

# How to authorize the College Opportunity Fund stipend

Colorado resident undergraduates pay less tuition per credit hour when they apply for and authorize the College Opportunity Fund (COF) stipend. Once it is authorized, it applies directly to the tuition bill. The amount per credit hour changes annually and is set by the General Assembly.

**Step 1: Complete the application on the [College Assist](#) website. You cannot authorize the stipend until you have applied.**

It will take 2-7 days from the time you apply until you can authorize (during this time, College Assist sends your COF information to CU).

For more information, visit [College Opportunity Fund](#).

Step 2: Students log in to [Buff Portal](http://buffportal.colorado.edu) (buffportal.colorado.edu)

University of Colorado Boulder example

## Federated Identity Service

### Log in to Buff Portal

**IdentiKey Username** (example: chbu1234)

**IdentiKey Password**

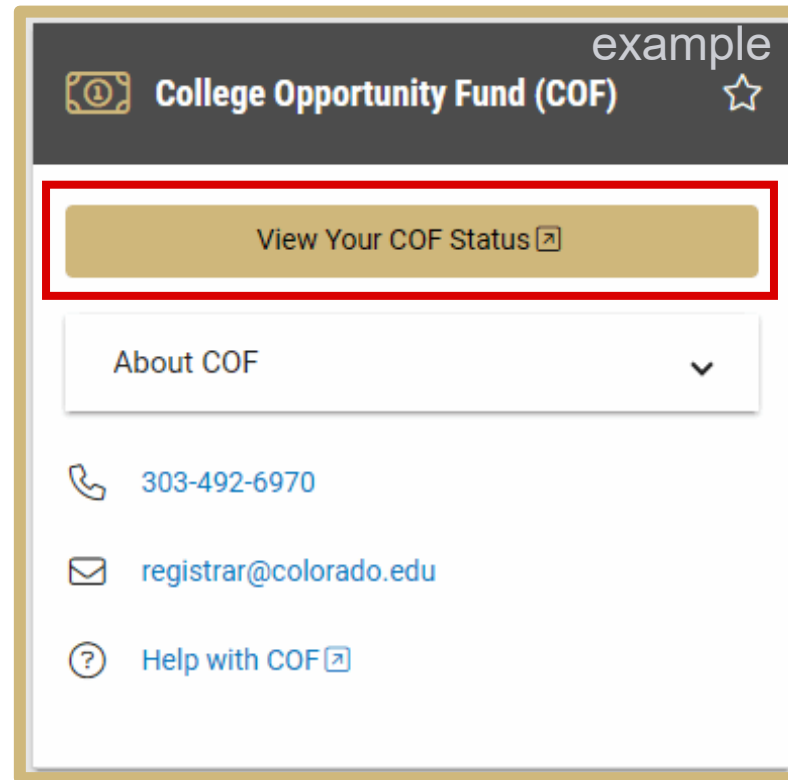
[Log In](#) [Advanced Settings...](#)

[Need help logging in?](#)  
Quit or close all browser windows to exit completely.  
**DO NOT** bookmark this page! Bookmark the service homepage after logging in.

Step 3: Search for "cof" or "college opportunity fund" in the Buff Portal search bar. Click **College Opportunity Fund (COF)**.


The screenshot shows the Buff Portal interface. At the top, the University of Colorado Boulder logo and name are on the left, and the 'Buff Portal' title is on the right. Below the logo is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and a 'Menu' button. The search bar contains the text 'cof'. Below the search bar is a list of search results. The first result is 'College Opportunity Fund (COF)', which is highlighted with a red box. Other results include 'Software Downloads', 'Official Transcript', 'Off-Campus Housing', 'Course Evaluations', 'Unofficial Transcript', 'Conflict Resolution', 'Ombuds office', 'Skillsoft Training', 'Coursera Partner Consortium', and 'Pride Office'. To the right of the search results are three main sections: 'Holds & To-Do's', 'Your Classes', and 'Class Schedule'. The 'Holds & To-Do's' section shows '1 Hold' and '1 To-Do'. The 'Your Classes' section shows a list of classes for 'Fall 2025', including 'BCOR 1030-005 Communication Strategy (Lecture)', 'MATH 1112-021 Mathematical Analysis in Business (Lecture)', 'ECON 2010-100 Principles of Microeconomics (Lecture)', and 'ECON 2010-112 Principles of Microeconomics (Recitation)'. The 'Class Schedule' section shows a calendar for 'November 11 - 15' with a grid of class times and locations.

Step 4: Click **View your COF status**.



Step 5: If you have been enrolled on more than one CU campus, select **CU Boulder** for COF Institution.

COF Authorization/Review > Select COF Institution example

 Menu

SELECT	CAREER ▲	INSTITUTION ▲
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Select	Undergraduate	CU Boulder
<input type="radio"/> Select	Undergraduate	CU Denver

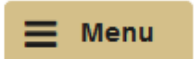
**Continue**

Step 6: Click **Update Authorization**. (You may need to scroll down.)

TERM	TERM ELIGIBLE	COF TERM AUTHORIZATION	ENROLLED HOURS	COF ELIGIBLE HOURS	STIPEND AMOUNT	UPDATE AUTHORIZATION
Spring 2025	Eligible	Lifetime Authorization	12.00	12.00	900.00	<a href="#">Update Authorization</a>
Fall 2026	Eligible	Lifetime Authorization	12.00	12.00	900.00	
Summer 2026	Eligible	Lifetime Authorization	0.00			example

Step 7: Select **Lifetime Authorization** and click **Submit**.

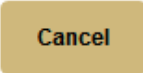
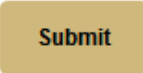
COF Authorization > Update Authorization example

 Menu

1 STEP 1      2 STEP 2      3 STEP 3      4 STEP 4


**Lifetime Authorization**     Term Authorization     Refused Authorization

TERM	TERM ELIGIBLE	COF TERM AUTHORIZATION	ENROLLED HOURS	COF ELIGIBLE HOURS	STIPEND AMOUNT
Spring 2025	Eligible	Lifetime Authorization	12.00	12.00	900.00
Fall 2026	Eligible	Lifetime Authorization	12.00	12.00	900.00
Summer 2026	Eligible	Lifetime Authorization	0.00		

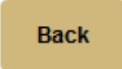
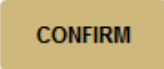
Step 8: Click **Confirm**.

COF Authorization > Confirm Authorization Update example

 Menu

1 STEP 1      2 STEP 2      3 STEP 3      4 STEP 4

You have selected the following COF Authorization option:  
Lifetime Authorization  
Press Confirm if this is correct. Press Go Back to change your authorization selection.

The stipend will appear on your student account in 24-48 hours.

COF Authorization > COF Authorization Updated example

Menu

**1**  
STEP 1      **2**  
STEP 2      **3**  
STEP 3      **4**  
STEP 4

Your selection has been successfully submitted

[COF Inquiry Page](#)    [Continue to Enroll](#)