

Awarding EASE Plus Incentive Program Policy

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Background

Special Appropriation 60 of the 2024 General Appropriations Act (Chapter 2024-231, Laws of Florida) includes a new and separate appropriated amount in the 2024-25 academic year that can be used in addition to the maximum annual EASE award.

The EASE Plus stipend provides additional support to students enrolled in upper-level courses in quality, high-demand programs listed below:

- Agriculture/Veterinary Science;
- Allied Health;
- Cyber Security;
- Digital Arts/Computer Graphics;
- Nursing; and
- Teaching.

Upper-level students enrolled in these high-demand programs will be eligible to receive an annual maximum stipend of \$850 annually (\$425/semester, fall and spring) for the 2024-25 academic year in addition to the Florida EASE grant.

Awarding Policy

EASE Plus will be awarded to any undergraduate, upper-level student (60+ earned credit hours) taking upper-level courses who meets the following criteria:

1. The student has met eligibility requirements and is receiving the Florida EASE Grant for the period of enrollment the EASE Plus is being considered, and
2. The student is enrolled in an approved high-demand program, and

3. The student is enrolled full-time.

Definitions

Upper-level students: Students who have earned 60+ credits toward their degree program at SEU.

Upper-level classes: Classes at the 300-400 level in high-demand programs at SEU.

Certifying & Reporting of EASE Plus Incentive Stipends

Institutions shall certify to the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) the amount of funds disbursed to each student receiving an EASE award on the Disbursement Eligibility Report (DER) according to the following schedule:

- Term 1: No later than October 30, 2024
- Term 2: No later than February 28, 2025
- Term 3: No later than April 15, 2025

Per section 1009.89, Florida Statutes, institutions shall return any undisbursed funds to OSFA within 60 days after the end of the regular registration period. Institutions failing to meet the statutory deadline may be subject to having EASE funds withheld or provided on a reimbursement basis the following term or subsequent academic year.