



Policy Source: Gwinnett Tech	Owner: Office of Financial Aid	Effective: May 2020
Division: Division of Student Affairs	Reviewed Date: 12/2020, 2/2026 Revised Date:	

### **6.6.9 GT      Qualifying Emergency Policy**

**Purpose:**

The goal of the Qualifying Emergency Policy is to advise students prospectively of the manner in which the College proposes to exercise its discretionary power, enforcement, and federal funding under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) as a result of, and in response to, the duly declared COVID-19 pandemic national emergency. The policy is intended to guide the means by which the College will assist students with emergency financial aid grants for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The CARES Act’s statutory requirement is that professional judgements and federal funds provided, be used to cover expenses and hardships related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student’s cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care). As part of the CARES Act, Gwinnett Technical College is able to provide emergency grant funding and certain exceptions to grade and financial aid policies to students who experience unexpected hardship directly related to the changes in campus operations and services due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is anticipated that all students still enrolled at the time of this epidemic were likely affected in some way. Examples of applicable hardships due to changes in campus operations may include the loss of access to live campus support resources to include face-to-face instruction, tutoring and faculty office hours, live campus life activities, access to campus computer and program area labs/technology, access to library staff and resources, campus food pantry, in-person counseling services, etc. In addition to direct on-campus disruptions, the implications of COVID-19 may also impact factors relating to the student’s social support and cost of attendance. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Loss of employment
- Threat of eviction/homelessness
- Imminent cessation of utilities
- Accessibility to technology required for coursework
- Sudden loss of childcare
- Unanticipated loss of transportation
- Domestic violence

- Theft, especially of property needed for school
- Required uninsured medical treatment and/or follow up
- Travel home for serious illness or death in the immediate family

### CARES Act Funding Allocation

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**Student Allocation:** \$2,668,288

**College Allocation:** \$2,668,288

**Total Allocation:** \$5,336,576

#### Eligibility:

- Student who is impacted by COVID-19 according to the College's Qualifying Emergency Policy
- Still enrolled on or after March 16 (eliminates those who withdrew prior to March 16)
- Enrolled in at least one credit hour, in a for credit class
- Enrolled in a Title IV eligible program (excludes certifications less than 15 and IA00, SP00, TR00)
- Title IV eligible students only (must have completed a FAFSA for 1920 aid year and all C codes on FAFSA cleared)
- Met all admissions requirements
- Most current SAP code is good standing, warning, or approved academic plan
- Exclusions:
  - coded "H" as dual enrollment student (HS or equivalent must be completed)
  - coded "F" as foreign (includes DACA)
  - coded as transient student (receive funds from home institution)
  - defaulted on student loans, overpayments, or other loan restrictions
  - Term B (part of term ended prior to March 16)
  - enrolled exclusively in online courses for the spring term