

MIDFIELD

University of Colorado Boulder

Nate Eckhart, Cathy Brawner, Nichole Ramirez

July 27, 2018



About the University

- Colorado Boulder is the flagship public university in Colorado. It has a moderately sized engineering program, being the second largest program at Boulder. Parts of the movie "Sleeper," with Woody Allen, were filmed at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. As of 2017-2018 Colorado Boulder had an undergrad enrollment of about 28,000 students and a graduation rate of 71%.

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Overview

The following information is applicable for the years 1989-2018, and if a year is not specified, assume it is consistent throughout the range. Any footnotes will be referred at the end of each section. Note: this is meant to be a summary, and does not include all and every specific detail on the policies discussed.

Term type*

- The campus operates year round, with fall and spring semesters of 16 weeks each and a summer term that includes two three-week sessions (Maymester and Augmester), two five-week sessions, an eight-week session, a 10-week session and two intensive (one- or more-week) sessions. Starting in 2017-2018, there is also a winter session between the fall and spring semesters.

*Between the 2005-2006 to the 2007-2008 catalogs, the front cover of the catalog is missing, which is where this information is drawn from. Furthermore, the information in year 2008-2009 is identical to the 2004-2005 catalog, so it is assumed that there were no changes in the interim.

Admissions, Engineering, 1st Year

Automatic Admission

- Up until 2012-2013 the catalog mentions guaranteed admission for Colorado residents, however instead of requirements, it lists a phone number, and links to a website (prior to 2001-2002 it lists a PO box)

General Admissions Policies

- A personal essay is required
- Students are reviewed for any grades of D or F or deficiencies in any of the Minimum Academic Preparation Standards (MAPS). MAPS are required for all domestic students and any international students who have completed more than four semesters of U.S. schooling. International students with four or fewer semesters of U.S. schooling should refer to their country's specific requirements.
 - The MAPS for engineering are:
 - English: 4 units
 - Mathematics: 4 units (includes at least 2 of algebra, 1 of geometry and 1 of college preparatory math such as trigonometry, analytic geometry or elementary functions)
 - Natural Science: 3 units (2 of physics AND 1 of biology or chemistry; OR 2 of chemistry AND 1 of physics or biology; OR 2 of biology AND 1 of chemistry or physics; OR 1 of physics AND 1 of chemistry or biology AND 1 of another science)
 - Social Science: 3 units (includes at least 1 unit of U.S. or World History)
 - Foreign Language: 3 years of the same foreign language or 2 years in each of two different foreign languages
- CU Boulder requires either the SAT or the ACT for admission consideration. They do not require the ACT Writing Test or the SAT Essay. The highest scores are used in the admission decision. If the same test is taken more than once, the subscores are combined on each

subsection to give the highest overall score. SAT subject test scores are not required. CU Boulder requires all visa holders graduating from a US high school to submit either an SAT or ACT score. They encourage all students to submit an SAT or ACT score to receive consideration or automatic consideration for merit scholarships

- Between the 2014-2015 and the 2016-2017 school year, CU-Boulder also requires the ALEKS Mathematical Skills Assessment for some majors

Admissions, Engineering, Transfer

Automatic Admissions

- Boulder has an articulation agreement with other in-state universities that do not offer an engineering program and in-state community colleges.
 - Guaranteed Admission (1997-2018):
 - At least two full-time semesters (or 24 credit hours) at a Colorado public institution must be satisfactorily completed immediately prior to the transfer.
 - Colorado public institution cumulative GPA of at least 3.30
 - Grades in math, science, engineering, communications, and writing courses must be B or better.
 - Must complete two semesters of college-level calculus and one of the following sequences:
 - Two semesters of calculus-based physics
 - One semester of calculus-based physics AND one semester of college-level chemistry.
 - Two semesters of college-level chemistry (Recommended for Chemical, Chemical and Biological, and Environmental Engineering applicants.)

College level hours to be considered a transfer

- Students with at any college credit are considered a transfer, unless the credit was taken during high school.

Preferred Admissions

- Cumulative college GPA of a 3.00
- Completion of two semesters of college-level calculus and one semester of calculus based physics or college-level chemistry
- Grades in math and science courses should be B or better. Chemical, Chemical and Biological, and Environmental Engineering majors must take one semester of chemistry but are encouraged to take two semesters.

