Financial Support

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There are two broad categories of financial support available to graduate students. The first is awarded on the basis of academic merit or the possession of competencies that permit the performance of specific services. The second is based on demonstrated student financial need.

Merit or Competency-Based Financial Support

Awards are generally arranged or initiated at the level of the academic department. Students should contact the department head on all matters relating to them.

Application for Financial Support

Deadlines

Most merit- or competency-based financial support is awarded on an academic year basis beginning in the Fall Semester. The primary deadline for receipt of complete applications for such support is February 15. Persons who wish to be considered should submit an application for admission. This will ensure consideration for all types of support that might be available. The first review and award cycle will begin immediately after February 15.

However, applications completed later than this date will be considered as availability of funds permits. Some departmentally-based awards, particularly in the form of research assistantships and teaching assistantships, may be awarded on a later schedule. Also, ad hoc funding opportunities may become available at various times throughout the year.

Applicants who intend to begin their studies in the Spring Semester or Summer term should submit application for admission (http://www.graduateschool.colostate.edu/prospective-students/apply) and application for financial support by the appropriate primary deadline date, July 15 or November 15 respectively. Again, this will ensure consideration for all types of support that might be available. Applications completed later than these dates may be considered for any appropriate departmentally-based or ad hoc awards.

Some forms of financial support applications may require other specification as indicated below.

Assistantships

Assistantship awards offer a stipend to the student in return for certain specified services to CSU. The stipend is treated as income (subject to withholding taxes) and both CSU and the student agree to a formal appointment when an assistantship is arranged. Both the amount of the stipend and the extent of time commitment vary from case to case and are set forth in the appointment.

Performance of the assistantship duties provides the student with valuable experience which contributes to professional and career development. Most graduate student support at CSU and many other American universities is in the form of assistantships.

Teaching assistantships involve payment for services related to undergraduate instruction. Some form of experience, skill, or aptitude is necessary for appointment. The duties typically involve grading papers, compiling biographies, monitoring laboratories, conducting discussion sections, or teaching an entire class. Some of these duties require that teaching assistants be able to communicate effectively in English. Usually, teaching assistant duties are confined to beginning-level undergraduate classes.

Departments will conduct the ASCSU course survey for each teaching assistant who is the instructor of record for a course. For teaching assistants who are not the instructor of record but with significant undergraduate teaching contact, departments will ensure that an appropriate survey is completed. These surveys and records of other student feedback will be maintained as part of the department’s information base and made available to faculty and administration for future assessment of the policy’s effectiveness.

Teaching assistants required to take the TOEFL or IELTS for admission will also be evaluated for their ability to communicate orally in English by their departments. The evaluation will occur prior to pedagogical exposure in the undergraduate classroom using a mechanism that is commensurate with the teaching expectations for their positions. A committee, appointed by the department, shall offer evaluative feedback to potential teaching assistants and determine whether they are capable of teaching in the program. This evaluation shall become part of the student’s file. Departments will use the results of both the oral evaluation and course surveys, when available, in determining whether a teaching assistant communicates effectively in English.

Teaching assistants unable to communicate orally in English. Usually, teaching assistant duties are confined to beginning-level undergraduate classes.

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Research assistantships are basically similar to teaching assistantships except that recipients are given basic research assignments. The precise nature of the duties will vary depending on the nature of the discipline, the particular projects under way in the department, and the interests and skills of the students. Often the work required is related to the student’s course work; in some instances it may directly contribute to thesis, dissertation, or other degree requirements. Generally, research assistantship work is an important part of the process of becoming an active participant in the discipline.

Research assistantships are typically funded through external research grants obtained by members of the faculty. A research assistantship...
Financial Support

contract may provide for payment of tuition, but this is not necessarily the case.

Residence hall, counseling, and athletic assistantships may be available. Residence hall assistantships sometimes include room, board, and tuition in addition to stipends. Write the Office of Housing and Dining Services (http://housing.colostate.edu/contact-us) for residence hall assistantships; University Counseling Center (http://health.colostate.edu/services/counseling-services) for counseling assistantships; and the Athletic Director (http://www.csurams.com/directory/csu-directory.html) for athletic assistantships.

Graduate Assistantship - Terms and Conditions of Appointment

The following terms and conditions apply to all graduate students being appointed as Graduate Assistants. The Graduate Assistant Appointment and Certification Form generated by the academic department should be signed only after reading the terms and conditions set forth below and those noted on the Graduate Assistant Appointment and Certification Form.

