A Student's Guide to the College Opportunity Fund

- **What is a COF stipend?**
  "Stipend" means the amount of money per credit hour paid by the State of Colorado on behalf of an eligible undergraduate student who is attending a state institution of higher education. The first time an eligible undergraduate student is able to receive a stipend will be for the fall semester of the 2005-2006 academic year.

- **When does the College Opportunity Fund take effect?**
  The College Opportunity Fund will begin July 1, 2005. Eligible undergraduates attending the fall 2005 semester will be the first program recipients. Continuing students and new students starting college in fall 2005 should apply for the stipend now.

- **Who is eligible?**
  Students classified as in-state students for tuition purposes and enrolled at state institutions of higher education.
  
  **Note:** "Eligible Undergraduate Student" does not include students enrolled in an off-campus, extended campus, or continuing education class not supported by state general fund moneys, except as approved by the CCHE (Colorado Commission on Higher Education.)

- **Will the College Opportunity Fund pay for all of a student's courses?**
  No, the following courses will NOT be paid for by the College Opportunity Fund:
  - courses taken pursuant to the "Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act"
  - high school Fast-Track courses
  - international baccalaureate courses
  - advanced placement courses
  - graduate courses
  - ASC Extended Studies Course

  The following off-campus undergraduate courses delivered by Extended Studies DO qualify:
  - REAP (Rural Education Access Program) in Lamar, La Junta, and Trinidad
  - EETPP (Elementary Education Teacher Preparation Program) in Douglas County

- **What will the College Opportunity Fund pay for? What does the student pay?**
  If a student applies and qualifies for the stipend, the tuition charge will be at the Colorado resident rate, or approximately $1,632.00 annually.
  
  A student who fails to apply will have an additional $1,632.00 added to their tuition bill. That charge can be eliminated by applying for COF.
• How many credit hours will be paid for by the stipend?

• Accrued Hours

• 0-29
• 30-59
• 60-89
• 90+

• Credit hours eligible for COF Payment
• 145
• 115
• 85
• 55

• "Accrued hours" refers to the total number of college credits a student has earned at ASC, as well as any other Colorado higher education institution. As the chart above illustrates, a student who has attended ASC for 1 year and taken 30 credit hours may take an additional 115 credits under the COF Stipend. A student who has taken 90 or more credits is still eligible for 55 credits under COF.

• How do students apply for the College Opportunity Fund?
• Students can apply for the stipend by completing the on-line Stipend Application on https://cof.college-assist.org.
• When the Stipend Application is completed, the student will create a Stipend Account that will allow tracking of credit hours as they are used at college.

• How is the College Opportunity Fund different from state funding now and in the past?
• Institutions currently receive funding directly from the State of Colorado in the form of a general fund subsidy to educate in-state higher education students based on a full-time-equivalent student formula. This changes beginning July 2005, when the College Opportunity Fund stipend goes into effect. The stipend for eligible undergraduate students goes to the institution as directed by the student.

• Does the College Opportunity Fund replace financial aid?
• The College Opportunity Fund stipend is not a grant and does not impact eligibility for student financial aid. It is a payment made directly to the student's institution on his/her behalf to cover part of the costs of higher education. The stipend does not cover the student's share of in-state tuition. The stipend offsets the student's COF tuition assessment only. Any financial aid received will be applied to the student's share of in-state tuition.

• Will the student receive a check?
• No, the College Opportunity Fund stipend goes to the institution or institutions where the student is enrolled. The stipend will be applied and noted on the student account.
• Where can students address additional questions about College Opportunity Fund or this web site?
  o www.college-assist.org
  o Adams State College Business Office, 587-7728

• After a student completes the Stipend Application, what else must they do?
  After the student has completed the Stipend Application, the student must login in to their online student account and authorize the stipend. The student may authorize every semester or select lifetime authorization. After the stipend has been authorized ASC will notify the College Access Network (CAN) regarding the number of eligible stipend credit hours the student is taking each term (beginning fall 2005). CAN will send the stipend amount on the student's behalf to ASC to apply against the total in-state tuition charges, which equals resident tuition plus COF tuition, each term. The COF Stipend will be shown as a credit against COF tuition charges on the student's bill.

To log on to your student account:

• www.adams.edu/onestop
• billing information
• stipend authorization