

# Cougar Emergency Fund

## University of Houston

The Cougar Emergency Fund is a grant administered through the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services (DSAES), established through the generous gifts of alumni and friends of the University of Houston. It provides current students with assistance when an extraordinary need is identified, or students find themselves dealing with a personal or family emergency which creates uncertainty in being able to meet the costs associated with attending school.

- The fund may assist students dealing with a variety of financial issues, including technology needs, emergency housing, unpaid utilities, medical expenses, food, or other expenditures that would otherwise prevent them from continuing enrollment at UH. The Cougar Emergency Fund may not be used for optional expenses.
- For students facing technology needs, funds may be available to assist with the purchase of a reasonably priced computer. Students must submit a pricing sheet for a planned computer purchase of not more than \$1200 (between \$800 and 1200 is customary), and must attest to the fact that they do not already have a personal computer or laptop on which to complete their course work.
- Funds are available to currently enrolled undergraduate or graduate students, with priority going to students enrolled full-time (12 hours for undergraduates, 9 hours for graduate students). Students must be in both academic and disciplinary good standing as defined by university policies and procedures. Citizenship and permanent resident status are not requirements; all students are eligible to apply.
- U.S. citizens and eligible non-citizens are asked to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the current academic year to allow the University to connect students with every type of funding available, maximizing how we can assist them financially.
- Students must complete the Cougar Emergency Fund application and submit all requested documentation. Failure to complete these requirements will result in the grant being denied.
- The amount is determined on a case-by-case basis, depending on the student's need, and is capped at \$1,500. Under extreme circumstances, the award may be increased. Funds will be paid to the student through their student account.
- Funding is limited, if funds are exhausted at the time a completed application is received, we will be unable to provide assistance.

### Application and Award Process

- The student will contact the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid (SFA) to request a Cougar Emergency Fund application by emailing [sfa@central.uh.edu](mailto:sfa@central.uh.edu) or calling (713) 743-1010, option 5. The student will then complete the form and upload it to a To-Do List item on their myUH account. SFA will gather and verify the necessary documentation from each applicant.
- For U.S. citizens and permanent residents, SFA will determine the student's eligibility for federal, state and other institutional funds, prior to offering grant funding. SFA will also coordinate Cougar Emergency Fund grants with the student's other financial aid.
- The decision will be emailed to the student by the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid and eligible grant assistance will be viewable through the student's myUH account.
- Cougar Emergency Funds will be credited to the student's account. Students who have balances due to the University may still be eligible to have these grants refunded directly to them, according to their established refund preference at <http://RefundSelection.com>, depending on the nature of the grant.