- Exception: students (resident or nonresident) who apply for admission for a semester which occurs within 18 months of their high school graduation date may also be competitive without having taken the above course work, as long as their MAPS criteria are completed
- ◉—As of the 2014-2015 school year, the only difference in the competitive transfer criteria is a college GPA of 3.250 or higher for four-year institutions

Requirements to transfer

- A minimum grade of C- is required to receive transfer credit for a course.
- *Beginning in 1997, the wording is changed from “Admission Requirements” to “Competitive Admission Requirements”

Admissions, International Requirements

- In 2017-2018, there is an English proficiency requirement for the College of Engineering, however prior to this year the only mentions of a proficiency exam are in other colleges.
 - TOEFL: 83 (writing subscore 19 or higher) or
 - IELTS: 6.5 (writing subscore 5.5 or higher)
- Other admission criteria are the same as other admissions (Transfer or 1st year respectively), however the MAPS criteria can be replaced by an equivalent of the education system of the country of origin.

Engineering Matriculation Model

Direct to Department—anyone admitted may apply for any major

- As of 1996-1997, when students apply to the College of Engineering and Applied Science from high school, they may indicate to enter the college as "open option" (unsure of engineering major), or they may select a preliminary engineering major. Sometime after completion of the first semester, and by the eighth week of the second semester, all students should finalize and confirm their choice of major in the College. Prior to 1996, there is no mention of how students apply to the college and get accepted.

Special placement or programs for less qualified students

- Colorado Boulder has 2 programs for less qualified students who want to pursue engineering beginning during the 2014-2015 school year onward*:
 - The pre-engineering program is designed to facilitate the successful transition of qualified first-year students in the College of Arts and Sciences into the College of Engineering and Applied Science. The program provides a structured pathway of CU Boulder course

work combined with academic advising support from both the College of Engineering and Applied Science and the College of Arts and Sciences. The program serves qualified first-time freshmen applicants who initially applied to the College of Engineering and Applied Science, but were alternatively offered admission to the College of Arts and Sciences pre-engineering program. Pre-engineering students prepare for a transition to the engineering college by successfully completing specific math, science and engineering courses. Minimum grade, credit, and GPA requirements must be met to secure the transition from pre-engineering to engineering. Through special registration access to select engineering courses, most students can complete engineering admission requirements in three semesters, while some may do so in as few as two semesters. The maximum length of time in the pre-engineering program for any student is four semesters, at which point the student will either be admitted to engineering or will transition into an arts and sciences major. Pre-engineering students receive dual support from advisors in both the College of Engineering and Applied Science and the College of Arts and Sciences. They are also encouraged to live on campus in engineering affiliated living communities and actively engage in engineering student societies and organizations.

- The Engineering GoldShirt Program supports motivated and talented students who need additional math, science, or humanities preparation to be adequately prepared for the full undergraduate engineering curriculum. If accepted, students are directly admitted into the College of Engineering and Applied Science. First-year coursework focuses on enhancing student preparation for success in their chosen engineering major. The Engineering GoldShirt Program, hosted through CU's BOLD (Broadening Opportunity through Leadership and Diversity) Center, was created to address the college's inclusive excellence goals. The BOLD team provides mentoring, academic, and social support for all Engineering GoldShirt students. Leadership and personal development training are part of the unique Engineering GoldShirt curriculum.

*Data for the Goldshirt program can only be obtained for the 2017-2018 school year, as it does not appear in the catalogs, and an archive of webpages does not exist. Non-catalog publications indicate that the program has been in place since approximately 2012.

Readmission for Students in Good Academic Standing

- CU Boulder undergraduate degree-seeking students who have not attended the Boulder campus for three semesters (including summer) since their last graded semester must submit

the undergraduate Application for Readmission to the Office of Admissions. No application fee is required.

- Students who have attended any other college or university since attending CU Boulder must submit official transcripts directly from the issuing institution(s) to the Office of Admissions.
- Students seeking readmission into a different college or school than that in which they were previously enrolled must note the requested change on their application. Otherwise, the university assumes that students will return to the same field of study.
- Former CU-Boulder degree students who are not currently enrolled on the Boulder campus must submit the Application for Readmission for undergraduate degree students. No application fee is required. Students who have attended any college or university since their last attendance at CU-Boulder will need to submit official transcripts directly from the issuing institution(s) to the Office of Admissions.
 - Beginning in 2010-2011, continuing undergraduate degree-seeking students who do not attend for three or fewer semesters (including summer), and who were not academically suspended are automatically eligible to return without having to readmit. This policy includes degree-seeking undergraduates who are only taking classes through Continuing Education.

Grading Policies

Audit

- Auditing a course cannot be used for fulfilling graduation requirements. Once a course has been taken for no credit it cannot be repeated for a grade. Consequently, a student must petition before enrolling for any course no credit (by the third week of classes at the latest). A student is still subject to course tuition and fee expenses when registering for a course with the no credit option.

