

## Colorado Student Grant (CSG) Allocation Model

The Colorado Student Grant (CSG), also referred to as the Completion Incentive Grant, is the state's undergraduate need-based aid program. CSG allocations are determined with a formula that first went into effect in the 2013-14 fiscal year and is based on the CCHE's principles of encouraging retention and completion. The CSG model makes allocations to the state's public governing boards, local district colleges, area technical colleges, and private not-for-profit institutions. Proprietary institutions also receive CSG allocations, but their allocations are determined outside the model. In FY 2020-21, the CSG model distributed approximately \$150 million.

Data Source: Financial Aid File from two years prior (i.e., the Academic Year 2019-20 Financial Aid File is used to determine academic year 2021-22 allocations).

The cohort of students included in the CSG allocation model are undergraduate resident students with a FAFSA on file and a Pell-eligible EFC. The data is pulled with the following variables from the financial aid file:

The *main cohort* includes the sum of the FTE value for students with a student level of 11 (freshman, 0-29 credit hours), 12 (sophomore, 30-59 credit hours), 13 (junior, 60-89 credit hours), or 14 (senior, 90+ credit hours) and the following data specifications:

**FAFSA Flag:** 1 (FAFSA on file)

**Tuition Classification:** 1 (in-state CO resident)

**Enrollment Classification:** 1 (full time), 2 (half time)

**Pell Eligible EFC <= [actual Pell-eligible EFC for the data year]**

**Pell LEU:** All except 347 (applicant's Pell Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU) has met or exceeded the limit)

*Advanced seniors* include the sum of the FTE value for students with a student level of 14 (senior, 90+ credit hours) and the following data specifications:

**FAFSA Flag:** 1 (FAFSA on file)

**Tuition Classification:** 1 (in-state CO resident)

**Enrollment Classification:** 1 (full time), 2 (half time)

**Pell Eligible EFC <= [actual Pell-eligible EFC for the data year]**

**Pell LEU:** 347 (applicant's Pell LEU has met or exceeded the limit)

Per CCHE policy, the Commission differentiates between class levels in allocating CSG dollars, so that the amount allocated per FTE is greater at higher class levels to encourage the Commission's goal of student retention and completion. To accomplish this, the Commission annually considers three levers: the amount to be allocated per freshman FTE, the "increment," or amount between each grade level, and any guardrails that may be used. A simplified example of the model is below:

	Freshman FTE	Freshman Allocation (Freshman FTE x Freshman Amt)	Sophomore FTE	Sophomore Allocation (Sophomore FTE x Sophomore Amt)	Junior FTE	Junior Allocation (Junior FTE x Junior Amt)	Senior FTE	Senior Allocation (Senior FTE x Senior Amt)	TOTAL
<b>Board A</b>	1,000	\$ 1,000,000	1,000	\$ 1,500,000	1,000	\$ 2,000,000	1,000	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 7,000,000
<b>Board B</b>	500	\$ 500,000	500	\$ 750,000	500	\$ 1,000,000	500	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 3,500,000
<b>Board C</b>	2,000	\$ 2,000,000	2,000	\$ 3,000,000					\$ 5,000,000
									<b>\$ 15,500,000</b>

Freshman Amount	\$ 1,000	Sophomore Amount	\$ 1,500	Junior Amount	\$ 2,000	Senior Amount	\$ 2,500
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Increment \$ 500

\*This example does not include an “Advanced Senior” column; in the actual model any advanced senior FTE would be assessed at the freshman rate.

While the model does not directly determine a student’s aid package, the amount of overall CSG allocated to an institution can have a real impact on the award packages they are able to offer, so the Commission has historically tried to maintain a level of predictability in the allocations. To avoid large swings in allocations year to year, the Commission annually sets guardrails to keep each institution’s allocations within certain bounds of increases and decreases.