



**Education Assistance and Higher Education Program
Policy Exemptions due to COVID-19
Policy Exemptions #3**

Students enrolled in the Education Assistance, attending classes during the Spring 2021 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 will close out the Spring 2021 Semester, including how the changes affect students in their next semester.

1. Policy Qualification, Accountability and Timeframe/Duration and Approval:
 - a. Qualification: The Education Assistance/Higher Education Program Policy Exemptions #3 apply to students who were in Situation A, B or C:
 - i. Situation A:
 1. Funded during the 2021 Spring Semester, and
 2. Were directly affected by the pandemic because they either:
 - a. Tested positive for COVID-19 during the 2021 Spring Semester, or
 - b. Have a dependent in their household that tested positive for COVID-19 during the 2021 Spring Semester.
 - ii. Situation B:
 1. Funded during the 2021 Spring Semester, and
 2. Enrolled in EAP for the first time during the 2021 Spring Semester.
 - iii. Situation C:
 1. A continuing student NOT funded during the 2021 Spring Semester, and
 2. Took a leave of absence from the program by proof of a completed 2021 Fall SCW#2 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 #3 (SCW#3 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 2021 Spring Semester Special Circumstances Policy Exemptions #3 File.
 - c. Timeframe/Duration: Students who apply for the policy exemptions must have a completed and signed SCW#3 Form on file for EAP to process funding for their next semester.
 - i. The SCW#3 Form must be completed, student signed, and submitted to EAP no later than 5 p.m. (MST), August 26, 2021.
 - ii. In the event that the COVID-19 pandemic continues through the Fall 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).
- vi. Each submitted SCW#3 will be reviewed and approved or denied based on submitted information. Students may resubmit a SCW#3 will additional information are requested through the review process for a new review.

2. Policy Waivers for 2021 Spring 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.
- b. Change in Enrollment Status
 - i. Leave of Absence from the EAP:
 - a. Situation A and B or any EAP funded student may request a Leave of Absence from the Program regardless of their 2021 Spring Semester closing status at no penalty to the student.
 - b. Situation C students on leave may request an additional 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.

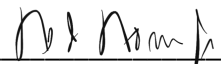
Approved:



Jeffery S. Longana, Executive Director
Education Department, Tohono O'odham Nation

06/17/2021
Date

Approved:



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

06/30/2021
Date