



## Education Assistance and Higher Education Program Policy Exemptions due to COVID-19 Policy Exemptions #2

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

1. Policy Qualification, Accountability and Timeframe/Duration:
  - a. Qualification: The Education Assistance/Higher Education Program Policy Exemptions #2 apply to students who were in Situation A, B or C:
    - i. Situation A:
      1. Funded during the 2020 Fall Semester, and
      2. Were directly affected by the pandemic because they either:
        - a. Tested positive for COVID-19 during the 2020 Fall Semester, or
        - b. Have a dependent in their household that tested positive for COVID-19 during the 2020 Fall Semester.
    - ii. Situation B:
      1. Funded during the 2020 Fall Semester, and
      2. Were enrolled in EAP/HE for the first time during the 2020 Fall Semester.
    - iii. Situation C:
      1. A continuing student NOT funded during the 2020 Fall Semester, and
      2. Took a leave of absence from the program by proof of a completed 2020 Spring SCW Form from that semester's policy exemptions.
    - iv. \*\*\*\* All students qualify for a Leave of Absence for the 2021 Spring Semester. See policy details below for qualifications. (Section 2.b.i)
  - b. Accountability: The EAP/HE Special Circumstances Waiver Form #2 (SCW#2 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 filed in two locations: the student file and the EAP/HE 2020 Fall Semester Special Circumstances Policy Exemptions #2 File.
  - c. Timeframe/Duration: Students who apply for the policy exemptions must have a completed and signed SCW#2 Form on file for EAP/HE to process funding for their next semester.
    - i. The SCW#2 Form must be completed, student signed, and submitted to EAP/HE no later than 5 p.m. (MST), February 24, 2021.
    - ii. In the event that the COVID-19 pandemic continues through the Spring 2021 Semester, revised policy exemptions will be used specific for that semester.

- iii. All policy exemption due dates extend one month later for Tohono O’odham Students in Mexico.
- iv. Each semester specific policy exemptions may carry their own timeframe.
- v. Note: the term “Semester” outlines the timeframe EAP/HE pays out a student through the funded year and may not be defined as a “semester” (may include a trimester or quarter).

2. Policy Waivers for 2020 Fall Semester:

- a. Repeated Classes and Funding:
  - i. Situation A and B students are not required to repay or owe credits for classes they have failed.
  - ii. Situation A and B students who are required to repeat classes to meet their program requirements will have those classes funded again by the EAP/HE Program.
- b. Change in Enrollment Status
  - i. Leave of Absence from the EAP/HE Program:
    - a. Situation A and B or any EAP/HE funded student may request a Leave of Absence from the Program regardless of their 2020 Fall Semester closing status at no penalty to the student.
    - b. Situation C students on leave may request a second Leave of Absence at no penalty to the student.
  - ii. Sustaining Full-Time Status
    - a. Situation A and B students who were registered at full-time status and who earned at least half or more credits than they failed or dropped will be allowed to stay at full-time status for the next funded semester.

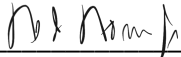
Approved:

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

12/09/2020

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 Date

Approved:

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

12/10/2020

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 Date