

## COVID-19 Emergency Flexibility and Federal Student Aid

A student who qualifies for a COVID-19 Emergency Flexibility (please see Midwives College of Utah's COVID-19 Emergency Flexibility Policy and Procedure) may on a case-by-case basis qualify for the following flexibilities:

Leave of Absence: A student who qualifies for a MCU COVID-19 Emergency Flexibility may request a Leave of Absence (LOA), and the student request for the LOA did not have to be made before the LOA begins. When applicable, medical notes will not be required of those qualifying students. Aid does not have to be refunded for the period, as long as student is not charged twice for the same course. The institution must document that, because of the qualified COVID-19 emergency, it waived the medical note and requirement that the request be made prior to the leave of absence.

Verification: A student who qualifies for a MCU COVID-19 Emergency Flexibility may in certain circumstances be exempt from a notary for V4 or V4 or the need for a parent signature. The Financial Aid Department may accept pictures and legal IDs that are expired, if the expiration date happed during COVID-19. The Financial Aid Department will guide students to the online renewal process of legal IDs first. Also, for applicants in verification groups V4 or V5, MCU will use documentation of an applicant's high school completion status that it may already have obtained for other purposes. Where an applicant is unable to obtain such documentation and an institution does not already have such documentation, it may accept a signed and dated statement from the applicant in which they truthfully attest to their secondary school completion or the equivalent. The statement must indicate whether a high school diploma or the equivalent was obtained and date of completion (or approximate date). This guidance applies until December 31, 2020, for both the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 award years. The institution must document that, because of the qualified COVID-19 emergency, it waived the above requirements.

**Return to Title IV (R2T4):** A student who qualifies for a MCU COVID-19 Emergency Flexibility may in certain circumstance qualify for a Refund waiver that exempt students from paying back grants and loans through the R2T4 process. Once the refund waiver is applied, if there is a credit balance, the credit balance will be issued to the student. The institution will use its Third-Party Servicer Refund waivers and will document all of the above.

**Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP):** A student who qualifies for a MCU COVID-19 Emergency Flexibility (and not previously on SAP probation) may in certain circumstances have their qualifying COVID-19 emergency considered in their appeal.

Qualifying students who are readmitted to MCU may be exempt from their last payment period's SAP evaluation.

**Professional Judgment**: If a student's income was lost due to COVID-19, the Financial Aid Department in accordance with its Professional Judgment policy and Department of Education guidance may report income as 0.