

Cougar Emergency Fund

University of Houston

Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services

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. This fund includes assistance provided through the Harvey HELP Emergency Aid Program administered by Educate Texas through Communities Foundation of Texas. It provides students who were enrolled during Fall 2017 and are currently enrolled in Spring 2018 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 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.
- Funds are available to undergraduate or graduate students enrolled for Spring 2018, who were enrolled during Fall 2017 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) 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 \$2,500. Under extreme circumstances, the Committee may increase the award.
- Funds will be paid to the student through their student account.

Application and Award Process

- The student will submit their Cougar Emergency Fund Request to the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid (SFA), which will gather and verify the necessary documentation from each applicant and submit this information to the Cougar Emergency Fund Committee.
- SFA will determine the student's eligibility for federal, state and other institutional funds, prior to forwarding the application to the review committee. SFA will also coordinate Cougar Emergency Fund grants with the student's other financial aid.
- Decisions will be made by the Cougar Emergency Fund Committee, made up of three representatives from the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services. A majority vote by the committee is needed for approval of all applications.
- The Committee's decision will be emailed to the student by the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, and 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 will still be eligible to have these grants refunded to them.

[Click here to complete the Cougar Emergency Fund \(Harvey\) Application & Financial Reconsideration Appeal.](#)