ABOUT CU DENVER

University of Colorado Denver
We are Denver’s partner in progress and ally in innovation. Our connection to our vibrant city inspires leading research, creative work, and civic engagement. Our collaboration with Denver’s businesses and local government helps set us apart from other universities.

With a history that began in 1912, CU Denver has operated independently since 1973. Our location in downtown Denver serves more than 15,000 students. In Colorado and around the world, our talented graduates form a diverse and growing Lynx family.

We work to create welcoming and respectful learning environments where a culture of inclusion can flourish. At CU Denver, we honor our diversity of experiences and perspectives in the committed belief that they enrich the educational experience for all.

Other reasons why students choose the University of Colorado Denver:

Small class sizes: average undergraduate student-to-teacher ratio is 18:1.

Collaborative culture: Cross-disciplinary learning and research is a core value: programs blend technology with health care, business with public policy, and behavioral health with architecture.

Choices: With seven schools and colleges offering more than 110 degree programs, the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medial Campus is a major university for the coming century.

About Our Students
The diversity of our student body is a source of deep pride. With students of color making up 43 percent of the student body, CU Denver is the most diverse research university in Colorado. Classes are filled with traditional students who enrolled after high school as well as transfer students and those who delayed college entry. Many professionals enroll mid-career to retool and strengthen their skills. The average age of an undergraduate student is 23 years while the average graduate student is 32 years old.

Bringing a rich mix of backgrounds, students travel across the country and the world to attend CU Denver. Domestic students come from 52 states and US territories and international students from 135 countries. All take advantage of convenient courses at times that meet their schedules. An enviable student-to-faculty ratio of 18:1 and a high-tech advising platform means students receive focused attention from professors and a clear path to graduation.

University Quick Facts
CU Denver Quick Facts*
Enrollment
- 14,509 students
- 68% undergraduate, 32% graduate/professional
- 74% full-time students
- 83% from Colorado
- 17% nonresident students of which International students come from 135 different countries
- 43% male, 56% female

Student-to-Faculty Ratio
- 18:1

Diverse Population
- 50% of enrolled students are students of color
- 51% of all new enrolled students are students of color
- Average age of undergraduate students: 23
- Average age of graduate students: 32
- Students from 52 states and US territories and 135 countries

Average entering ACT score
- 23.2 Composite

Average entering SAT score
- 554 Math
- 559 Verbal

Average high school GPA
- 3.5

Schools and Colleges on the CU Denver Campus
College of Architecture and Planning (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-architecture-planning/)

College of Arts & Media (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-arts-media-cam/)
Business School (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/business-school/)

School of Education & Human Development (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/school-education-human-development/)

College of Engineering, Design and Computing (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-engineering-design-computing/)

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/)

School of Public Affairs (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/school-public-affairs/)

Programs
More than 110 degrees and programs across seven schools and colleges

Degrees
- Bachelor’s
- Master’s
- Doctoral
- First professional

Most-enrolled Undergraduate Degree Programs
- Biology
- Psychology
- Computer Science
- Music
- Fine Arts

Most-enrolled Graduate Degree Programs
- Business Administration
- Information Systems
- Public Administration
• Leadership for Education Equity
• Computer Science

Research Funding
More than $400 million in sponsored research annually

Alumni
• 110,000+ alumni
• 67% live in Colorado

National Rankings
US News and World Report 2022
• #112 in Top Public Schools
• #59 Top Performer on Social Mobility
• #165 in Best Undergraduate Engineering programs
• #126 in Best Engineering Schools
• #28 in Graduate Healthcare Management programs
• #29 among Graduate Public Affairs programs
  • #10 in Environmental Policy and Management
  • #25 in Local Government Management
  • #16 in Nonprofit Management
  • #19 in Public Finance and Budgeting
  • #21 in Public Management and Leadership
• #106 in Best Graduate Education Schools
• #19 in Public Finance and Budgeting
• #28 in Graduate Healthcare Management programs
• #29 among Graduate Public Affairs programs
  • #10 in Environmental Policy and Management
  • #25 in Local Government Management
  • #16 in Nonprofit Management
  • #19 in Public Finance and Budgeting
  • #21 in Public Management and Leadership
• #106 in Best Graduate Education Schools

*Based on Fall 2022 enrollment

From the Chancellor
Welcome to Colorado’s public urban research university, where a diverse student body through quality academics, ambitious research and creative work, and community engagement in the city we call home. We are CU in the city.

