Introduction to FOAPAL

The University's new Chart of Accounts consists of six elements commonly referred to as a **FOAPAL**. The acronym is broken down as follows:

F	**Fund**	**Required**	**6 digits**
O	**Organization**	**Required**	**6 digits**
A	**Account**	**Required**	**6 digits**
P	**Program**	**Required**	**4 digits**
A	**Activity**	**Optional**	**6 digits**
L	**Location**	**Optional**	**6 digits**

Fund
Identifies a self-balancing set of accounts. Also used for identifying the *source* of funds. Examples are Operating, Research, Endowment, etc.

Organization
Identifies *who* spent the money. Usually a unit of budget responsibility and/or department(s) within an institution. This can be a faculty, school, department or adminstrative unit.

Account
Identifies *what* the money was spent on, the type of revenue, and also used to define assets and liabilities. In the IMS System, this was typically the "Object" code.

Program
Classifies the revenue or expense as defined by the *purpose of your Unit or Grant*. Typically used for such examples as Instruction, Research, Support Services, Physical Plant, etc. In the IMS system, this was the "Function" code such as 611 (Academic), 671 (Administration), 781 (Ancillaries), etc.

Activity
Budgeting can be done by Activity, but Aurora does not budget check at this level. Used to define unique activities such as Campus Beautification Day, Emergency Preparedness activities, etc.

Location
Optional in Aurora and cannot budget by this category. Primarily used by, but not limited to, the Fixed Assets module.