

NAME: Mansfield University Hardship Grant Policy
 ISSUING DEPT: Finance & Administration Office
 ISSUED DATE: APRIL 29, 2009
 REVIEWED DATE:
 APPROVING AUTHORITY: Council of Trustees
 (Approved by Cabinet May 11, 2009)
 DATE REVISED:

I. DEFINITION

To provide a need-based grant for students that have exhausted all funding options available to them, including student loans (subsidized and unsubsidized). This grant should be considered separate from merit based scholarships and athletic grants. It is based solely on the student's inability to meet direct costs and shall not exceed the total cost of attendance with the combination of all available financial aid sources.

II. PURPOSE

The first priority for the *Mansfield University Hardship Grant* is to retain currently enrolled PA students who have exhausted all federal and state grant and loan programs. These students have no further options to finance their education and are at a high risk of dropping out. Our first commitment is to help these PA students so that they can remain at Mansfield University and complete their program of study.

The second priority for the *Mansfield University Hardship Grant* is to provide a need based, last dollar resource for incoming students residing in Pennsylvania.

III. REQUIREMENTS

- a. The student must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
- b. The student must have remaining financial need (as defined by the Higher Education Act) after the PHEAA Grant, PELL Grant, subsidized loan, unsubsidized loan, SEOG and Perkins loans have been considered.
- c. Returning students must have satisfactory academic progress as defined by the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy of the institution.¹
- d. The grant could be awarded from year to year **depending upon the availability of funds** and the student's ability to meet cost of attendance. It is not automatic and students will be reevaluated each year.
- e. Students must use the grant to meet their cost of attendance only. Costs associated with luxury items, such as a private room, are considered unallowable costs and would negate the grant.
- f. Grant administered in accordance with current financial aid guidelines and policies.
- g. The allowance for housing (not meals or travel) will be based on the Mansfield University, current, double room, housing rate.
- h. The students must live on campus or meet the exemption criteria consistent with the Residence Life Housing Policy.

IV. DISTRIBUTION

MU Policies/Procedures Directory will be distributed through the web and maintained by the staff of the designated offices. The Finance & Administration Office will update the information on their web content area and will email the web master with the updated link to be added to the MU Policy/Procedure Directory.

¹ The Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy for purposes of federal student aid can be found online at www.mansfield.edu/enrollment_services/financial_aid/forms_and_publications