Your success is our #1 priority. At CU Denver, you will benefit from:

Academic choices: More than 100 high-quality, in-demand degree programs in seven schools and colleges, leading to bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees; hands-on learning opportunities, including work in research labs, service learning, study abroad and work-study;

Powerful connections: To partnerships, projects, internships and career opportunities in downtown Denver; to the vibrant arts and culture scene at our front door; and to a network of influential alumni who are leaders in Denver’s civic, nonprofit and business communities;

Outstanding location: Access to a vibrant, safe urban lifestyle; resources and support to develop innovative solutions to complex local and global issues; and opportunities to build your skills in the city ranked by Forbes as the #1 Best Place for Business and Careers.

CU Denver is a place of academic excellence, where you will gain the powerful combination of immersive classroom and project-based experiences that are in demand today. Here you will meet gifted faculty, experts in their field, dedicated to student success, academic excellence and the real-world applications of their research and creative work. You will interact with fellow students who are diverse, goal-oriented and energetic. Whether you engage in undergraduate or graduate studies, the University of Colorado Denver degree earns global respect and you can be confident that you will have been well-prepared for the next stage of your work or academic life.

We’re delighted you’ve chosen CU Denver!

Michelle A. Marks, PhD
Chancellor

CU Denver Strategic Priorities
CU Denver 2030 Strategic Plan
CU Denver’s 2030 strategic plan is a profound repositioning of CU Denver to be a public urban research university that works for all: learners of all kinds and at all stages of life, industries and employers that need talent ready to hit the ground running, and communities requiring new solutions and discoveries.

Goals for 2030
Our plan is designed to not only reset the playing field, but to change the game, increase access to an excellent education, and tackle some of the grandest challenges facing our society, all in service of the idea that CU Denver should work for all.

1. CU Denver will be the first equity-serving institution in the nation
2. Become known as a university for life
3. Be internationally known for its research and creative work
4. Serve as the anchor institution for an open innovation district in downtown Denver
5. Be known as a people-centered “Best Place to Work”

To learn more about CU Denver’s Strategic Planning initiatives, please visit our website (https://www.ucdenver.edu/about/leadership/strategic-planning/).

History Spanning More Than 50 Years
Located on the downtown Auraria Campus and stretching into Denver’s central business district, the University of Colorado Denver educates 15,000 students in the heart of an emerging global city. Part of the University of Colorado system (https://www.cu.edu/about-cu-system/?_ga=2.198221871.1449492668.1588702111-627714767.1588702111&_gac=1.18150475.1586808742.Cj0KCQjwm9D0BRCMARIsAIfvfIakqGT2NJ3o- 67% live in Colorado

CU Denver will be the first equity-serving institution in the nation

Our Origins
CU Denver is located on the traditional territories and ancestral homelands of the Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Ute nations. We acknowledge the painful history of genocide and forced removal from this territory and pay our respects to the diverse Indigenous Peoples still connected to this land. We give thanks to all Tribal Nations and the ancestors of this place and have developed a formal Land Acknowledgement (https://news.ucdenver.edu/this-land-is-their-land-universities-and-indigenous-acknowledgment-statements/) as one way to honor this past.

Our recent history acknowledges the Auraria neighborhood—(https://news.ucdenver.edu/honoring-displaced-aurarians-and-their-families-now-and-into-the-future/) composed largely of Hispanic community members—that was dismantled in the 1970s to construct the Auraria Higher Education Campus (AHEC) of which CU Denver is a part. CU Denver is committed to honoring the displaced Aurarians in multiple ways, including through the expanded Displaced Aurarian Scholarship Program.
Program and a commitment to revitalize historic Ninth Street Park (https://ucdenver.edu/about-cu-denver/cudenveronninth/+).

