

Colorado Colleges Road Trip

Plan a Spring Break Visit

Colorado's Four-Year Colleges and Universities:

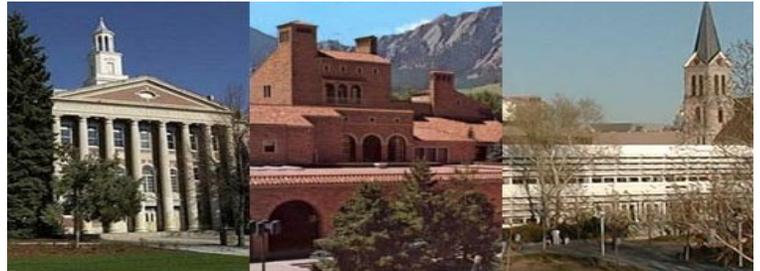
- * Adams State College
- * Colorado Christian University
- * Colorado College
- * Colorado Mesa University
- * Colorado School of Mines
- * Colorado State University
 - * Fort Collins
 - * Pueblo
- * Fort Lewis College
- * Johnson and Wales University
- * Metropolitan State University of Denver
- * Naropa University
- * Regis University
- * United States Air Force Academy
- * University of Colorado
 - * Boulder
 - * Colorado Springs
 - * Denver
- * University of Denver
- * University of Northern Colorado
- * Western State Colorado University

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Why Visit Colleges?

The applications have been submitted and soon the latest crop of high school seniors will be deciding where they will attend college this fall. As seniors finish the taxing college admissions process, sophomores and juniors are beginning their own search for a future home. For students and parents alike, one of the first tasks is deciding which colleges and universities to visit.



From left, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, University of Colorado, Boulder and the Auraria Campus in Denver

Choosing the right college is a major decision and it is often a difficult one. In the United States, there are more than 3,000 4-year colleges. Visiting schools helps you become familiar with a variety of higher education options and it helps you to narrow your selection criteria before you begin the application process. Before senior year see as many different kinds of colleges as you can—big schools, small schools, research universities, liberal arts colleges, urban campuses, and places way out in the country. By visiting

many colleges at a time when there is no pressure to "choose," you give yourself a broad perspective on what is out there. Check out what is available so that when it is time to apply to colleges, you know what you like and you know where to find it.

What Do You Like? Things to Consider:

- Public or Private?
- Four-year or two-year?
- Liberal Arts or University?
- Geographic Location - far or near? Small town or big city?
- Size of college —big or small?
- Religious or Non-Denominational?

Why Visit Colorado Colleges?

Parents and students should think in terms of the types of schools to visit rather than focusing on specific institutions when first approaching college visits. Doing this provides wider exposure to what is out there and helps students distinguish

what they like and what they do not like. College choices will then be much clearer.

Visiting the Colorado schools is an inexpensive way to experience most major types of colleges and universities.

Once students narrow their preferences, they can more efficiently expand their search to out-of-state schools if desired.

Colorado Colleges Road Trip

University of Colorado, Boulder

31,700 Students
Boulder population
103,000 (small metro)



The University of Colorado is a state flagship university and a major research university. Some state flagships are also land-grant colleges. Typically, the flagship is the state university that gets the most funding and is the most selective in admitting students. It is regarded as the top state university. Often, it is the

oldest institution of higher learning in the state. Examples are University of California, Berkeley, University of Michigan, University of Virginia, University of Washington, University of Texas at Austin, and University of Kansas. Flagships often include law, business and medical schools.

The University of Colorado is a university system and there are three other campuses: University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (11,000 students); University

of Colorado, Denver (14,000 students); and the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora (3,900 students). The Denver and the Colorado Springs campuses are examples of commuter schools. They both offer housing and they require freshmen to live on campus, but they exempt the local resident students. A sizable percent of their students commute from their parent's homes or from homes away from the campus area. Commuter schools have a very different feel, especially on the weekends.

Colorado State University

27,000 Students
Fort Collins
population 155,000
 (small metro)



CSU is a land-grant state university as well as a major research university. The focus of a land-grant university is teaching practical agriculture, science and engineering. This does

not exclude classical studies. Most land-grant colleges are large public universities, but some are private schools such as Cornell University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Examples of land-grant colleges are Auburn, Purdue, University of Florida (some schools are both land-grant colleges and state flagships), Kansas State, Iowa State, University

of Nebraska, Texas A&M, and Virginia Tech. Land-grant schools often include engineering and vet schools. The CSU system also includes CSU Pueblo, a regional university; and CSU -Global Campus, an on-line university.

Colorado College

2,060 Students
Colorado Springs
population 440,000
 (mid-size metro)



Colorado College is a private four-year, co-educational liberal arts college. The emphasis of liberal arts colleges is undergraduate education in

the liberal arts and sciences. Most do not offer engineering degrees. Faculty members are focused on undergraduate teaching, not research or graduate students. There is typically a low student to teacher ratio and students easily get to know their professors. Liberal arts colleges are typically private schools and can be

expensive, but if you need financial aid, private liberal arts colleges are often more generous than state institutions. Examples of liberal arts colleges are Williams, Amherst, Pomona, Carleton, Smith, and Grinnell.

