

Colorado Graduate Grant Allocation Model

The Colorado Graduate Grant, formally the “Critical Career Graduate Grant”, is the state’s graduate level need-based aid program. There is a predetermined list of CIP codes (academic program codes) eligible for this program based on the workforce needs and priorities of Colorado. Only students in program codes on that list are eligible to receive the grant. This list may be periodically reevaluated.

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) and Enrollment File from Fall of the academic year two years prior (i.e., the Fall 2019 Enrollment File is used to determine Academic Year 2021-22 allocations).

The cohort of students included in the Graduate Grant allocation model are graduate resident students with a FAFSA on file, Pell-eligible EFC, in eligible programs. FTE sums by institutions are calculated using 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]

Student Level: >= 22 (Graduate student)

Program Code: From predetermined list of CIP codes

The Graduate Grant allocation model considers both eligible FTE and cost of attendance (COA). Below is an example of how it works:

Institution	FTE	COA	Index (IHE COA / Lowest IHE COA)	Per FTE Allocation	Total Allocation
Institution A	10	\$ 20,000		\$ 1,000	\$ 10,000
Institution B	10	\$ 35,000	1.75	\$ 1,750	\$ 17,500
Institution C	15	\$ 25,000	1.25	\$ 1,250	\$ 18,750

In this example, Institution A has the lowest COA (based on the average COA of eligible FTE at the institution). In order to best meet student need, the per FTE allocations for the graduate grant are indexed to COA. So, an institution with a higher COA will receive a higher per FTE allocation. To create this index, the COA at each institution is divided by the lowest COA in the table (Institution A). Depending on funds available, a per FTE allocation is determined for the lowest COA institution. This amount is multiplied by the index for each of the following institutions to determine a per FTE allocation at each institution. Last, the per FTE allocation is multiplied by FTE for each institution to get a total allocation. In this example, Institution B’s total allocation is larger than Institution A’s despite having the same FTE. This is in recognition of the higher COA at Institution B students have to pay.