

Update # 3

Dear EOPS students,

I wanted to share two more updates since some additional questions have come up.

Book Vouchers:

Let me begin by saying that I understand your frustrations about the impact of or college closure. I know it's hard when you were still counting on using your book voucher. I also understand that some of you may be upset because you purchased your book and the class was canceled. We are doing our best to troubleshoot all issues but sometimes there is also so much we can do.

For those of you that still need to purchase a book (if you were approved to get an EOPS book voucher and have funds left):

While we cannot attend the deadline past March, we can move it to **Monday, March 30th**. I know that doesn't give you much time but it's better than not having an opportunity at all. If this is you, here is what you need to do:

1. Send an e-mail to gcruz@mtsac.edu or SM8257@bncollege.edu **AND** copy Kaitlyn. Her e-mail is kyrineo@mtsac.edu.
2. Your e-mail should include the following as attachments:
 - a. Official Class Schedule
 - b. Your address to ship your book - NO P.O. Boxes (shipping is free)
3. In the e-mail you need to state, "I give the bookstore staff consent to sign the EOPS Book Voucher on my behalf."

You need to do this by Monday, March 30th. I know it is very small window but we need to close our account with the bookstore so we can determine the grant. Yes, a grant. Read on.

For those of you that wanted to purchase a book for an upcoming 8-week courses:

- EOPS does NOT usually cover books for 8-week classes due to internal budget deadlines. We won't be able to do this semester either.

Good news for all EOPS students: We most likely will award all EOPS students a small **\$100 grant in April (that is why we are trying to close all accounts)** The criteria for the grant is:

- Must be a current active EOPS student
- Enrolled in at least 3 units
- Have unmet need that meets or exceeds \$100 (for about 90% of you this won't be an issue)
- Have submitted all required documents to the financial aid office (= complete financial aid file)

Last option:

- E-mail Kaitlyn, we can check if we have a book you can borrow. We would then have to arrange book pick up at Mt. SAC.

Laptop Loans:

- Those of you that completed the survey or e-mailed me by 2:00 on Wednesday should have received an e-mail with instructions on picking up the laptops. Those of you that e-mail me after, there will be another opportunity when additional laptop orders come in. I don't have more information on that at the moment but will let you all know as soon as I learn more information regarding this.

I know this is not ideal but we have to do what we can given our current situation. Another reason we are closing the book voucher is because there were not enough laptops for you all to borrow therefore, I am going to look into seeing if the EOPS Program can purchase some as well. Before I can do that I need to know how much we have spent in books. Hence why we are not being flexible with our deadline.

During this time it is critical that you keep up with your e-mails. When I learn about a resource, I often don't have more than 24 hours to provide names. With our program it is hard because we are not able to personally call all 1,500 students in the program. Please know that it is very hard when we give you so little time but I often don't have a choice so I ask that you continue responding to my surveys as they come in.

It's a challenging time but we are going to get through this. The EOPS Program is committed to helping you and working alongside you to navigate these treacherous waters.

Until the next update....

Julie Marquez
Director, EOPS/CARE