



Colorado's College Opportunity Fund (COF)



Colorado Students Need to Know:

- Apply for the COF Stipend Once
- Authorize its use each academic term
- Nothing else changes



COF – What is It?

- The state has historically subsidized higher education for in-state students by allocating funds to institutions.
- Beginning Fall 2005, the state will allocate the subsidy to students, rather than to the institutions.
- Eligible students (Colorado residents) who register for the COF will have a state-funded stipend applied to their tuition bill.



COF – How it Works

- The stipend amount for 2005-06 is expected to be \$80 per credit hour.
- The total amount received by a student will be \$80 x the number of eligible credit hours the student registers for.
- The per credit hour amount will be the same for all eligible students, regardless of the State college or university the student attends.



How it Works

- The stipend will pay ***a portion*** of the student's total in-state tuition bill.
- Using **estimates**, the effect on in-state tuition for **one term** will look something like:

Total In-State Tuition	\$2,500
COF Stipend Amount	<u>-1,200*</u>
Student Share	\$1,300

*COF of \$80/cr. hr. times 15 credit hours



The COF stipend:

- can be used for **tuition only**.
- is not financial aid and will have no impact on a student's eligibility to receive financial aid.
- will be sent to the institution on behalf of the students. *It will not be sent directly to the student.*



- The stipend will pay a portion of in-state tuition, up to a lifetime maximum of 145 credit hours.
- There will be limited exceptions and waivers to the 145 credit hour rule to accommodate implementation issues for continuing students and hardship cases.
- The state will establish stipend accounts to track how many credit hours have been used by individual students.



Current Students

Hours Earned	Previous hours that count toward the 145 credit hour limit	Credit hours a student can receive under COF
0 to 29	0	145
30 to 59	30	115
60 to 89	60	85
90 +	90	55

An additional 30 hours are available to students who have already earned a degree.

Returning students not enrolled in 2004-05 will have the full 145 credit hours.



COF Won't Pay For:

- Student fees, room, board, and other non-tuition expenses.
- Remedial courses.
- High School courses taken for college credit (Fast Track & Post Secondary Enrollment Options).



Tuition discounts will be provided to:

- New Mexico reciprocal students.
- Resident students enrolled in remedial courses.
- Resident high school students enrolled in Fast Track and Post Secondary Enrollment Options courses.



WUE Students

- **Continuing** WUE students will be “grand fathered in,” paying tuition at a rate equal to 150% of the *student's share* of Resident tuition (i.e., - no change).
- **New** WUE students will pay tuition at a rate equal to 150% of Total Resident Tuition.



- Eligible students *must apply* in order to receive the stipend.
- Students & prospective students should apply now.
- An in-state student who does NOT apply will be responsible for the Total In-State Tuition amount (i.e., student share + COF amount).
- In-State Native American students must also apply for the stipend.



Students Must Authorize use of their COF Money

- Students must authorize the College to apply their COF funds to their tuition bill each academic term.
- The authorization will be for all courses or for no courses for that term.
- Students will not be allowed to “pick and choose” courses to be counted toward COF within a term.



Apply AND Authorize

- Students must both apply for the COF and authorize the College to access the funds for all courses during the term.
- The application must be completed only once in a student's lifetime, but the authorization must be renewed each academic term.



COF – How to Apply

- The application may be completed either on-line or on a paper application sent via mail.
- Click the “College Opportunity Fund” link on the College’s home page

OR

- <https://cof.college-access.net/cof>



The COF Application

COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY FUND

Home | The Stipend Process | Stipend Account | FAQs | Contacts

Stipend Account

Confirm Application Information and Create Stipend Account

To create your Stipend Account please re-enter your Social Security Number and Date of Birth to confirm this information.

Re-enter:
Social Security Number :
Date of Birth : / / (e.g., 01/09/1960)

You need to create a User ID and Password in order to access your Stipend Account. Your User ID should be 6 to 20 characters. These characters can be letters and/or numbers.

User ID :
Confirm User ID :

Your password should be 2 to 20 characters. Characters may include special characters (such as #,@,%) but no spaces.

Password :
Re-enter your Password :

Complete Stipend Application

Questions: Contact College Opportunity Fund

The Law | Timeline | Events & Meetings | Colleges/CCHE

- Required Information:
 - SSN
 - Legal Last Name
 - Legal First Name
 - Middle Initial
 - Date of Birth



Questions about COF

- The Accounting Office is prepared to assist parents, students and other departments with questions about the COF.
- Call extension 7380 (student accounts).