Regis University

9,700 Students
Denver population
2.9 million (major metro)

Regis University is a coeducational, Roman Catholic, Jesuit university. The main campus is on 100 acres northwest of downtown Denver. The university also has five small satellite campuses throughout the state, including one in Colorado

Springs. One of the guiding principles of a Jesuit education is the education of the whole person. The focus is on academic excellence, ethics, compassion, and making a difference in the world. They promote religious diversity and they welcome students who are not Catholic. Examples of Jesuit colleges are Georgetown, Boston College, Loyola, Gonzaga and Santa Clara.



Colorado Christian College
1,100 Students
Lakewood population
147,000 (Suburb)

CCU is a private Christian liberal arts university. It fully integrates faith with its academics and requires chapel attendance, community service through a local or international ministry and signing of a Lifestyle Covenant.

Colorado School of Mines

5,700 Students
Golden population
20,000 (small city)



Colorado School of Mines is a public research university devoted to engineering and applied science. Their mission is to enhance the understanding of the earth, energy and the environment. They provide a technical education with extensive laboratories and hands-on training. Mines is an engineering school. Similar to engineering

schools are the polytechnic universities; their focus is the instruction and research of technical arts and applied sciences. Examples of engineering and polytechnic schools include Georgia Tech, MIT, Rensselaer Polytechnic, Worcester Polytechnic, and New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.

"Mines is a small university, serving a worldwide community, committed to a universal mission — to create solutions related to earth, energy and the environment."
- Dr. Nigel T. Middleton,
Senior Vice President for
Strategic Enterprises

University of Northern Colorado

12,075 Students
Greeley population
96,540 (small city/city)

The University of Northern Colorado is a directional university. A directional university is a state-supported university whose name includes a compass direction. Many directional

universities started out as teachers' colleges, broadening their educational missions in the 1950's or 1960's. In most instances, a directional university has easier admissions standards than its state's flagship university. Examples of directional universities are University of Northern Arizona, Western Michigan

University, University of South Florida, and Western Washington University.



Adams State, Fort Lewis, and Western State

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Western State | Fort Lewis | Adams State |
| 2,200 Students | 3,860 Students | 3,700 Students |
| Gunnison population | Durango population | Alamosa population |
| 5,875 (college town) | 16,900 (small city) | 9,100 (small town) |

These are small four-year colleges. Small colleges typically do not have large research missions and they offer limited or no advanced degrees. They often offer small class sizes, dedicated faculty, and a supportive learning environment that provides each student with the skills he or she needs to succeed.

United States Air Force Academy

4,400 Cadets

Colorado Springs population 440,000 (mid-size metro)

The USAFA is one of five United States service academies charged with the education and training of future officers for the U.S. military. Cadets and midshipmen graduate as commissioned officers and are obligated to service for a certain period of time, usually five years, although many choose to stay and make the military a life-long career. The other service academies are the United States Military Academy (West Point), the United States Coast Guard Academy, the United States Naval Academy and the United States Merchant Marine Academy. Other schools offer military training. Some colleges have a mixed student body that includes a Corps of Cadets and traditional civilian students. Examples are Texas A&M, Virginia Tech and Norwich. The Citadel and Virginia Military Academy do not have the mixed student body and require all their students to be cadets and participate in ROTC. Many colleges offer ROTC programs.

Two Year Colleges

These are educational institutions that provide higher education for the equivalent of two years. Students can earn a vocational or associates degree in two years or they can transfer to a four-year college to earn a bachelor's degree. They are typically less expensive than four year colleges and they have open admission. There are residential campuses and non-residential campuses. Examples of residential campuses are Trinidad State Junior College (Trinidad), Northeastern Junior College (Sterling), Colorado Mountain College (Steamboat, Leadville, and Glenwood), and Colorado Northwestern Community College (Rifle). Examples of non-residential campuses are Pikes Peak Community College (Colorado Springs) and Pueblo Community College (Pueblo).

Distance from Colorado Springs:

- * Alamosa 43 miles, 2 hours 32 minutes
- * Boulder 97 miles, 1 hour 36 minutes
- * Denver 70 miles, 1 hour 8 minutes
- * Durango 314 miles, 5 hours 20 minutes
- * Fort Collins 133 miles, 2 hours 5 minutes
- * Golden 83 miles, 1 hour 7 minutes
- * Grand Junction 311 miles, 4 hours 48 minutes
- * Greeley 132 miles, 2 hours 3 minutes
- * Gunnison 172 miles, 3 hours 8 minutes
- * Lakewood 73 miles, 1 hour 11 minutes
- * Pueblo 43 miles, 38 minutes

