

Why Colorado College?

Located in Colorado Springs, 70 miles from Denver, Colorado College (CC) offers a unique pedagogy and a beautiful environment for students.. The college boasts 300 miles of hiking and biking trails and a vibrant urban center, offering a blend of outdoor adventures and cultural experiences. There are over 80 active student organizations from on hobbies, faith and spirituality to politics, encouraging involvement in various aspects of student life.

Academics

The Block Plan

CC is the pioneer of the innovative Block Plan. CC's Block Plan is a distinctive academic model where students take one class at a time for 3.5 weeks, allowing for deep focus and engagement. Created in the 1970s, the plan allows professors and students to fully dedicate themselves to one subject. After each block, there is a 4.5-day block break, giving students time to relax, travel, or rest on campus.

- **Class Structure:** Classes run Monday to Friday, 9 am-12 pm, with lab sessions from 1 pm-3 pm if required. The first week introduces the material, followed by continuous learning, and the final week focuses on preparing for the final assignment or project.
- **Faculty to Student Ratio:** The plan allows for a low 10:1 student-to-faculty ratio and a class size of 16 students, ensuring personalized attention.
- **Breaks:** Fall, winter, and spring breaks allow students to unwind. Winter break also offers an opportunity to take half-block classes, which can earn credits or explore new interests. Non-credit half-block classes include options like test preparation or dynamic courses offered by the Career Center, including internships at companies like Mattel.

Classroom Experience and General Education

CC requires first-year students to complete a critical inquiry seminar and a writing seminar. General education covers scientific, historical, and creative perspectives. Adjunct courses are optional weekly evening classes in music, dance, languages, and other humanities subjects, offering students half-credit for participation. Language courses and practical experiences like music and dance are emphasized.

Extracurriculars and Field Study

- **Field Study:** 100% of students participate in field study programs, which offer hands-on learning experiences outside the classroom.
 - **Internships:** 71% of students complete internships, with support from the Career Center, which helps students find, apply, and fund unpaid internships. The Public Interest Fellowship Program offers students the chance to intern with non-profits in Denver during the summer or post-graduation.
 - **Global Education:** Approximately 70% of students study abroad at least once, with the Block Plan enabling unique courses abroad, taught by CC professors. For example, students in a food culture and traditions class travel to Italy to meet chefs and learn firsthand.
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Research Opportunities

A third of CC students major in STEM fields. Research opportunities are available year-round, including paid summer positions. Students can also work as research assistants during the academic year, giving them valuable practical experience.

Application Process

Colorado College accepts applications through QuestBridge, the Coalition App, and the Common App. The QuestBridge program offers a full-ride to eligible students based on income.

- **Holistic Review:** CC takes a holistic approach to admissions, considering transcripts, extracurricular activities, leadership roles, and recommendations. CC is test-optional and focuses on the rigor of coursework rather than just test scores.
 - **Supplemental Essay:** Applicants are required to write about their experiences and plans to engage with antiracism, sustainability, or wellness at CC.
 - **Virtual Interviews:** Virtual interviews and chats with current students are available to provide insights into life at CC.
 - **Demonstrated Interest:** Demonstrated interest is considered during admissions.
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Financial Aid

CC meets 100% of demonstrated financial need for domestic and international students, with financial aid packages consisting mostly of grants and scholarships, and minimal loans. 56% of CC students receive financial aid.

Admissions Statistics & Deadlines

- Overall acceptance rate: 19%
- **Early Decision I:** November 1 (Binding) - 32% acceptance rate
- **Early Action:** November 1 (Non-binding) - 21% acceptance rate
- **Early Decision II:** January 15 (Binding) - 32% acceptance rate
- **Regular Decision:** January 15 (Non-binding) - 8% acceptance rate

Students must submit financial aid forms alongside their admissions applications to be considered for aid.

Q&A Highlights

- **Perfect Applicant:** Colorado College looks for collaborative students who can thrive in group settings, aligning with the collaborative environment fostered by the Block Plan.
 - **Research in Applications:** Research experience can be included in the activities list, essays, or additional information.
 - **Undecided Majors:** CC offers dual advisors and mentoring programs for undecided students, along with career services to guide them in making the right academic decisions.
 - **International Students:** 7% of CC students are international, and CC seeks to build a diverse student body by considering students' lived experiences in the holistic review process.
 - **Other Colleges with the Block Plan:** Cornell College and a college in Canada also use the Block Plan.
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