

Executive Summary

Colorado School of Mines (Mines) formally submits this proposal to collect College Opportunity Fund (COF) stipends for off-campus, cash-funded undergraduate credit hours for Fiscal Year 2027. This request encompasses two distinct high-impact global pathways: **Mines Faculty-Led Programs** and the **First Year Semester Abroad Experience (FYSAE)**. These programs provide essential STEM, Economics and Business, and Humanities core requirements at international locations.

1. Program Descriptions and Instructional Models

Both programs serve as critical pathways toward a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree at Mines, employing specific instructional strategies:

- **Mines Faculty-Led Programs:** Intensive, off-campus versions of core courses (e.g., MATH 213: Calculus III, EBGN 321: Engineering Economics). Instruction is delivered directly by Mines faculty.
- **First Year Semester Abroad Experience (FYSAE):** A cohort-based immersive program for First-Year students to complete foundational requirements (Chemistry, Calculus, Physics, and Computer Science) abroad. Instruction is delivered through a strategic combination of Mines Honors faculty, host university professors, and program provider faculty, to ensure a learning environment that maintains Mines' rigorous standards.

2. Institutional Role and Mission Alignment

Mines is committed to educating distinctive graduate leaders in Engineering who can address the challenges of a global population. All student credit hours are recorded in the Student Unit Record Data System (SURDS).

3. Policy Compliance Statement

Mines confirms that all instruction within these programs complies with the CCHE Statewide Extended Studies Policy and COF stipend guidelines.

4. Locations of Instruction

- **Faculty-Led:** Physical sites in Europe, South America, and Asia.
- **FYSAE:** For the AY27 cycle, instruction takes place in Antibes, France, utilizing SKEMA University and the CEA CAPA Study Center.

5. Amount of COF FTE Requested

Mines request a total allocation of ~~.75%~~ **COF FTE** for FY27:

Reduction to .5% FTE to comply with policy limit acknowledged by Mines during April 14, 2026 Academic Council meeting

6. Prior Year Usage (FY26)

- **FY26:** Actual .51% (hoping to grow program in FY 27)
- **FY25:** Actual .18%

7. Workforce Development Needs

Colorado's economy—driven by aerospace, technology, Quantum Physics, and international trade—requires a workforce that is adaptable and culturally fluent. These programs meet state needs by:

- Accelerating Graduation: Keeping students on a strict four-year track by providing core credits in flexible off-campus environments.
- Developing "Global Engineers": Developing the "soft skills" of adaptability and cross-cultural communication highly valued by Colorado employers like Lockheed Martin and NREL.

8. Service to Underserved Populations

Mines is committed to the principle that global engineering competency is a requirement, not a luxury.

- Closing the Equity Gap: Granting COF eligibility ensures that Pell-eligible and first-generation students have equitable access. Without COF support, these experiences risk becoming exclusive to students with significant financial means.
- Direct Support: Mines provides small travel grants funded through Donor funds and ensures that faculty-led and cohort-based models provide a supportive environment for students from underrepresented backgrounds.

9. Justification of Duplication

These programs provide Mines-specific core curriculum and the "Signature Student Experience" that is not easily substituted by general programs. The technical rigor of Mines' core sequences is unique to our ABET accreditation.

10. Addressing Space Constraints

As a public institution, Mines faces ongoing challenges regarding on-campus capacity. Moving core sections and First-Year cohorts to off-campus environments directly alleviates capacity "bottlenecks" in high-traffic introductory classrooms and laboratories.

11. Institutional Approval

This request has been reviewed and approved by the Mines Registrar Office, Student Life, and the Office of Academic Affairs.