



DARE TO DO MORE

August 12, 2021
Kenneth Adams, President

New Post-COVID Financial Support for LaGuardia Students

Making LaGuardia affordable and accessible—especially for students who lost their jobs or suffered other economic hardship during COVID—is more important than ever as we emerge from the pandemic. Fortunately, both LaGuardia and CUNY recently announced five new types of financial assistance available to students that qualify. Please share this information with as many students as you can. I am confident that these special financial resources will enable both Freshmen and returning students—in degree as well as Adult and Continuing Education (ACE) programs—to enroll for the Fall Semester (classes start Sept 9th) when otherwise they might not because of their post-COVID economic circumstances.

Four of these programs are available to all degree-seeking students—permanent residents, international students, refugees, asylum seekers, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) recipients, other DREAMers, and similar undocumented students. One program in particular is available to ACE students.

1. [LaGuardia Merit Scholarships](#), funded by the LaGuardia Foundation, will provide 1,000 qualifying degree-seeking students with \$500 scholarships that can be used to pay tuition, fees, books, technology, or personal expenses. Freshmen must have a high school average of at least 80; returning students must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher.
2. Through [CUNY Comeback](#) degree-seeking students enrolled at LaGuardia anytime between March 13, 2020 and August 11, 2021 (the three “pandemic semesters”), can get outstanding tuition balances accrued during that period forgiven, enabling them to come back and enroll in fall classes. Eligible students also include recent graduates and students who dropped out during this timeframe. Students who did not accrue an outstanding balance during this timeframe may be eligible for a \$200 assistance grant.
3. There will be no Bursar Holds for the upcoming Fall semester. This means that a student with an outstanding balance that was accrued prior to the pandemic, or that was not fully eliminated by CUNY Comeback, may register for classes. Note that the elimination of Bursar Holds is only for this Fall semester. In a related policy change [announced by the chancellor](#), transcripts will be released to students regardless of outstanding balances.
4. We have been informed that there will be another round of federal stimulus payments sent to qualifying students enrolled for the Fall '21 semester. Students must be enrolled to receive these federal payments, which are made directly via CUNYfirst.
5. Thanks to the LaGuardia Foundation we have just made another round of ACE scholarships available. Qualifying students in ACE programs may receive scholarships covering up to 80% of the cost of an ESL, TASC prep, or workforce training program. In total, \$500,000 in scholarships is currently available. Please visit [the ACE website](#) for more information and promote this unique program to people you know interested in job and career training at LaGuardia.

For more information on the programs listed above, visit [Paying for College](#) on www.LaGuardia.edu.

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If you have suggestions about other things we can do to help our students cope with the economic hardships caused by the pandemic, please do not hesitate to contact me. At this point many of our students find themselves between a rock and a hard place: *Do I drop out of college to work and help my family, or is there some way I can take care of my financial needs and stay in school?* We need to assist as many students as we can with the programs above, and help them get back into class this fall.