

COLORADO COLLEGE, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO



A private, four-year liberal arts college with roughly 1,900 undergraduates, Colorado College is located on a 92-acre campus at the foot of Pike's Peak in the politically conservative town of Colorado Springs. In 1871, General William Jackson Palmer, founder of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, laid out the city of Colorado Springs along his new line from Denver. He envisioned a model city, one that would attract an educated and wealthy population seeking a healthy area to settle. Integral to his plan, General Palmer set aside a plot of land for a college and pledged funding. Colorado College was founded in 1874, two years before Colorado became a state.

Consistently ranked among the top 30 national liberal arts colleges, Colorado College is the only institution of its kind in the Rocky Mountain region. Best known for their innovative Block Plan, where students take and professors teach only one course at a time, Colorado College offers a new perspective on core classes and standard curriculum. They create small and supportive learning communities with every block and give students the time to participate fully, without distractions. "There are tradeoffs," however, according to the [2011 Fiske Guide to Colleges](#). "Students say it can be hard to integrate material from courses taken one at a time," but "the plan helps students stay focused, eliminating the temptation to let one course slide so that they can catch up on another."

The college's first building, Cutler Hall, was occupied in 1880; the first bachelor's degrees were conferred in 1882. Under President William F. Slocum, who served from 1888 to 1917, the campus took the shape it held until the 1950s. During this time, the college reached scholarly maturity, especially by significantly expanding and improving the library's holdings and by attracting leading scholars in a number of fields.



Worner Campus Center is the hub of student life at CC. On the main floor is the Worner Desk, where you can find information on current happenings around campus. You'll also find a few of our dining establishments, including a recently renovated cafeteria-style option and a coffee shop.

Since the mid-1950s, the campus has been virtually rebuilt. New facilities include three large residence halls, Worner Campus Center, Tutt Library, Olin Hall of Science and the

Barnes Science Center, Honnen Ice Rink, Boettcher Health Center, Schlessman Pool, Armstrong Hall of Humanities, Palmer Hall, El Pomar Sports Center, and Packard Hall of Music and Art. The Gaslight Plaza Building, previously known as the Plaza Hotel and the Plaza Building, was purchased by the college in March 1991 and was renamed the William I. Spencer Center in public ceremonies on October 5, 1991, to honor the retiring charter trustee and board chairman. Bill Spencer served on the board from 1967 until 1991 and was chair from 1984 to 1991. The building houses development, college relations, and human resources.



Arguably the most beloved building on campus, Palmer is home to our history, political science, sociology, and economics departments, along with most of geology. It also features a common room on the top floor, which is used for guest lectures and special events.

The face of the campus changed again at the beginning of the 21st century with construction of the Western Ridge Housing Complex, which offers apartment-style living for upper-division students and completion of the Russell T. Tutt Science Center; as well as the revitalization of the east campus, now home to the Greek Quad and several “theme” houses.



The Russell T. Tutt Science Center -- the newest major facility on campus -- was planned to give departments more space and adequate laboratories for teaching and research. It is home to our environmental science, mathematics, psychology, and neuroscience departments, along with part of geology.

Perhaps, more significant than the physical development of the campus is its academic vigor. The college’s curriculum includes a number of special programs: Southwest studies, feminist and gender studies, Asian studies, biochemistry, environmental sciences, neuroscience, Latin American studies, Russian and Eurasian studies, and American cultural studies, as well as a strong cross-the-curriculum writing program, and a thriving Summer Session.

At Colorado College the goal is to provide the finest liberal arts education in the country. Drawing upon the adventurous spirit of the Rocky Mountain West, they challenge students, one course at a time, to develop those habits of intellect and imagination that will prepare them for learning and leadership throughout their lives. Students describe themselves as “intellectual, easygoing and active,” states Princeton Review’s The Best 373 Colleges.

Best known for its Block Plan which divides the academic year into eight three-and-a-half week segments or blocks, students take one principal course at a time. While class schedules vary, most classes run from nine until noon each day. Classes with labs generally schedule them in the afternoon. The entire morning, every morning, is dedicated to intensive learning, and students are free to ask that last question, take the debate one step further, and continue talking well after the class period is over. Students like the personalized nature of the program and the flexibility it offers.

Slocum Hall is one of our three large residential halls on campus that houses first-year and sophomore students. All of our large residence halls feature study lounges, kitchens, laundry rooms, computer labs, and TV lounges, and wireless Internet access.



Approximately 4,500 students apply to Colorado College and 1,500 are admitted for an enrollment of 540 freshmen. Of these, 19% represent American ethnic minorities and 5% are international. Almost three quarters of admitted students rank in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. The median 50% range of test scores for admitted students is:

- ACT 29-32
- SAT composite (2400 scale) 1920-2140
- TOEFL – Minimum paper score 550
Minimum computer based score 213
Minimum web-based score 79

Students who apply here also tend to apply to University of Colorado, Middlebury, University of Denver, Whitman and Colby.

The Admission Office states that, “Students enter Colorado College for the opportunity to study intensely in small learning communities. The college encourages a well-rounded education, combining the academic rigor of an honors college with rich programs in athletics, community service, student government, the arts and more. Colorado College is a great choice for field study and for international study.” They rank fourth nationally in the number of students studying abroad.



The Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center is an interdisciplinary arts building allowing for innovative, experimental, and collaborative projects in a unique space with state-of-the-art technology.

The total cost of attendance is \$50,750, but the school remains committed to the philosophy that cost should not deter a student from considering Colorado College. Forty-three percent of first year students are receiving

some type of aid. The college administers a substantial financial aid program and uses financial need as the primary consideration in awarding aid. There is, however, a limited amount of financial aid available for non-U.S. citizens and transfer students. A financial

aid award usually includes a combination of grants, federal loans (for U.S. citizens and permanent residents only), and possible work-study earnings. While the majority of college aid is need-based, some merit-based scholarships are offered as well and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the CSS PROFILE form are required.

According to CollegeProwler.com, noted alumni include Lynne Vincent Cheney, '63, Vice President Dick Cheney's wife, author and former chairwoman of the National Endowment for the Humanities; James Heckman, '65, 2000 Nobel Prize winner in Economics; Ken Salazar, '77, Elected to the United States Senate in fall of 2004; Alison Dunlap, '91, professional and very successful mountain biker; Tara Nott Cunningham, '94, first American woman to win a medal in Olympic weightlifting; and a number of hockey players from Colorado College have gone on to play in the NHL, most recently the goalie Richard Bachman, who now plays for the Dallas Stars. Colorado College Alumni have also received: 66 Watson Fellowships, 12 Rhodes Scholarships, 14 Fulbright Fellowships, 9 Olympic medals (18 have made Olympic teams) and 1 Nobel Prize.