

Special Assistance Fund for Student-Athletes

Under current NCAA guidelines, three categories of student-athletes may qualify for this fund. The categories are: **1) those who receive countable athletically related aid (full or partial grant-in-aid) in combination with a Pell Grant, 2) those that receive a full athletics grant-in-aid and demonstrate financial need, or 3) those who are Pell Grant eligible.** Below are the specific steps that must be completed for a student-athlete to be considered for the special assistance fund.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FUND GUIDELINES

All applicants must complete a Special Assistance Fund Application and return it to the compliance coordinator in Bohler Athletic Complex 285.

All domestic applicants are required to have a FAFSA form on file in the Financial Aid Office. If you have not filled out a FAFSA, go to www.fafsa.ed to file electronically or obtain an application from the Athletics Compliance Office (Bohler Athletic Complex 285), the Financial Aid Office (Lighty 380).

Foreign student-athletes must complete an **International Student-Athlete Needs Analysis Form**. Return Needs Analysis Form and Special Assistance Fund Application to the compliance coordinator in Bohler Athletic Complex 285.

Application is for emergency purposes when applying for medical, dental, or family emergency funds. Ineligible student-athletes will be denied access to the Special Assistance Fund.

According to the Department of Education, the Special Assistance Fund must be included as a resource for financial aid purposes. In some cases, it may be necessary to adjust a student-athlete's financial aid package (loans) as a result of receiving the Special Assistance Fund. Inquire with the Office of Student Financial Aid (335-0209) about if and how your package may be adjusted.

Student-athletes who qualify for the Special Assistance Fund are eligible for funds in the following categories:

- Clothing and other essential expenses, including an airline ticket to your current home address.
- Emergency medical and dental expenses not covered by another insurance program, either institutional or personal.
- Travel expenses related to family emergencies for student-athletes.

The dollar amounts for clothing and other essential expenses will be determined at the start of each semester based on fund availability.

Funds for clothing and/or course supplies must be used within the first 10 weeks of classes during the academic year. Unused funds may not be carried over.

Access to the Special Assistance Fund is on a first-come, first-served basis.

RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FUND

- Financing any portion of an institutional grant-in-aid that could have been awarded to the student-athlete is prohibited.
- Entertainment expenses for student-athletes are not permissible.
- The purchase of disability, illness, or injury insurance to protect against the loss of potential future professional sports earnings is not permissible.
- The funds may not be used for administrative purposes (conferences may not charge an administrative fee nor may salary or staff expenses for administration of the funds be paid from these moneys).

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications for the Special Assistance Fund will be handed out during the team meetings at the beginning of the term. You may also pick-up an application in the athletics compliance office, Bohler Athletic Complex 285. Foreign student-athletes will need to complete a Needs Analysis Form, which is also available in the athletics compliance office. The athletics compliance office will forward your application request to the financial aid office to determine your eligibility for the fund. In order to determine if you qualify for this fund, contact the athletics compliance office one week after the submission of your application material. **Remember all domestic applicants must complete a FAFSA to be considered for this fund.**