



# FIVE BRANCHES UNIVERSITY

*Graduate School of Traditional Chinese Medicine*

## Santa Cruz Campus

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On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) (Pub. L. 117-2). The ARP appropriated approximately \$39.6 billion for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) and represents the third stream of funding appropriated for HEERF to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. Taken together, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (Pub. L. 116–136), the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) (Pub. L. 116-260), and the ARP represent HEERF I, HEERF II, and HEERF III, respectively. The Act includes several sources of funds for colleges and universities, including the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. Five Branches University will receive funds under this CARES Act to provide emergency grants to students for “expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including expenses under a student’s cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, and childcare).”

The U.S. Department of Education **does** allow these funds to be used for international students, undocumented students, non-matriculated students or students enrolled in distance only degree programs.



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Five Branches University received the HEERF III \$104,375 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students pursuant to signing the required Certification and Agreement with the US Department of Education in May 2021.

The University disbursed \$104,375 to students in August 2021 utilizing the whole fund.

The college has identified that 340 Five Branches University students are eligible to participate in the program under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and are therefore eligible to receive an emergency financial aid grant; the CARES Act Grant. Accordingly, the college has elected to immediately award each of the 340 eligible students a portion of the emergency financial aid grant.

Federal regulations require schools to confirm that a student receiving any CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Grant meets the following requirements:

- US citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Permanent residents
- Asylum seekers and refugees
- International students
- Enrolled as a student



Full time students enrolled in 12 units or more were selected to receive a full baseline award \$335.07 and part-time students enrolled in 6-11 units were selected to receive half of the baseline award \$167.54

[www.fivebranches.edu](http://www.fivebranches.edu)