

Red Rocks Community College Enrollment Services Operational Guidelines

Title: College Opportunity fund

Effective: 7/1/13

Approved:

Revised: 12/17/13

Reference: <http://www.cccs.edu/sbccoe/Policies/BP/PDF/BP4-23.pdf> ; <http://www.rccc.edu/cof/>
<https://cof.college-assist.org/Home/Faq> ; <https://cof.college-assist.org/Apply>
<http://higherred.colorado.gov/Publications/Policies/Current/ii-partd.pdf>

Purpose: To define guidelines governing the use of the Colorado College Opportunity Fund.

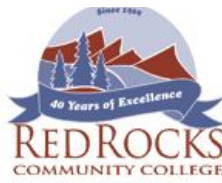
Scope: Applies to all students.

Attachment: College Opportunity Fund application; RRCC COF Authorization Form

College Opportunity Fund

The College Opportunity Fund (COF) is a trust fund, in the form of a tuition stipend, for the benefit of eligible Colorado undergraduate students. An eligible undergraduate student may use the stipend for undergraduate courses and graduate-level courses that apply toward the student's undergraduate degree and are taken at a state or participating private institution of higher education at a fixed rate per credit hour, set annually by the general assembly, which in no case shall exceed the student's total in-state tuition. The value of the per-credit-hour stipend shall be the same for each eligible undergraduate student, regardless of the state institution of higher education that the student attends. The student shall be responsible for paying the student's share of total in-state tuition, if any.

- When students complete the stipend application an account is created with 145 available undergraduate hours which may be used for eligible undergraduate classes.
- Undergraduate students enrolled at Red Rocks Community College (RRCC) are eligible if they meet one of the following criteria:
 - Classified as in-state students for tuition purposes.
 - Military personnel or their dependents.
 - Honorably discharged member of the armed services or their dependents.
 - Olympic trainees whose out-of-state tuition is waived.
- Once the student enrolls in qualified credit hours, the stipend is paid on a per credit hour basis directly to RRCC. To qualify for COF, the credit hours must meet the following criteria:
 - Be attempted by eligible students.
 - Be attempted in courses congruent with RRCC's statutory role and mission.
 - Be offered within RRCC's service area boundaries including credit hours earned from any Internet course.



- Concurrent enrollment courses, state-funded off-campus programs identified and approved by the Commission, and graduate course enrollments taken by undergraduate students as part of their baccalaureate degree program may be funded through the COF stipend.
- Total stipend hours per student, per semester, are reported to the College Opportunity Fund (COF) by RRCC.
- COF matches the student information provided by the college with Stipend Application Account information in its database and disburses the stipend amount requested directly to the college.
- Students can apply either online, using a paper application, or by authorizing RRCC to apply on their behalf.
- It is the responsibility of every resident student to authorize the use of the COF stipend each semester. Alternatively, the student can submit a lifetime authorization.
- Each eligible student may receive the College Opportunity Fund (COF) stipend for 145 credit hours in pursuit of a baccalaureate degree. If a student exceeds this limit prior to the completion of a degree, the student is responsible for the Total Tuition (Student Share of Tuition plus the COF stipend), unless the student receives a waiver. There are two types of waivers: institution waivers and Commission waivers. A student is eligible for both one (1) waiver from their institution and one (1) waiver from the Commission.

Course Drop/Add/Withdrawal Activity

The census date is the last date of the registration adjustment period. Typically, census date falls within the first 15 percent of the term, however, it can vary depending upon the course. Up to and including the official course census date, students can adjust their schedules without academic or financial penalty. The course census date affects three enrollment adjustments, which, in turn, may affect COF eligibility.

- **Course Drops:** Student formally process out of a course prior to course census date and his/her transcript does not record enrollment in this class. Institutions are not eligible to receive COF stipend support for course drops. If an institution has already received a stipend payment for a dropped course, the institution must refund the applicable amount to the College Opportunity Fund. The credits for which the stipend is refunded shall not count against the eligible undergraduate student's lifetime-credit-hour limitation.
- **Course Adds:** Institutions can claim COF stipend support for students who add a course before the course census date. For students who are allowed by the institution to add a course after the course census date, the institution is not eligible to claim COF stipend support for the added course.
- **Course Withdrawals:** Students formally process out of a course after the course census date and they receive a "W" or "NC" on their official transcripts. Because the schedule adjustment occurs after the course census date, the institution can still receive COF stipend support for this course enrollment. Credit hours for dropped courses will count against the student's lifetime-credit-hour limitation.