All appointments of a student (the “Student”) as a Graduate Assistant (the “Appointment”) by Colorado State University (the “University”) are effective on the date set forth beside the student’s signature on the Graduate Assistant Appointment and Certification Form, subject to final approval (“Final Approval”) by the Board of Governors of the Colorado State University System or the individual to whom the Board has delegated such authority (its “delegated representative”).

The stipend payable to a Graduate Assistant, as specified on a Graduate Assistant Appointment and Certification Form, is offered in return for services and shall be deemed taxable compensation. Tuition remission, if specified on a Graduate Assistant Appointment and Certification Form, is provided in the form of financial aid, independently of the stipend, as a qualified tuition reduction given for educational purposes under Section 117 of the Internal Revenue Code.

A Graduate Assistant may be appointed as a Support Assistant, a Teaching Assistant, or a Research Assistant, or some combination thereof, as specified on a Graduate Assistant Appointment and Certification Form. Support Assistants provide administrative services; they are typically located in non-academic units like Housing or Athletics, but may be found in any office. Teaching Assistants help in the provision of educational services to undergraduates. Responsibilities may range from grading papers through leading discussions or lab sessions to complete independent teaching of a class. Research Assistants typically work with a professor on a project of importance to scholarship. The particular nature of Student’s duties will be specified in writing, to the Student by the student’s advisor or a departmental representative.

Full-time graduate students should not be appointed to more than a half-time assistantship or hold a sum of part-time assistantships greater than half-time. A half-time assistantship (.5 FTE) usually involves an average of about 10 hours of service per week of a nominal 40 hour workweek. Stipends will vary by department and by the duties assigned as well as the skills, competencies, and experience exhibited by the student. However, the stipend for half-time assistants must be paid no less than the Graduate School’s officially established minimum monthly amount. Contact the Graduate School for information on the amount of this minimum for any given year. A quarter-time assistantship (.25 FTE) usually involves an average of about 10 hours of service per week of a nominal 40 hour workweek. Those with such assignments, must be paid a minimum of half of this amount. Any other level of appointment (e.g. less than 25% or between 26% and 49%) must be paid at least the prorated established minimum stipend. The level of appointment, amount of stipend and any tuition remission for each Graduate Assistant shall be as set forth on the Graduate Assistant Appointment and Certification Form.

Signature of the Graduate Assistant Appointment and Certification Form by the Student and Final Approval by the Board of Governors of the Colorado State University System or its delegated representative shall constitute a legally binding employment agreement (the “Agreement”) between the University and Student. Such Agreement shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Appointment as a Graduate Assistant is expressly conditioned upon:
   a. Student securing admission to a graduate degree program and the Graduate School, and registering for and completing at least one (1) on-campus credit during each fall and spring semester, and such credits as the appointing department may require each summer term during which the appointment is in effect.
   b. Student’s conformance to each of the following: maintaining good academic standing at Colorado State University; maintaining at least a 3.0 grade point average in each of the various categories (regular courses and overall) specified in the Scholastic Standards section of the Graduate and Professional Bulletin after having attained 12 credits of regular coursework or two semesters of graduate work, whichever comes first; not being placed on academic probation; and for non-native speakers of English, taking and obtaining a satisfactory score on prescribed language competency tests.
   c. Continued association with and enrollment in an academic department and the absence of suspension, dismissal, expulsion, or withdrawal from the University, Graduate School, or department.
   d. Student’s performance of assigned duties and functions in a timely and competent fashion.
   e. A routine background check, if applicable, is completed and reviewed in compliance with the Colorado State University policy regarding background checks.

Conditions A through D above shall be deemed conditions precedent which must be met by the Student in order to remain eligible for appointment as a Graduate Assistant. Failure to meet conditions A through D above shall render the appointment voidable at the option of the University, which option may be exercised by discontinuing payment of the stipend. Failure to meet the condition set forth in E above may result in termination of the Appointment, subject to Paragraph 5 below. Termination of or election to void the Appointment shall terminate the stipend payable thereunder, although such action shall not result in forfeiture of the tuition remission for the semester in which it occurs.

