

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY-PUEBLO
Financial Instruction Procedures
FPI 2-5

1. **Procedure Title:** Payments to Students
2. **Procedure Purpose and Effect:** Student payments often have implications for financial aid and/or tax reporting. This procedure defines the proper methods for payments to students of the University.
3. **Application of Procedure:** This procedure applies to Campus Departments. The nature and substance of the payment are the determining factors for proper classification, rather than the form of payment. University employees who approve payments to students must understand the nature of the payments and the contents of this procedure.
4. **Exemptions:** Any exemptions to this procedure would need to be approved by OFM.
5. **Definitions:**
 - A. **Compensation:** Compensation is an amount paid to a student in return for services rendered. Stipends and honorariums constitute compensation since they are payments received in return for services rendered.
 - B. **Scholarships:** Scholarships are amounts paid to, allowed to, or for the benefit of, an undergraduate or graduate student to aid such individual in pursuing their studies. Scholarship payments are based on future or continuing educational activity. Scholarships are not compensatory and do not require the performance of a service.
 - C. **Fellowships:** A fellowship is an amount paid to, allowed to, or for the benefit of, a student to aid them in their pursuit of research. Fellowships are based on future or continuing research activity. Fellowships are not compensatory and do not require the performance of a service.
 - D. **Prizes and Awards:** Prizes and awards are payments made to individuals in recognition of some past accomplishment or activity, including academic achievements in an educational, literary, artistic, or scientific field. Prizes and awards are not awarded with the intent to finance any future activities of an individual and no conditions are imposed on the manner in which the prize or award may be expended by the recipient. For purposes of this instruction, there is no difference between a "prize" and an "award." The term "award" will be used exclusively in this document from this point forward. All awards require a written statement signed by the appropriate college dean or Vice President, including documentation of the purpose of the award, criteria for eligibility, and selection process.

6. Procedure Statement:

A. Determine the appropriate payment method based on the definitions above. Specific procedures for making a payment for student compensations, scholarships, fellowships, crisis grants, and short-term loans are available in the offices below:

1. Human Resources/Payroll – If the payment is compensation for services performed for the University, including graduate assistant stipends.
2. OFM/Accounts Payable – If the payment is for compensation to students who are independent contractors, they are paid through Accounts Payable. For assistance in determining independent contractor status, please contact the Purchasing Department or OFM
3. Student Financial Services – Many types of scholarships and fellowships exist. Contact Student Financial Services for additional information regarding these types of payments, or if the payment is a crisis grant or emergency short-term loan.

B. Payment of awards to students by OFM/Accounts Payable is as follows:

1. Token awards:
 - a) Procurement. Arrange purchase with a disbursement voucher, purchase order, or procurement card as appropriate.
 - b) Documentation. All documents submitted for payment must identify the recipient's name, Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN or SSN), and include a written statement signed by the appropriate college dean or Vice President, documenting the purpose of the award, criteria for eligibility, and selection process.
 - c) Object Codes. 6659 for Employee Awards and 6660 for Non-Employee Awards.
2. Material Awards:
 - a) Procurement. Arrange purchase with a disbursement voucher, purchase order, or procurement card as appropriate.
 - b) Documentation. All documents submitted for payment must identify the recipient's name, Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN or SSN), and include a written statement signed by the appropriate college dean or vice president, documenting the purpose of the award, criteria for eligibility, and selection process.
 - c) Object Codes. 6659 for Employee Awards and 6660 for Non-Employee Awards.
3. Cash Awards:
 - a) Procurement. For all awards of cash – either check or ACH payment, submit a memo to the Payroll Office. The Payroll Office will research whether the recipient is a University employee or not.

- i. If an award recipient is an employee, the award's amount will be added to the employee's regular salary, subjected to normal withholding, and paid on the usual payday. If a special check is required, the sponsoring department must notify Payroll at least two weeks in advance.
- ii. If the award recipient is a non-employee, a special check will be prepared.
- b) Documentation. The memo submitted to Payroll must include: the recipient's Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN or SSN), and a written statement signed by the appropriate college dean or vice president, documenting the purpose of the award, criteria for eligibility, and selection process.
- c) Object Codes. 5705 for Employee Cash Awards. 6660 for Non-Employee Awards.

7. **Reference and Cross-References:** None.

8. **Forms and Tools:** None.