

Student Success Fund

The Student Success Fund (SSF) assists Oakton students who encounter an **unforeseen emergency or catastrophic event** that would otherwise prevent them from earning a degree or certificate at Oakton. Each applicant is asked to describe, in detail, the nature of the emergency and state how SSF funds would assist in alleviating the circumstances.

Application Process

To be considered for assistance from the SSF, students should meet the following requirements:

- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 for all coursework completed at Oakton or be a new student to Oakton.
- Be registered in at least **six** credit hours for the current semester.
- Complete the *CashCourse® Budget Wizard* and attach the Budget Spreadsheet (see instructions on page two).

Award

Maximum SSF award is normally \$500 per student per calendar year. If the request is for a personal expense such as rent, medical bills, utilities, child care, auto repair, or textbooks, the approved funding would be made payable to the third party on behalf of the student or a gift card provided. Payments are considered taxable income and students are responsible for reporting this sum when filing tax returns. Due to limited funding, every request may not be approved. Repeated requests from the same student also are not likely to be approved. (*Note: Direct payment will not be made to student.*)

Procedures

Students interested in SSF funding must submit a completed application to the Office of Student Affairs. Each application is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Applications are considered based on the academic program, educational goals, grade point average, application content and quality, financial aid, financial need, financial emergency, and/or special circumstances. Students are notified regarding the committee's decision within 10 days. All decisions are final; not all applications will be funded.

Student Information

Name _____ Student ID Number B _____

Address _____ City _____ State/Zip _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Are you living with your parent(s) or guardian? Yes No

College Information

Select the statement that best describes your educational objectives and attach a copy of your u.achieve® Degree/Certificate Evaluation*:

- Obtain an associate in arts (A.A.) degree at Oakton and transfer to another educational institution.
- Obtain an associate's degree or certificate in a career program.
- Other (*please explain*): _____

Assistance Request

Please select **one** category that best describes your request for funding: (*Note: tuition is not funded.*)

- Child care
- Food/meals
- Transportation
- Medical expenses
- Natural disaster/fire
- Text books
- Utilities
- Housing/rent
- Other (*please specify*): _____

*u.achieve® is an unofficial report of progress towards a degree available through my.oakton or the Enrollment Center.

Describe your unforeseen emergency and how these funds will help alleviate the hardship. In addition, describe your academic and career goals and provide a time line to achieve these goals. (Attach additional pages and documentation as necessary):

Amount of funds requested: \$_____ (maximum \$500)

Attach expense documentation such as copies of bills, invoices, and vendor quotes to support the request for emergency funds.

Have you applied for emergency funds at Oakton Community College before? YES NO

Have you received emergency funds from Oakton Community College before? YES NO

Student Financial Information

Are you currently employed? YES NO

If YES, my current employer is: _____. My monthly income is: \$_____.

Marital status _____. Number of dependents _____.

Please complete the following income information:

Estimated Income (per month)

Earnings of Student Amount \$_____

Earnings of Spouse \$_____

Parental Contribution \$_____

Savings \$_____

Child Support \$_____

Total \$_____

Have you applied for a Student Financial Assistance scholarship or grant to pay for any part of your tuition/fees at Oakton?

YES NO

IMPORTANT: Oakton partners with **CashCourse®**, an interactive online financial literacy learning tool. **SSF applicants are required to complete the Budget Wizard.** Register at www.cashcourse.org (select Oakton Community College as your school), and navigate to *Financial Tools/Budget Wizard*. Once you've completed the exercise, print and attach the Budget Spreadsheet to the application.

How did you hear about Oakton's Student Success Fund? _____

Authorization

I certify that the information provided in the application is accurate. I hereby give Oakton Community College permission to release information about my major, grade point average, enrollment status, financial aid status, and other SSF eligibility criteria including my personal statement, if applicable, to those involved in the selection process.

I understand that my personal statement, or a portion of the statement, may be used in Oakton promotional materials. Furthermore, I give Oakton Community College permission to use my biographical information, my personal statement, and/or photograph in promotional materials, media releases, and other college publications.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Return to: studentaffairs@oakton.edu or Oakton Community College, Office of Student Affairs, Room 2270, 1600 East Golf Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Amount Approved:\$ _____ Purpose: _____

Approved by Vice President for Student Affairs Karl Brooks, Ed.D., _____ Date: _____