2. The University and the Student understand and agree that the stipend portion of an Assistantship is not a scholarship award; rather it is an appointment which involves the performance of services in return for reasonable compensation in the form of stipend. Tuition remission may also be provided in the form of financial aid, independently of the stipend, as a qualified tuition
9. A Graduate Assistant may be required to participate in a retirement program depending on the number of credit hours for which he or she is enrolled and the number of hours of work required. Contribution to such a retirement program shall follow the University’s rules and regulations currently in effect for such enrollment. More detailed information concerning participation in the student retirement plan is available from the Student Employment Services Office.

10. The appointment period specified on the Graduate Assistant Appointment and Certification Form may be renewed by the Department by generating a new Graduate Assistant Appointment and Certification Form requiring Student signature.

11. Increases in the amount of the stipend from that originally indicated on the Graduate Assistant Appointment and Certification Form will not require Student signature.

12. Changes other than those noted on #11 (e.g., type of assistantship, level of service, decrease in stipend, or tuition payment arrangements) require the drawing of a new Graduate Assistant Appointment and Certification Form for student signature.

**Financial Aid**

**Application Requirements**

1. Be admitted to the graduate school in a regular program of study.

2. Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (https://fafsa.ed.gov) (FAFSA). This will require your Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID Username and Password. If you have not created an FSA ID, you will be prompted to do so on the FAFSA website.
   a. Applicants should prepare their most recent federal income tax return before completing the FAFSA. For priority consideration the FAFSA should be submitted to the federal processor by March 1.

**Address/Phone/Fax**

Student Financial Services
Division of Enrollment and Access
Centennial Hall Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1065
Phone: (970) 491-6321
Fax: (970) 491-5010
http://sfs.colostate.edu

**Types and Amounts of Aid**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Amounts per year</th>
<th>Availability of funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Direct Stafford Loan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsidized Loan</td>
<td>Not available for Graduate Students</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsubsidized Loan</td>
<td>Not to exceed $20,500 per school year</td>
<td>Unlimited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Unsubsidized Loan (Veterinary medical students only)</td>
<td>Up to $20,000 per school year</td>
<td>Unlimited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Professions Loan (Veterinary medical students only)</td>
<td>Not to exceed cost of attendance</td>
<td>Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Work-Study Grant</td>
<td>Up to $3,000</td>
<td>Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado Graduate Grant</td>
<td>$3000</td>
<td>Limited</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Graduate fellowships and graduate teaching and research assistantships are offered through the departments.

**Funding**

All financial aid, other than Federal Direct Loans, is awarded to the neediest students until funds have been exhausted. Federal Direct Loans are awarded on an ongoing basis.

**Website**

Please visit the Student Financial Services (http://sfs.colostate.edu) website for information on applying for financial aid, types of financial aid, costs, paying your bill, residency requirements, scholarship searches, how to contact us, etc.

**Credit Requirements**

Graduate students must be enrolled in at least five (5) credits to receive Federal Direct Loans. A financial aid award is based on full-time enrollment; if a student is enrolled part-time, financial aid may be reduced and/or delayed. A student registered for Continuous Registration is not eligible to receive financial aid and is also not eligible for a loan deferment.

**Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards**

Students applying for and/or receiving financial aid are expected to maintain satisfactory academic progress. Failure to perform at established levels may result in students becoming ineligible for financial aid. Students’ total number of credits are also evaluated, and students may not exceed established credit limits. Additionally, if a student receives all “F”, “U”, and/or “W” grades, they will be required to verify the last date of attendance and may be required to return up to 50% of the financial aid received. Copies of the complete policy (http://sfs.colostate.edu) are available online and in the Financial Aid Guide.

**Termination of Graduate Assistants**

Pursuant to State Statute, C.R.S. 24-19-104, all graduate assistants are “employees at will.” Their employment is subject to such administrative termination procedures as may be appropriate under the circumstances of each case. Advisors and/or department heads must consult with the Dean of the Graduate School prior to taking any actions concerning terminations of assistantships before the end of the stated employment period. Except for non-renewals of employment following the end of stated employment periods or election to void an appointment as set forth in the terms and conditions applicable to assistant appointments, the Provost/Academic Vice President must review and endorse any recommendation concerning the termination of graduate assistants. Approval of the President or Provost/Academic Vice President is required for any final action on such terminations. Stipends payable under graduate assistantships shall be terminated upon discontinuance of association with the appointing department, dismissal, placement on academic probation, or withdrawal from CSU. Such actions will not cause forfeiture of the tuition remission for the semester in which such action occurs. The provisions of this section shall not be interpreted to authorize the termination of any graduate assistant for any reason that is contrary to applicable federal, state, or local law.

