edu.
- For Federal Direct Loans (unsubsidized and subsidized) loan payments and interest are being deferred through September 30th, 2020.

Scholarships and Institutional Aid:

- The scholarship process has not changed. Students that have received institutional aid will maintain their awards for Spring 2020.
- The institution will continue to provide summer school scholarships and institutional aid. More information will be provided later in April during summer school registration.
- If you are in need of emergency funding, again, we encourage you to apply here.
- If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at sships@hunter.cuny.edu.

General Information and Document Submission to the Financial Aid Office:

- The Office of Financial Aid will continue to collect documents via email at finaid@hunter.cuny.edu. 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 on-site to receive them.

We look forward to continuing to support you as you finish your courses this term and prepare for the summer ahead. You will continue to receive updates from us; we are all in this together.

Office of Financial Aid
Hunter College