

2026-2027 State of Colorado Need-Based and Merit-Based Financial Assistance Program

ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

Enrollment Management/Award of Financial Aid

Policy Owner: Vice President of Enrollment Management

Effective date: January 2026

Approval date: January 2026

Schedule for Review: October 2026

Policy Summary:

C.R.S. 23-3-102 (3) requires the Board of Trustees to establish the policies and procedures for administration of the state financial assistance program.

Policy Statement:

1. Fort Lewis College's allocations of state need-based and merit-based aid will be awarded to eligible students, as defined in this policy, subject to the limitations established in this policy.
2. The Colorado Student Grant Program is a state need-based grant assistance program administered by Fort Lewis College for students seeking their 1st bachelor's degree.
 - a. As established in Colorado Commission on Higher Education Policy Section VI Part F, the goal of the state need-based program is to assist students who cannot otherwise afford to attend college.
 - b. To be eligible for a Colorado Student Grant Award, a student:
 - i. Must be a Colorado resident for tuition purposes;
 - ii. Must be first-time degree-seeking (have not previously earned a bachelor's degree);
 - iii. Must be enrolled at least half time; amounts will be prorated based on enrollment intensity.
 - iv. Must be in compliance with Fort Lewis College Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy;
 - v. Must have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a Colorado Application for State Financial Aid (CASFA);
 - vi. Must have an expected Student Aid Index (SAI) between -1500 -12412 of Pell eligibility:
 1. -1500 - 9380 will be awarded as first priority;
 2. 9381 - 12412 will be awarded if funding is available;
 - vii. Must have met all eligibility requirements for federal student aid or Colorado student aid.

- c. The amount of the award will be based on state allocations and the number of qualified applicants with the following limits:
 - i. Up to \$2,500 per Fall/Spring semester maximum for an SAI between -1500 - 9380, with the award reduced if unmet need is less than \$2,500 per Fall/Spring semester;
 - ii. Up to \$1,000 per Fall/Spring semester maximum for an SAI between 9381 - 12412 with the award reduced if unmet need is less than \$1,000 per Fall/Spring semester.
 - iii. Award amounts may be increased at the discretion of the Director of Financial Aid.
 - d. The Office of Financial Aid will make the awards to students meeting the criteria on a first-come, first-serve basis until the institution's allocation is fully spent.
 - e. If additional funds become available awards may be made for one term only.
3. The Colorado Graduate Grant Program is a state need-based grant assistance program administered by Fort Lewis College for students seeking a master's degree or certificate.
- a. As established in Colorado Commission on Higher Education Policy Section VI Part F, the goal of the state need-based program is to assist students who cannot otherwise afford to attend college.
 - b. To be eligible for a Colorado Graduate Grant Award, a student:
 - i. Must be a Colorado resident for tuition purposes;
 - ii. Must be first-time, master's degree-seeking (have not previously earned a master's degree);
 - iii. Must be enrolled at least half time; amounts will be prorated based on enrollment intensity.
 - iv. Must be in compliance with Fort Lewis College Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy;
 - v. Must have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a Colorado Application for State Financial Aid (CASFA);
 - vi. Must have an expected Student Aid Index (SAI) between -1500 -12412 of Pell eligibility:
 - 1. -1500 - 9380 will be awarded as first priority;
 - 2. 9381 - 12412 will be awarded if funding is available;
 - vii. Must have met all eligibility requirements for federal student aid or Colorado student aid.
 - c. The amount of the award will be based on state allocations and the number of qualified applicants with the following limits:
 - i. Up to \$2,500 per Fall/Spring semester maximum for an SAI between -1500 - 9380, with the award reduced if unmet need is less than \$2,500 per Fall/Spring semester;

- ii. Up to \$1,000 per Fall/Spring semester maximum for an SAI between 9381 - 12412 with the award reduced if unmet need is less than \$1,000 per Fall/Spring semester.
 - iii. Award amounts may be increased at the discretion of the Director of Financial Aid.
 - d. The Office of Financial Aid will make the awards to students meeting the criteria on a first-come, first-serve basis until the institution's allocation is fully spent.
 - e. If additional funds become available awards may be made for one term only.
- 4. The only state need-based employment program administered by Fort Lewis College is the Colorado Work Study program.
 - a. As established in Colorado Commission on Higher Education Policy Section VI Part F, the goal of the state need-based employment program is to allow students to earn funds to assist in attending college.
 - b. To be eligible for the Colorado Work Study program, a student:
 - i. Must be a Colorado resident for tuition purposes;
 - ii. Must be first-time degree-seeking (have not previously earned a bachelor's degree);
 - iii. Must be enrolled full-time;
 - iv. Must be in compliance with Fort Lewis College Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy;
 - v. Must have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a Colorado application for state financial aid (CASFA)
 - vi. Must have a minimum gross need of \$2,500:
 - 1. While the majority of funds are reserved for students with documented financial need (minimum 70%), a limited number of students who wish to work may be awarded from the work-study program without documenting need;
 - vii. Cannot receive more than one type of work-study funds;
 - viii. Must have met all eligibility requirements for federal student aid.
 - c. The amount of the award will be \$1,500 per Fall/Spring semester maximum with the award reduced if unmet need is less than \$1,500 per Fall/Spring semester.
 - d. The Office of Financial Aid will make the awards to students meeting the criteria on a first-come, first-serve basis until the institution's allocation is fully spent.
 - e. If additional funds become available awards may be made for one term only.
 - f. If a student earns his/her full work-study award and wishes to continue, the student can request an increase if he/she has unmet financial need and funding is available.
- 5. There is no state merit-based program administered by Fort Lewis College.

Responsibilities:

For following the policy: Director of Financial Aid

For enforcement of the policy: Vice President of Enrollment Management

For oversight of the policy: Board of Trustees

For procedures for implementing policy: Director of Financial Aid

For notification of policy: Policy Librarian

Definitions:

(Optional)

Procedures:

(Optional)

Cross-Referenced Policies:

34 C.F.R. 668 – Student Assistance – General Provisions

C.R.S. 23-1-125 – Commission Directive – Student Bill of Rights – Degree Requirements ---
Implementation of Core Courses – Competency Test – Prior Learning

Colorado Commission on Higher Education Master Plan “Colorado Completes”

Colorado Commission on Higher Education Policy Section VI Part F State-Funded Student Financial Aid
Policy, July 2021

Fort Lewis College 2025-26 Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

Consequences of Non-Compliance:

(Optional)

Review and Revision History:

Policy format updated and updated to reflect 2025-2026.

Policy updated to reflect the 2026-2027 award year.