Termination of an assistantship shall be subject to appeal in accordance with the Graduate Appeals Procedure.

**Fellowships and Traineeships**

All fellowship awards are based on merit and are highly competitive.

These forms of support involve outright awards to cover educational expenses and may in some cases cover tuition, fees, and other direct expenses. They do not require any service on the part of the student. Several programs funded by a variety of private and public sources may be available at any given time. Graduate fellowship awards are available. These awards are designed to be part of a full support package and hence are usually supplementary to an assistantship appointment. Departments nominate promising candidates for these awards in response to a call in the fall of each year. Fellowships are given in recognition of academic excellence, student contribution to any of the goals of the CSU strategic plan (e.g., undergraduate instruction, diversity), and departmental quality.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Graduate Scholarship provides support each year for a graduate student at CSU. It is awarded on the basis of academic excellence and contributions to the enhancement of individuals from ethnically diverse populations.

**Income taxes**

Assistantship stipends are considered payment for services rendered and are thus subject to regular income taxation. Appropriate amounts are withheld from stipend checks as per Internal Revenue Service Requirements.

Tuition payments made on behalf of graduate assistants may be considered “qualified tuition reductions,” not subject to income taxation. However, this is explicitly dependent upon the proper execution of the formal contract described above.

Fellowship awards are considered taxable income. However, tuition and certain other direct educational expenditures may be excluded. Most fellowship holders will incur some tax liability. CSU will not deduct from fellowship checks to cover this liability; paying the taxes is a matter of individual responsibility. Fellowship holders should be aware of this additional liability in planning their financial affairs.

**Veteran’s Education Benefits**

The Registrar’s Office assists the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (VA) in providing certification for the following education benefits:

Under Title 38, U.S. Code

- Chapter 30 (Montgomery G.I. Bill)
- Chapter 31 (Vocational Rehabilitation)
- Chapter 32 (Post-Viet Nam Era)
- Chapter 33 (Post-9/11 G.I. Bill)
- Chapter 35 (Dependents Educational Assistance)

Under Title 10, U.S. Code

- Chapter 1606 (Selected Reserve/National Guard Members)
- Chapter 1607 REAP (Reserve Education Assistance Program)

In addition, the Veteran’s Education Benefit’s Office will advise and assist students in:
• Meeting residency requirements under the Veterans Choice Act of 2014, Colorado’s GI Promise or the Yellow Ribbon Program

• Requesting and obtaining Joint Service Transcripts

• Obtaining additional campus services

Students eligible for any of these benefits must contact the Veterans Education Benefits Office (http://registrar.colostate.edu/military-veterans-benefits/benefits-contact-information) in the Registrar’s Office prior to the expected date of enrollment. Applicants should apply to CSU in a degree-seeking major or for teacher licensure before applying for veterans’ education benefits.

A description of the services (http://veteransresources.colostate.edu) CSU provides may be found online. Regulations governing receipt of veterans’ education benefits, Standards of Progress, and other policies (http://registrar.colostate.edu/military-veterans-benefits) are also available online.

**Sponsored Students**

Sponsored students are those whose tuition, fees, or expenses are paid by an employer government agency or other sponsoring agency. Many international students, as well as some from the U.S. fall under this category. In those cases where sponsors provide direct support for students’ research activities, special custodial accounts must be established. Additional fees are associated with this service. Specific information on these accounts is provided to each student at the time of admission and additional advice may be obtained from the Graduate School, or in the case of international students, from the Office of International Programs, to the attention of the International Sponsored Student Coordinator, International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS).

**Student Employment**

Office in Centennial Hall
(970) 491-5714

Employment opportunities available include the Work-Study Program, on-campus departmental positions, and community part-time employment. Refer to the Student Employment Services (http://ses.colostate.edu) website for more details.

**Awards from Outside Agencies**

Many foundations and government agencies offer awards for particular purposes. Often, individual interested students must initiate application procedures. The Graduate School provides information on the use of a computerized process to locate graduate funding. Information on Fulbright and Rotary Scholarships is available from the Office of International Programs. Information for Marshall or Rhodes grants can be obtained through the Honors Program.