



STUDENT SUCCESS FUND FAQs

What kinds of things do you fund?

The Student Success Fund is designed to fill gaps in financial support for students in need. It is not a substitute for submission of the FAFSA or VASA. We provide support for unexpected expenses not covered by traditional scholarships or aid, or shortfalls due to loss of work or emergency situations and to assist with covering tuition, books and supplies. The Fund is not designed to be a solution for debt owed to the College.

Student Success Emergency Grants can cover:

- Living expenses
 - Food
 - Housing
 - Transportation
- Medical expenses not covered by health insurance
- Textbooks, supplies and equipment
- Exams/exam preparation course fees
- Industry certification or licensure exams (related to NOVA classes you successfully completed)

Students who are approved to receive a Student Success Fund Emergency Grant will not receive cash. The grant will be directed to a creditor, e.g., landlord (rent hardship), Dominion Energy (utilities), auto repair shop (transportation), etc.

Student Success Fund Scholarships cover up to one semester of in-state tuition at NOVA.

Can I apply for both a Student Success Fund Scholarship and a Student Success Fund Emergency Grant?

Yes; however, students are eligible for Student Success Fund assistance only once per academic year.

Can I apply multiple times?

You may apply to the Student Success Fund Emergency Grant more than once, but funding will be limited to one award, up to \$1,000 per student per academic year. Students are eligible for Student Success Fund assistance only once per academic year.

Can I apply to support multiple bills if the total is under \$1,000?

No. You will need to select one creditor to pay. Be sure to select the one that will make the greatest impact in your life. You may not apply for multiple expenses.

Is this a loan?

The Student Success Fund provides grants and scholarships, not loans. There is no legal obligation to repay the support you receive. However, we urge you to “pay it forward” by submitting a timely note or short video expressing your gratitude that can be shared with donors. We also encourage you to join us as an alumni donor once you are settled in your career.

Will the Student Success Scholarship count toward my financial aid award?

Student Success Fund awards are reported to the Financial Aid Office (FAO).

Do I have to live in the U.S.?

Yes.

How does NOVA disburse the funds?

Student Success Emergency Grants will be disbursed via the NOVA Foundation’s bill.com system. Student Success Scholarships will be credited to your NOVA student account.

How long does the process take?

Student Success Emergency Grants are considered exclusively based upon the content in your application. Once all necessary supporting documentation has been received, applications are typically reviewed within one week. If approved, the FAO is immediately notified, and emergency grants are issued through the Foundation to the company where debt is owed. Automated approval and denial notifications will be sent through the application portal.

Student Success Scholarships are disbursed after census date and attendance has been certified, according to the College’s standard award disbursement schedule.