Honoring Our Past

CU Denver continues to acknowledge its past and that of Colorado’s—from its ancestral lands and Hispanic heritage to its modern-day operation as a premier minority-serving public research institution making education work for all.

CU Denver Timeline

Take a look at where we began, occupying one building in downtown Denver, and where we ended up—we now serve more than 15,000 students a year.

1800s - Early 1900s

Gold Sparks a New Neighborhood

The history of Auraria is one of the oldest of modern-day Denver. In the years leading up to the 1800s, this land was the home of the Cheyenne, Ute, and Arapaho. Auraria, or aurum, is Latin for “gold,” which was found in the Cherry Creek in 1858, igniting a small gold rush that established the Auraria settlement. Houses, businesses, and places of worship were built in the Auraria neighborhood over the next 50 years, and the neighborhood evolved over time to become largely Hispanic.

The Tivoli Brewery, built in 1870 in the Auraria neighborhood, operated for nearly 100 years before closing in 1966. Restored and opened in 1994 as the Auraria Campus Student Union. Today the Tivoli Student Union houses offices, study areas, the campus bookstore, restaurants, and a revived brewery.

1912 - 1960s

CU Expands in Denver

CU Denver originated in 1912, when the University of Colorado’s Department of Correspondence and Extension was established to meet the needs of Denver’s growing population. Holding classes in buildings across Speer Boulevard from the Auraria neighborhood—including in the Frontier Hotel’s bar—the institution became known as Denver’s “UCLA” (the University of Colorado between Lawrence and Arapahoe Streets).

As course offerings expanded, the Denver Extension Center was renamed the University of Colorado Denver Center in 1965. It was an institution that at its root helped nontraditional, working students pursue degrees, build skills, or simply enrich their lives near where they lived and worked. Demand grew and by 1969, 23 fields of undergraduate study and 11 of graduate study were offered. A Colorado constitutional amendment established CU Denver as an independent institution in 1973.

1970s

A Neighborhood Displaced

During the early 1970s, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development designated the Auraria neighborhood an urban renewal area and Denver voters approved a referendum and bond issue to build the Auraria Campus. In a unique arrangement, three institutions of higher education—CU Denver, Metropolitan State University Denver, and the Community College of Denver—would be housed on one campus.

By 1974, most of the buildings in the Auraria neighborhood were condemned and razed.

A well-established, close-knit, largely Hispanic community of more than 300 households was displaced in the name of urban development.

Thirteen cottages and one grocery store were preserved. Today they make up the 9th Street historic park on campus, the oldest restored block of residences in the city.

The university began the Displaced Aurarian Scholarship program (https://www.ucdenver.edu/student-finances/scholarships/displaced-aurarian/#--text=The%20Displaced%20Aurarian%20Scholarship%20is%20available%20to%20descendants%20of%20these%20residents) in the 1990s to provide tuition and fees for former residents of the Auraria neighborhood and their children and grandchildren. The university expanded the program in 2021 as part of a long-term effort to honor and support the displaced Aurarians and acknowledge the long-term impacts the taking of their homes has had on them, their families, and their livelihoods.

1980s – Today

Auraria and CU Denver Today

The establishment of this unique, innovative, tri-institutional campus, while carrying a difficult history, has made it possible for hundreds of thousands of people to improve their own lives through an affordable, high-quality education. Today the Auraria Campus serves more than 40,000 students across all three institutions.

CU Denver has grown, as well. As the most diverse research university in Colorado, CU Denver today draws top students each year and offers over 110 undergraduate and graduate degree programs (https://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/) across eight schools and colleges, as well as more than 30 online degree programs and numerous certificate and non-degree programs. (https://online.cu.edu/)

Home to more than 40 research centers and institutes, the campus receives sponsored research awards annually to generate knowledge and create solutions to society’s most complex problems. CU Denver fills a singular niche as a vital contributor to the civic, cultural, and economic success of the city, the state, and beyond.

