

From the Minnesota Office of Higher Education (OHE): State Financial Aid Manual – Future Together Grant (FTG)

Appendix A: Definition of Critical Industry

In order to be eligible for FTG, institutions are required to determine if, and document when, a student is considered to have worked in a critical industry sector. Below, OHE has broadly summarized critical industry sectors based off of the guidance issued in *Executive Order (EO) 20-48*. *Executive Order 20-48* also outlined businesses that were not exempted as Critical Sectors categories but were nonetheless allowed to have employees return safely to work. Non-Critical Exempt positions do not constitute eligible employment for FTG.

Critical sector work typically refers to work that can only be done at a place of work outside home or residence. However, if the student provides documentation of working in a critical sector (pay stub, etc.) the institution is not required to verify that the student was working outside of their home or residence. In other words, a student working from home in a critical sector position is eligible for FTG.

Institutions are required to determine if, and document when, a student has worked in a critical industry sector at least 1 hour between 3/1/2020 and 12/31/2021. In determining whether a position is considered to be within a critical industry sector, institutions may choose to verify by looking employers up online or calling employers to ensure the position was in a critical industry. An institution may furnish this documentation themselves in the instance where the student was a student employee or work study student at the institution.

Financial aid administrators are encouraged to consult with OHE if they have questions on whether or not a student's employment would be defined as a position in a critical sector.

Healthcare and Public Health

- Includes workers required for effective clinical, command, infrastructure, support service, administrative, security operations across direct patient care, pharmacy, and full healthcare and public health spectrum, including mortuary services
- Human service providers such as those who provide assistance and support to older adults, people with disabilities and other chronic health conditions, and those who are frail or homebound
- Workers in residential treatment centers, those supporting shelters for adults, seniors, children, victims of domestic violence, people with developmental disabilities, substance abuse disorders or mental illness

Law Enforcement, Public Safety, and First Responders, Defense Industrial Base

- Includes workers in emergency management, law enforcement, fire and rescue, emergency medical services, corrections, and search and rescue personnel
- Workers at emergency and public safety communication centers
- Workers who support the essential services required to meet national security commitments to the federal government and U.S. Military

Food, Agriculture, Energy, Water and Wastewater, Infrastructure Support

- Farmers, farm workers, plumbers, electricians, exterminators, builders, contractors, HVAC technicians, and workers in construction and critical trades
- Workers supporting food and agriculture industry through production, distribution and transportation, equipment production and repair, warehouse workers, sanitation, etc.

- Lawn care and landscape workers, garden centers and stores, florists and bait harvesters
- Workers supporting the energy sector, regardless of the energy source (including, but not limited to, nuclear, fossil (coal, petroleum, natural gas), hydroelectric, or renewable)

Education and Other Community-Based Essential Functions

- All K-12 teachers and educators including paraprofessionals, administrative, kitchen, bus drivers and janitorial staff
- College and university employees, including student employees
- Workers in hardware and building materials stores, convenience stores, pet stores/veterinarians and animal care providers, auto supply and repair, home appliance, laundromat and dry cleaners, and management and staff at hotels and other temporary lodging facilities, childcare providers (in-home and center-based)
- Workers who provide legal services, advice, representation needed to aid delivery of critical governmental services, and clergy

Transportation, Manufacturing, Essential Supply Stores

- Truck drivers, bus drivers, dispatchers, maintenance and repair technicians, truck stop and rest area workers, driver training and education centers, DMV workers, towing, recover, road side assistance, mass and public transit, taxi and delivery services, postal service and private companies who accept, process, transport and deliver information and goods, worker supporting air transportation, bicycle shops, workers selling automobiles, motorcycles, boats, recreational vehicles and all-terrain vehicles

Financial Services

- Workers who are needed to provide, process, and maintain systems for processing, verification, and recording of financial transactions and services, including payment, clearing, and settlement
- Workers who are needed to provide business, commercial, and consumer access to bank and non-bank financial services and lending services

Outdoor Recreational Facilities

- Private, state, and local government workers who support MN State Parks, local/regional parks and trails, marinas, golf courses and driving ranges, ski areas, outdoor shooting ranges and game farms