Arts & Sciences

The College of Arts & Sciences is the liberal arts college at CU Boulder. Its mission is to provide an outstanding liberal arts education for its undergraduates, cutting-edge graduate education and world-class research, scholarship and creative work. In addition to gaining the knowledge and skills of their areas of study, students learn how new information is acquired and can participate in original research and creative work with individual faculty members.

The college offers a wide variety of fields of study, with nearly 50 undergraduate majors. The environment and advantages of a small liberal arts college are created through "academic neighborhoods" in which students can meet and interact with other students and faculty in small group settings. In addition, more than 60 percent of undergraduate classes are small, with 25 or fewer students.

As the liberal arts college of CU Boulder, the College of Arts and Sciences has several goals in the education of its students:

- Educate citizens who can think for themselves, understand the rapidly changing world and make wise choices within a democratic system.
- Impart a love of learning so that students can continue to grow throughout life.
- Teach ways of thinking about and approaching new problems. For some students, this will enable them to further advance knowledge and scholarship in the academy. For all students, this is important for enriching their lives.
- Prepare students to help enrich the lives of others. Arts and sciences graduates become lifelong resources for their families, neighbors, friends and co-workers.
- Provide students with a well-rounded education. Arts and sciences students acquire a broad knowledge and an integrated understanding of art and music, great literary works, philosophy, history and politics, the social world, science and technology. They learn how to critically evaluate and think about morals, ethics and values. The General Education requirements give students a broad, liberal-arts education that develops the whole person, not just the specialist.
- Educate students for careers and a productive life. Arts and sciences students gain the most current knowledge and skills in their major fields of study. In addition, they learn how to acquire new skills to contend with-and lead-the changes that will occur in the decades to come. Education for a productive life also requires that students learn how to analyze situations, solve problems and speak and write effectively.

The college is also dedicated to outstanding graduate education. Advanced degrees are offered by nearly every academic department in the college, and the PhD is offered in approximately 30 different disciplines. In addition, an increasing number of departments offer combined bachelor’s/master’s degrees that can be earned in five years. Graduate training focuses on teaching and research careers as well as on professional careers in the public and private sector.

The strength of the College of Arts and Sciences comes from its outstanding faculty. In addition to being dedicated teachers, they are active scholars in disciplines throughout the arts and humanities, social and behavioral sciences, biological sciences and physical and mathematical sciences. They are the recipients of numerous national awards and honors for their research, scholarship and creative work.

Faculty and staff of the College of Arts and Sciences join together to create an intellectual community of students and scholars to discover, critically examine, integrate, preserve and transmit knowledge, wisdom and values.

Honors Program

The Arts and Sciences Honors Program provides a community for highly motivated and academically prepared undergraduate students and offers opportunities for intellectual engagement through honors courses, academic-inspired events, and honors thesis research and creative work.

The Honors Program is a program of excellence in which the best teaching faculty are committed to serving the most highly motivated students. The Honors Program offers the opportunity to work closely with faculty, to engage with other honors students (http://www.colorado.edu/honors/community) and to write an honors thesis. Honors offers over 50 courses per year (http://www.colorado.edu/honors/courses) in a wide variety of areas. Honors courses are limited to an enrollment of approximately 17 students.

Incoming first-year students are invited to participate (http://www.colorado.edu/honors/admission) in the Honors Program based on multiple criteria that are set by the Office of Admissions. Transfer students must have a 3.3 GPA or better from their previous school. Currently enrolled students are eligible based on their academic achievement at CU Boulder and are expected to have a 3.3 GPA or better.

Latin honors (http://www.colorado.edu/honors/graduation) in the College of Arts and Sciences are conferred by the Honors Program. Students who wish to graduate cum laude, magna cum laude or summa cum laude must write and defend an honors thesis and maintain a certain GPA. Most students pursue Latin honors in their major (based on departmental requirements), but students may also pursue General Honors (http://www.colorado.edu/honors/generalhonors) via the Honors Program, providing students the opportunity to write an interdisciplinary thesis.

The Honors Residential Academic Program (Honors RAP (http://www.colorado.edu/hrap)) is the optional residential component of the program. Honors RAP is open to a limited number of qualified incoming and continuing students. Students engage in small classes and co-curricular activities, forming an academic community in their residence hall.

Miramontes Arts and Sciences Program

The Miramontes Arts and Sciences Program (MASP) is a community of diverse scholars dedicated to academic achievement. MASP accepts highly motivated students with strong academic records who are also members of traditionally underrepresented groups and/or are first-generation college students. MASP supports students through mentoring, instruction, skills workshops, enrichment opportunities, community activities, and participation scholarships.

For most members of MASP, support begins the summer before freshman year with the Program for Excellence in Academics and Community (PEAC), a summer residential program that helps first-year students transition to the University. PEAC is an intensive and challenging academic program where students take a rigorous set of non-credit classes, learn valuable skills for academic success, are introduced to resources and opportunities on campus and in the College of Arts & Sciences, and participate in advanced enrichment and community-
building activities. Continuing students interested in MASP can also apply through our MASP affiliate program.

Students receiving a participation scholarship in MASP commit to participating in a range of programming that include one-credit hour seminars on unique and advanced topics in Arts & Sciences, research colloquia where they meet and network with faculty members, skills workshops, and community conversations. Students are encouraged to participate in undergraduate research and/or other scholarly activities such as internships and study abroad programs. MASP students are also required to be involved with our community space and to participate in community activities to help develop a strong sense of group cohesiveness and spirit. And more!

For more information, call the MASP office at 303-492-8229.