



DOMINICAN SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY & THEOLOGY

at the Graduate Theological Union

August 4, 2020

Dear DSPT Students:

On July 15, 2020, I sent most of you [a letter](#) introducing basic information about The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES). This present letter will reiterate some of that information as well as to provide updates and clarifications based upon new information and requirements published by the Department of Education (DOE). As previously noted, under CARES Act guidelines, there are two general categories of funding available to qualified students enrolled at DSPT:

- (a)(1) funds – **reimburse** students for *actual expenses* incurred as a direct result of the closure of the DSPT campus and initiation of online or hybrid modes of learning.
- (a)(3) funds – provided to DSPT for assistance to both students and the School for ongoing expenses related to the pandemic.

In mid-July, the DOE clarified the nature of (a)(3) funding and updated the application process for these funds. The additional submission requirement may push back the date at which DSPT will receive these funds from the DOE. We will endeavor to pay these grants in August to each student but it may get pushed back into September depending on when we receive funding from the DOE.

The administration has determined that each qualified lay student will receive an online learning grant of \$1500 for the Fall 2020 semester. Unlike the (a)(1) funds (which are restricted to reimbursing *actual expenses*), this money may be used for a variety of purposes so long as they can be documented as relating to online learning. Examples of such items include:

- computer hardware and software
- upgrading internet plan to improve on-line learning experience on Zoom
- books required for classes that are not available through regular library services provided by GTU or UC Berkeley libraries
- online journal subscriptions not available through regular library services provided by GTU or UC Berkeley libraries

Students do NOT need to apply for (a)(3) funds. Furthermore, unlike (a)(1) funds, students are not required to document the expenses. The grants will be awarded in full to qualified students. When the grants are paid, you will be asked to confirm receipt of the monies and certify that you will use the grant to improve your online learning capability.

In order to receive money from either (a)(1) or (a)(3), each student must meet all of the following criteria:

1. be enrolled in a DSPT program (CTS or any degree program) for Fall 2020;
2. have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA®](#)). If you completed one within the last academic year, there is no need to complete a new one;
3. be making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), as defined in the [Student Handbook](#), p. 42.



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DSPT will also continue to reimburse students for qualifying (a)(1) expenses that are incurred during the Fall 2020 semester which exceed the value of the \$1500 grant. To be reimbursed students must submit the [required application](#) accompanied by documentation / receipts which support the expenditure included in your application. DSPT will invite applications in November 2020 for reimbursement at the end of the semester.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions: crenz@dspt.edu. Know of our prayers for you.

Christopher J. Renz, OP, Ph.D.
Office of Institutional Research