

Dear Applicant,

A graduate degree is fairly expensive, although certainly well worth the cost. In our experience one of the first things potential students should consider is the expense involved for advanced study. This letter is intended to offer a few descriptive scenarios for both Colorado residents and for non-resident students.

Note that CSU participates in WICHE: residents of all western states can study at CSU at the resident tuition rate. <http://wrgp.wiche.edu/>

CSU's current graduate tuition schedule is located at:

<http://www.colostate.edu/Dept/Registrar/tuitiongraduate.html>

I'll assume that you are a Colorado resident or WICHE eligible. Let me first outline cost for attending full-time.

For assistance, we employ many of our master's students as Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs). The base appointment is for a 10 hr/week effort assisting with one section of an undergraduate class (typically leading a recitation section once a week and doing some grading). For that appointment GTAs are paid about \$650 stipend (as wages) per month and get 6 credits of resident tuition reimbursed (\$1,875). Since 9 hours is full time, tuition and fees come to \$3,475 - \$1,875 or \$1,600 per semester if on a 10 hr GTA, and about \$2,900 is paid as stipend.

Some, but not all new MS students receive 10 hr GTA appointments in their first semester. Most do receive one in their second semester, and during the second year we try to move as many continuing MS students into 20 hr GTA appointments, which pay \$1,300/mo and reimburse 9 hours of resident tuition. As a Colorado resident during the second year with a 20 hr GTA you only pay fees (about \$750/sem).

So there's a fair range of potential costs. A reasonable and conservative model is to assume you'll pay for all of the first semester, have a 10 hr GTA in the second and third semesters, and have a 20 hr GTA in the fourth semester. This would total about \$7,500 in tuition and fees, and a total of about \$12,000 in stipend over four semesters (less taxes). There is also a mandatory university health insurance policy, and GTAs get a \$350/year break on that. But those complications aside this provides a rough sketch of a "middle of the road" estimate of costs. Supplies and living expenses are of course additional.

Part-time is more difficult to estimate since the number of credits can range from 1-8. As a general guideline we usually expect our GTAs to be full-time students. In that case, you would just calculate your tuition/fee cost from the table referenced above based on how many hours per semester you took and assume no stipend would be provided. In general terms, we recommend JTC501/701 for first semester part-time students, for a total of 5 credits, which would be \$2,830 in the first semester. Since tuition is about \$400/credit and we require 30 credits, total cost is somewhere around \$12,000.

As you can see from the tuition schedule, non-resident costs are quite a bit higher. One thing students do is arrive in town in time to spend a full year as a resident before the start of their third semester, so they can become a legal resident and pay the lower tuition for their second year of study. The university has some fairly strict accounting rules to do that, so it's something to plan out ahead of time.

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Some, but not all new MS students receive 10 hr GTA appointments in their first semester. Most do receive one in their second semester, and during the second year we try to move as many continuing MS students into 20 hr GTA appointments, which pay \$1,300/mo and reimburse 9 hours of resident tuition. If you become a resident during the second year and have a 20 hr GTA you only pay fees (about \$750).

So there's a fair range of potential costs. A reasonable and conservative model is to assume you'll pay for all of the first semester, have a 10 hr GTA in the second and third semesters, become a resident in the third semester, and have a 20 hr GTA in the fourth semester. This would total about \$18,000 in tuition and fees, and a total of about \$12,000 in stipend over four semesters (less taxes). There is also a mandatory university health insurance policy, and GTAs get a \$350/year break on that. But those complications aside this provides a rough sketch of a "middle of the road" estimate of costs. Supplies and living expenses are of course additional.

These scenarios are quick approximations, not guarantees. Tuition and fees change often, and the availability of GTA appointments can vary greatly from year to year as well. You would want to verify these figures based on your particular circumstance. Most students find they need to finance at least part of their studies, and information on loan programs is available through CSU Student Financial Services office:

<http://sfs.colostate.edu/>