



# Hardship Grant Policy

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| NAME:                | <b>Hardship Grant Policy</b>               |
| ISSUING DEPT:        | <b>VP for Finance &amp; Administration</b> |
| ISSUED DATE:         | <b>April 29, 2009</b>                      |
| REVIEWED DATE:       | <b>September 29, 2020</b>                  |
| APPROVING AUTHORITY: | <b>President's Cabinet</b>                 |
| DATE REVISED:        | <b>September 29, 2020</b>                  |

## **PURPOSE**

To provide need-based aid for students that have exhausted all funding options available to them, including student loans (subsidized and unsubsidized). This grant should be considered separate from merit-based scholarships and athletic grants. It is based solely on the student's inability to meet direct costs and shall not exceed the total cost of attendance with the combination of all available financial aid sources.

The first priority for the Mansfield University Hardship Grant is to retain currently enrolled students who have exhausted all federal and state grant and loan programs. These students have no further options to finance their education and are at a high risk of dropping out. Our first commitment is to help these students so that they can remain at Mansfield University and complete their program of study.

The second priority for the Mansfield University Hardship Grant is to provide a need-based, last-dollar resource for incoming students.

## **SCOPE**

Mansfield University students that have exhausted all funding options available to them, including student loans (subsidized and unsubsidized). This policy is related to PASSHE Procedure/Standard Number 2017-31 Sources of Funding for University Scholarships.

## **FORMS**

Completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)  
Federal Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

Vice President for Finance & Administration

## **POLICY/PROCEDURE**

The University procedures for establishing, maintaining, and administering need-based institutional scholarship funds must be approved by the university Council of Trustees.

### **Requirements**

- a. The student must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid for the award year.
- b. The student must have remaining financial need (as defined by the Higher Education Act) after the PHEAA Grant, PELL Grant, subsidized loan, unsubsidized loan, and SEOG Grant have been considered.
- c. Returning students must have satisfactory academic progress as defined by the Satisfactory

- Academic Progress Policy of the institution. Students on financial aid warning or probation are eligible if they have an approved SAP appeal.<sup>1</sup>
- d. The grant could be awarded from year to year **depending upon the availability of funds** and the student's ability to meet cost of attendance. It is not automatic and students will be reevaluated each year.
  - e. Students must use the grant to meet their cost of attendance. Nonessential costs will not be supported.
  - f. Grants are administered in accordance with current financial aid guidelines and policies.
  - g. The allowance for housing and dining (not travel) will be based on the Mansfield University's current double-room housing rate and the 14-meal plan.
  - h. The students must live on campus or meet the exemption criteria consistent with the Residence Life Housing Policy.

### **DISTRIBUTION**

MU Policies/Procedures Directory will be distributed through the web and maintained by the VP for Finance & Administration Office.

<sup>1</sup> The Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy for purposes of federal student aid can be found online at [https://esd.mansfield.edu/forms-and-policies/upload/Satisfactory-Academic-Progress-at-Mansfield-University\\_Federal.pdf](https://esd.mansfield.edu/forms-and-policies/upload/Satisfactory-Academic-Progress-at-Mansfield-University_Federal.pdf)