



Student Assistance Funding for Emergency Relief (SAFER) Program Policies & Procedures

Background

Life happens and we want to build up funds to be there for our College of Liberal Arts students. The purpose of emergency grants is to have resources available to support students with the goal of removing barriers to keep them in school while they may be going through a life challenge. Students who are meeting criteria for successful degree completion should not have to choose between necessities for living (food, shelter, etc.) and completing their degree.

Purpose

The Student Assistance Funding for Emergency Relief (SAFER) Program seeks to provide emergency grants as well as support and resource connection for students which seeks to improve their overall well-being. The SAFER Program will assist low or moderate-income College of Liberal Arts students (undergraduate and graduate) by providing financial support when they need assistance with **unexpected emergency expenses** surrounding situations such as, but not limited to, the following:

- Accidents
- Illness (self or dependent)
- Death of a family member
- Fire damage (home or property)
- Need for temporary housing
- Need for food

The intent of this grant is to help remove financial barriers for students to remain enrolled after a qualifying event (see above). This grant is not intended to replace or supplement existing financial aid and does not have to be repaid. This grant will not cover expenses outside of the costs associated with attending the university.

What SAFER covers

- Up to 6 credits of tuition & fees
- Meals on campus through preloaded campus dining cards
- Textbooks & supplies through the use of vouchers
- Student parking pass (annual or monthly)
- Semester RTC bus pass
- Graduation fee
- Graduation Cap & Gown

Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must have a financial hardship resulting from an emergency, accident, or other unexpected critical incident (qualifying event)
- Applicants must be currently enrolled students in the College of Liberal Arts
- Applications must be in good standing – academic (Undergraduate GPA 2.0 / Graduate GPA 2.75) and conduct with UNLV

- All other resources must have been considered and are insufficient, unavailable, or not available in a timely manner (additional resources list is available in the Dean's Office)
- An individual is eligible once per academic career/degree at UNLV to receive SAFER funding
- Applicants must complete the request process and submit supporting documentation
- Upon receipt of emergency grant, the applicant is required to schedule and to attend a MINIMUM of one (1) session with COLA Dean's office staff member AND complete any follow-up visits/seek resources discussed during the initial session

Application Process

Students in need of emergency financial assistance AND who meet the eligibility requirements may submit a request to liberalarts@unlv.edu along with supporting documentation. The request must include, but is not limited to the following:

- Personal statement which includes detail of the emergency or need (500 words or less)
- Approximate amount needed
- What additional resources or assistance has been sought and obtained

Supporting documentation may include, but is not limited to:

- Medical bills
- Income verification
- Estimates for repairs
- Documentary evidence (photographs or videos)
- Letters of support (usually witnesses of your need)

The request will be reviewed by the COLA Dean's Office to determine approval and the appropriate funding amount. Applicants may be asked to meet with members of the COLA Dean's Office to discuss their application prior to a funding decision.

Application Procedure

1. Student applies via email to liberalarts@unlv.edu and submits documentation.
 - a. Email subject line to read: SAFER Funding Application
 - b. The student may be requested to meet with a member of the Dean's Office staff
2. Committee reviews the request and requested amount.
 - a. **Acceptance** – Student is notified via email and is asked to reply with written acknowledgment that upon receipt of funds, they understand they are required to make an appointment with the designated Dean's Office staff member and **MUST** complete a follow-up plan.
 - b. Failure to meet this requirement will result in a registration hold for the next academic term. The hold remains until the student meets the requirements of the follow-up plan.
 - c. The COLA Dean's Office submits a Scholarship Award Roster to Financial Aid (if funding for courses is awarded) and funds are disbursed to the student's account immediately.
 - i. If other financial support is awarded, Dean's Office will provide student with necessary vouchers to obtain resources
 - d. **Denied**- Student is notified via email and directed to additional financial resources