



IMPORTANT COVID-19 FAQ's FOR THIEL COLLEGE STUDENTS

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) is authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Public Law 117-2, signed into law on March 11, 2021, providing \$39.6 billion in support to institutions of higher education to serve students and ensure learning continues during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ARP funds are in addition to funds authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), Public Law 116-260 and the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law 116-136. Emergency funds available to institutions and their students under all emergency funds total \$76.2 billion.

It provides funding to institutions of higher learning funding to prevent, prepare for and respond to the challenges faced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Per federal regulations, the College is providing the following information regarding these funds.

1. Has Thiel College complied with all regulations related to their award for HEERF III funding?

Yes. The College has formulated a plan to distribute the student portion of the award to eligible students. Per regulations, the student portion is to be awarded to those students with exceptional financial need. The institutional portion of this award may be used to offset most expenses incurred by the College related to the COVID-19 pandemic, this includes the verifiable loss of revenue by the College.

2. How much funding was awarded to Thiel College?

Thiel College was granted funding through the American Rescue Plan—HEERF III. The amount that was granted to the College was \$2,423,647—\$1,211,824 will be awarded to eligible students as Emergency Financial Aid Grants. These awards will be divided into several disbursements to best serve the needs of our students. The remaining \$1,121,823, will be used by the College to offset expenses related to the disruption of campus operations. The College was also awarded an additional \$106,253 to further offset campus operation disruptions.

3. What is the amount that the College has distributed to students?

In the fall of 2021, Thiel College distributed \$489,860 to qualifying students. The awarding of the remaining funds will occur in Fiscal 2023, with an award of \$528,390 distributed in the fall of 2022. All remaining funds were awarded in the spring of 2023, and with a small amount remaining to be distributed at September 30, 2023.

4. How many students at Thiel College will qualify for HEERF III funding? Who is eligible?

The U.S. Department of Education recently issued guidance on distribution of these emergency grants to students, requiring that all of these demonstrate exceptional financial need. There were 522 students eligible to receive the first portion of the HEERF III award, 595 eligible for the second portion, and 449 for the third and final portion. Eligibility was based on:

- a. Thiel College used a methodology that assigned all registered students points based on a series of financial variables.
 - b. Students were awarded grants based on the number of points that they received in to calculation
 - c. Those who qualified were awarded grants that ranged from \$200.00 to \$2,370.64 for the first award, \$200.00 to \$2,083.00 for the second, and \$204 to \$817 for the third portion.
 - d. All qualified registered students (both undergraduate and graduate) were eligible for these awards.
5. How can these funds be used?

The funds awarded must be used for expenses associated with COVID-19. These include the cost of attendance (tuition, food, housing, etc.), health care, or child care. These funds are not taxable (unless this is changed in future legislation) or considered to be a part of the financial aid package. By accepting this award, students are acknowledging that they have financial need.

6. How will funds be distributed?

The College is encouraging students to provide direct deposit information. Funds will also be available by check. Electronic processing will result in a more timely receipt of these funds. Manual checks will be mailed.

7. Where can I obtain more information about the HEERF program?

Students should regularly check our HEERF III site or use the information available through the U.S. Department of Education