



Tohono O'odham Nation Education Department

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MASCAMA: Mo 'ab'e-namks g si O'odham himdag g Milga:n himdag we:m
EDUCATION: A bridge between tradition and the modern world

Education Assistance and Higher Education Program Policy Exemptions due to COVID-19

Students enrolled in the Education Assistance/Higher Education Program(EAP/HE), attending classes during the Spring 2020 Semester have been faced with unforeseen challenges due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The following policy exemptions have been made to address the setbacks outside of the student's control due to COVID-19. The policy exemptions will outline how EAP/HE will close out the Spring 2020 semester, including how the changes affect students in their next semester.

1. Policy Accountability and Duration:

- a. The current Education Assistance/Higher Education Program Policy exemptions apply to students who were funded during the 2020 Spring Semester. Specific policy exemptions may carry their own timeline.
- b. The EAP/HE Special Circumstances Waiver Form (SCW Form) is the official document to track and enact the policy exemptions. The student signed form will include a statement recognizing the policy waiver is needed specific to circumstances caused by COVID-19. Completed forms will be included in two locations: the student file and the EAP/HE 2020 Spring Semester Special Circumstances Policy Exemption File.
- c. Students who apply for the policy exemptions must have a completed and signed SCW Form on file for EAP/HE to process funding for their next semester.
- d. The SCW Form must be completed, student signed, and submitted to EAP/HE no later than September 30, 2020.
- e. In the event that the COVID-19 pandemic continues through the Fall 2020 Semester, revised policy exemptions will be used specific for that semester.
- f. All policy exemption due dates extend one month later for Tohono O'odham Students in Mexico.

2. Policy Waiver:

- a. Grade and GPA Exemptions
 - i. Grade Exemptions: the following grades will not be used in calculating funding qualification for the next funded semester: Fail (F), Incomplete (I), Withdraw (W), Withdraw Pass (WP) or Withdraw Fail (WF).
 - ii. There is not a maximum number of Grade Exemptions or grade combinations.
 - iii. In the event a student's semester transcript only includes grades under this exemption, the GPA will be identified as Not Applicable or N/A.
 - iv. The minimum 2.0 GPA will be waived, if necessary, in the event of a Grade Exemption.
- b. Repeat Classes and Funding Related to Grade and GPA Exemptions
 - i. All Grade Exemptions will not require repayment by the student.
 - ii. All classes that received Grade Exemptions requiring a different Letter Grade for the program of study and are retaken by the student, will be funded once more

- by EAP/HE. This includes students who received a Pass or Fail in a class that changed their course Letter Grade Policy (A, B, C, D, F) to Pass/Fail policy (P/F).
- iii. Students on probation for Spring 2020 who received a Grade Exemption for their probationary class(es) can retake the class (es). The class(es) will be funded once more by EAP/HE.
- c. Repeat Classes Related to Credit Hours
- i. Students who have classes with a supplementary class requirement (like a Science Lab) and did not receive total possible credit hours (ex: earning 3 out of 4 credit hours), may retake the combination of classes again at no expense or penalty to the student. This includes, and is not limited to, classes that require labs, practicums, etc.
- d. Change in Enrollment Status
- i. Full- time to Part-time: there are no penalties to a full-time student who enrolls in classes for the next semester that qualifies them as a part-time student. Student funding will be adjusted to the appropriate credit hours. Minimum credit hours for part-time status remains the same based on the degree level for which you are enrolled.
 - ii. Change of Program and/or School: there are no penalties in the event a student changes their program of study and/or school enrollment. This includes if the student enacts a change in combination with a Leave of Absence. A reminder: credits received while attending a “For Profit School” may not transfer.
 - iii. Leave of Absence: students may request a Leave of Absence regardless of their qualifying status for the Fall 2020 Semester at no penalty to the student.

Approved:



Jeffers Choyguha, Executive Director
Education Department, Tohono O’odham Nation

04/24/2020

Date

Approved:



Ned Norris, Jr., Chairman
Tohono O’odham Nation

04/29/2020

Date