College Opportunity Fund (COF) – Undergraduate Students

General Policy

I. POLICY:

The College Opportunity Fund (COF), created by the Colorado Legislature, provides a stipend to offset tuition costs for eligible undergraduate Colorado resident students who are attending a state public institution or participating private institution of higher education. The stipend is paid on a per-credit-hour basis to the institution at which the student is enrolled and credited to the student’s account. The per credit stipend will be set annually by the Colorado General Assembly.

The COF stipend is applicable up to 145 hours towards the student’s first bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree and up to an additional 30 credit hours toward a second undergraduate major or degree. Students can check their credit hour balance on the COF website at http://cof.college-assist.org/COFApp/COFApp/Default.aspx.

Eligible undergraduate students must apply, be admitted, and enroll at a participating institution. Both new and continuing undergraduate Colorado resident students are eligible for the stipend. Students only need apply for the COF stipend once at http://cof.college-assist.org/COFApp/COFApp/Default.aspx. Eligible students must authorize the use of the stipend each semester to receive payment. Adams State University students can authorize or decline the stipend at www.adams.edu/onestop. Eligible students who do not apply for and authorize use of the stipend or who have exceeded maximum COF eligibility are responsible for the full amount of tuition.

The College Opportunity Fund is an evolving program and certain provisions may be subject to change.

II. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to specify the general principles governing the College Opportunity Fund, how the COF applies to students, and the procedures necessary for students.

III. DEFINITIONS:

A. COF (College Opportunity Fund): The funding provided by the state on behalf of the student to assist them in paying for college. The amount of funding depends on the number of credit hours enrolled in.

B. COF Eligibility: See ‘eligible undergraduate student’ (below).
C. **COF Participating Institution:** An institution of higher education which has been approved by the state of Colorado to receive COF stipends on behalf of their students.

D. **Colorado Legislature:** The governing body of the state of Colorado.

E. **Eligible Undergraduate Student:** A student who is enrolled at a state institute of higher education and is classified as an in-state student for tuition purposes; or a student enrolled at a participating private institution of higher education and who:
   a) is classified as an in-state student for tuition purposes
   b) is a graduate of a Colorado high school or has successfully completed a nonpublic home-based educational program
   c) demonstrates financial need through eligibility for the federal pell grant; and
   d) meets any other eligibility requirements established by the CCHE.

F. **Participating Private Institution:** A private institution of higher education that enters into a performance contract with the Colorado Department of Education, and that is approved to participate in the COF program.

G. **Resident Student:** A student who meets the state of Colorado requirements for residency (generally the student and/or their parents will have continuously resided in the state for at least one year).

H. **State Public Institution of Higher Education:** Any college for which the State of Colorado is the primary source of funding.

IV. **PROCEDURES:**

A. Procedures to apply for COF, authorize the COF stipend each semester, and check COF eligibility are stated in Section I – Policy, above.

V. **RESPONSIBILITY:**

A. It is the student’s responsibility to apply for COF finding, and authorize use of the stipend each semester.

B. It is the institution’s responsibility to administer COF procedures in accordance with state regulations.

VI. **AUTHORITY:**

ASC General Catalog 2006-2007

VII. **HISTORY:**

July 1, 2005
Revised June 14, 2012
Reviewed November 13, 2013

VIII. **ATTACHMENTS:**