ABOUT CU BOULDER

General Information
As a comprehensive university, CU Boulder is committed to the liberal education of students via a broad curriculum ranging from the baccalaureate through the postdoctoral levels. The chancellor is the chief academic and administrative officer and is responsible for conducting campus affairs in accordance with the policies of the regents.

Students
With an enrollment of more than 33,000 students, CU Boulder is the largest of the four-campus University of Colorado system. The student population comes from every state in the nation and from more than 100 foreign countries. Many different ethnic, religious, academic and social backgrounds are represented, fostering the development of a multicultural academic community that enriches each student’s educational experience.

Faculty
CU Boulder has more than 1,200 tenured and tenure-track faculty, with 100 percent holding doctorates or appropriate terminal degrees. The faculty includes nationally and internationally recognized scholars with many academic honors and awards:

- David Wineland won the 2012 Nobel Prize in physics.
- Several CU Boulder research faculty from the National Snow and Ice Data Center shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former Vice President Al Gore for their contributions to the international report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
- John Hall won the 2005 Nobel Prize in physics.
- Carl Wieman and Eric Cornell won the 2001 Nobel Prize in physics.
- Tom Cech won the 1989 Nobel Prize in chemistry.
- Eight faculty have received MacArthur Fellowships, the so-called "Genius Grant.”
- Twenty-three active or retired faculty are members of the National Academy of Sciences, all of whom are included in the membership of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
- Fifteen faculty are members of the National Academy of Engineering.
- Six faculty are members of the National Academy of Education.

Most faculty members, including full professors, teach both undergraduate and graduate classes. Faculty members incorporate their research and creative activities directly into instructional programs. Faculty participate in campus governance through the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Assembly. Students participate through the University of Colorado Student Government (CUSG) and the United Government of Graduate Students (UGGS).

Academic Offerings
The Boulder campus offers approximately 4,000 different courses in 115 distinct fields of study and 239 degree programs across the baccalaureate, master’s, doctoral and professional levels. These courses represent a full range of disciplines in the humanities, the social sciences, the physical and biological sciences, the fine and performing arts, and the professions.

Research
CU Boulder is home to nearly 2,000 nationally and internationally recognized research faculty who have earned a global reputation for outstanding teaching, research and creative work across more than 150 academic disciplines. While the classroom is the location for most instructional activities, laboratories, seminars and field work also are important features of the undergraduate and graduate experience. Students can get involved in research and creative work as early as their freshman year.

CU Boulder’s sponsored research portfolio continues to grow. Since fiscal year 2006, CU Boulder has experienced 70 percent growth in research awards. Federal agency funding remains the mainstay of CU research, with 75 percent of awards coming directly from federal agencies. Five federal agencies are consistently the largest funding sources for CU Boulder awards, including:

- NASA,
- National Science Foundation,
- Department of Commerce,
- National Institutes of Health, and
- Department of Defense.

CU Boulder remains the number one public university recipient of NASA research awards, and continues to be a national leader in aerospace and space research. Additionally, university researchers are expanding their impact through collaborative projects with industry, other universities, nonprofits and international partners.

CU Boulder’s research institutes and research centers significantly contribute to the university’s research and education missions, as well as the regional economy. Research faculty in academic departments, institutes and centers are continually expanding CU Boulder’s research capabilities and collaborations, resulting in new knowledge, technologies and creative work for the benefit of Colorado, the nation and the world.

For more information, see the Research (catalog.colorado.edu/about-cu-boulder/research) section.

Statutory Mission
CU Boulder’s vision is grounded in its statutory mission as a national public research university. In Colorado statute, the university is defined as the “comprehensive graduate research university with selective admissions standards . . . offer(ing) a comprehensive array of undergraduate, master and doctoral degree programs” of what is now designated the University of Colorado System.

CU Boulder recognizes the exceptional opportunities associated with its role as a research university, and values the unique strength and character research achievements bring to undergraduate education. It is keenly aware of its responsibility for educating the next generation of citizens and leaders, and for fostering the spirit of discovery through research. Indeed, CU Boulder believes that its students, both graduate and undergraduate, benefit from the comprehensive mix of programs and research excellence that characterize a flagship university. Thus, CU Boulder’s statutory mission is relevant today and will remain relevant tomorrow.

Since 2007, CU Boulder’s strategic plan, Flagship 2030, has been guiding near-term actions and investments that will sustain CU’s quality and competitiveness and, through visionary “flagship initiatives,” will transform the university within the next quarter-century.
University of Colorado History

At its first session in 1861, Colorado’s territorial legislature passed an act providing for a university in Boulder. Between 1861 and 1876, Boulder citizens donated land south of town and made gifts from $15 to $1,000 to match the $15,000 the state legislature appropriated for the university’s construction. In 1875, Colorado citizens laid the cornerstone for the university’s first building, Old Main, and officially founded CU in 1876, the same year Colorado joined the union. The university opened its doors the following year with 44 students, a president, and one instructor.

Today, the University of Colorado is a four-campus system that includes the University of Colorado Boulder, the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, the University of Colorado Denver and the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. The campuses have a combined enrollment of more than 63,000 students. To meet the needs of its students, the university system offers an extensive number of undergraduate, graduate and professional degree programs, as well as opportunities to study abroad, engage in public service and conduct research.

CU Boulder has a strong sponsored research portfolio, and the university also relies on revenues from tuition and fees, contracts and grants, investments and interest income, health services and the generous support of private foundations and donors.

An elected nine-member Board of Regents governs CU and is charged by the state constitution with the general supervision of the university and the exclusive control and direction of all its funds and appropriations, unless otherwise provided by law. The board conducts its business at regular meetings open to the public and through committees. The president is the chief administrative officer and is responsible for providing leadership to the university.

For more information, visit the CU Board of Regents (http://www.cu.edu/regents) webpage, or the CU System (http://www.cu.edu) website.

Undergraduate Enrollment and Graduation Rates

CU Boulder’s fall 2017 entering freshman class numbered 6,570. Of these, 47 percent were females, 52 percent residents of Colorado and 27 percent members of minority groups (African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Americans and Pacific Islanders). Seventy-one percent enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences, 9 percent in the Leeds School of Business, 13 percent in the College of Engineering and Applied Science and 8 percent, combined, enrolled in the College of Media, Communication and Information, the Program in Environmental Design, the College of Music and the School of Education.

Of the freshmen entering in summer or fall 2011 who enrolled full time, 45 percent graduated within four years; 65 percent graduated within five years; and 69 percent graduated within six years. Of the students who entered in fall 2016, 88 percent returned for their second fall semester.

CU Boulder Accreditation and Affiliation

CU Boulder is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (http://www.hlcommission.org) (800-621-7440 or 312-263-0456). See individual colleges and schools for program specific accreditation information.

For information on the content of academic programs and official degree designations, refer to the appropriate catalog sections.