In more recent years:

• Downtown Denver has flourished, and CU Denver’s geographic footprint has expanded
• We opened the the Lola and Rob Salazar Student Wellness Center (https://news.ucdenver.edu/lola-rob-salazar-student-wellness-center-opens-july-11/)
• We introduced club and intramural sports
• We built our first freshmen dorm in City Heights and a companion Learning Commons (https://news.ucdenver.edu/new-city-heights-residence-hall-and-learning-commons-opens/) facility for teaching and learning
• We launched an ambitious 2030 Strategic Plan (https://news.ucdenver.edu/work-for-all-how-cu-denver-will-become-a-leading-public-urban-research-university-by-2030/) that aims to make education work for all
• We announced the planned revitalization of historic Ninth Street Park (https://www.denverpost.com/2022/03/31/auraria-campus-ninth-street-historic-district-renovations/) and the construction of a brand new engineering, design, and computing building (https://news.ucdenver.edu/new-engineering-design-and-computing-building-will-serve-as-anchor-for-innovation-district-outlined-in-2030-strategic-plan/), the anchor of our forthcoming innovation district
Accreditation
The University of Colorado Denver is institutionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

The commission can be contacted at:

Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604
800.621.7449
www.hlcommission.org

Many professional organizations have also granted accreditation to specific academic programs, colleges and schools at the Denver Campus, including:

- College of Architecture and Planning (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-architecture-planning/)
  - National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAB)
  - Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB)
  - Planning Accreditation Board (PAB)
- Business School (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/business-school/)
  - Association for the Advancement of Collegiate Schools of Business - International (AACSB International)
  - AACSB
  - Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME)
- School of Education & Human Development (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/school-education-human-development/)
  - Colorado Department of Education and Colorado Department on Higher Education
  - Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE)
  - Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)
  - National Association of School Psychologists
  - American Psychological Association - Commission on Accreditation
- College of Engineering, Design and Computing (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/engineering-design-computing/)
  - Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)
  - ABET - Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC)
  - ABET - Computing Accreditation Commission (CAC)
- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/liberal-arts-sciences/)
  - American Chemical Society (ACS) approved degree
  - American Psychological Association

School of Public Affairs (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/school-public-affairs/)
  - National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA)

For more information regarding specialized accreditations for degree programs, please visit this website (https://www.ucdenver.edu/offices/institutional-research-and-effectiveness/data-analysis/institutional-data/#ac-specialized-accreditations-for-degree-programs-6) or contact the school or college.

Our Programs
As Colorado's only public urban research university, CU Denver is devoted to the needs of the residents of the city and the region. A solid foundation of academic and general education is assured through a comprehensive core curriculum. Students may pursue graduate education through all of the campus' colleges and schools. Pre-professional training in the fields of education, architecture, law, journalism and health careers is also available. Complete listings of areas of study available on the Denver Campus are available in the Programs (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/programs-a-z/) section of the catalog.

The colleges and schools sections of this catalog provide information on bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree programs, policies on requirements for graduation, course requirements, course descriptions and other similar information.

- College of Architecture and Planning (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-architecture-planning/)
- College of Arts & Media (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-arts-media/)
- Business School (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/business-school/)
- School of Education & Human Development (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/school-education-human-development/)
- School of Engineering, Design and Computing (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/engineering-design-computing/)
- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/liberal-arts-sciences/)
- School of Public Affairs (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/school-public-affairs/)

Continuing and Professional Education
The Division of Continuing and Professional Education offers certificate/certification courses, professional development programs, precollegiate outreach programs and personal enrichment courses across the state of Colorado. Courses are offered in a variety of formats, including traditional on-campus, off-campus, online, hybrid, weekend, evening, short and condensed courses and many others.

Registration and tuition vary by school or college. Contact the specific school or college to learn about current program and course offerings or send an inquiry to continuingeducation@ucdenver.edu.