Course Repeat policy

- Students cannot reenroll in courses in which they earned a C- or better. The most recent occurrence of the subject is the grade which is applied (e.g., to meet a grade required for a prerequisite course), however, all grades are used when calculating GPA. If a student has earned AP or IB college credit and then subsequently enrolls in that course content, the later grade is applied. Beginning in 2017-2018, a student may not enroll in a course more than 3 times.

Credit without grades

- Credit for College Board Advanced Placement examinations cannot be evaluated from college or high school transcripts; score reports from the College Board must be submitted

directly to the university for evaluation. The specific score required varies by exam.

- Credit for College Board subject examinations of the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) in general biology, general chemistry, general psychology, introductory macroeconomics, introductory microeconomics, introductory sociology and calculus may be granted for a score at or above the 67th percentile. This credit is applied toward degree requirements at the discretion of the student's dean. Refer to the appropriate dean's office for the policy of that college or school.
- General credit is granted for approved IB examinations at the higher level with a score of 4 or better. Students admitted to the University of Colorado Boulder who have graduated from high school with an International Baccalaureate Diploma shall be granted 24 hours of college credit. This credit will be applied toward degree requirements ONLY if approved by the college or school. Depending on the student's degree program, some of the 24 credit hours may not be applicable toward degree requirements. No CU Boulder tuition will be charged for these credits and the 24 credits will only be granted if the student receives a score of 4 or better on an examination administered as part of the IB Diploma program. If the student scores less than 4 on each IB subject test, the credit hours granted will be reduced accordingly. Official scores must be sent to the admissions office directly from the IB organization.
- Additionally, between 1989-2017 there are limited opportunities for students to take an examination and earn credit for a course without registering for or taking the course. Specific courses must be approved for credit by examination. Students may want to exercise this option if they do not receive transfer credit for a course they have taken at a previous college. Beginning in 2018, this option is not mentioned.

Drop and Withdrawal

- Students may drop individual classes with a refund and no record (no W grades) through the "Drop Deadline", which is specified in a supplementary catalog that is not on the website.
 - Starting in 1998, the drop deadline is the third Wednesday of the fall or spring semester
 - Starting in 1998 students may drop one or more of their enrolled courses themselves through the 6th week of the semester. After that final drop deadline published by the Registrar's Office (but before the last day of classes in the semester), engineering students with documented extenuating circumstances may petition. In 2014-2015, this deadline was extended to the 10th week of the semester.
 - No one may withdraw after the last day of classes in any term
 - The petition should indicate what the student is requesting with a detailed explanation of

the extenuating circumstance(s) beyond the student's control, and the student must specifically address why the course could not have been dropped prior to the 10th week final drop deadline. Supporting documentation should accompany the petition (e.g., a letter from the student's doctor indicating the nature of the situation and how it impacted academics). The entire package should be dropped off at the Engineering Dean's Office reception desk; once the petition is reviewed by the College's Undergraduate Affairs Review Board the student will be notified of the decision.

- Students may withdraw themselves (i.e., drop all of their enrolled courses) through the last day of classes in the semester as of the 2014-2015 school year
 - Prior to the 2014-2015 school year no refunds will be made for students who withdraw after the third Wednesday of instruction. However, students who feel they have circumstances that may warrant a tuition adjustment and who withdraw after the third Wednesday of instruction through the fifth Wednesday of instruction, may petition the Registrar's office to be refunded 60 percent of total tuition and mandatory fees (CUSG student fees, athletic fee, and capital construction fee). Students who withdraw after the fifth Wednesday of instruction through the seventh Wednesday of instruction may petition to be assessed 40 percent of total tuition and mandatory fees. After the seventh Wednesday of instruction students may not petition the Office of the Registrar for any tuition adjustment. If there are extenuating circumstances (university error, recent medical condition, immediate family emergency, recent unanticipated financial problems, verification of non-attendance), students may dispute tuition and mandatory fee charges through the Bursar's office.
 - International students must be approved for withdrawals by an ISSS Office advisor.
 - After the last day of classes, students may no longer withdraw themselves from courses but may consider the campus Retroactive Withdrawal process, if desired. Once a student withdrawal is processed, the courses in the given semester reflect a 'W' grade.

Grade Weights and Grading Scale

A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3

C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
D-	0.7
F	0.0

Incompletes

- Incomplete grades are given only when students, for documented reasons beyond their control, are unable to complete course requirements. A substantial amount of work must have been satisfactorily completed before approval for such a grade is given.
 - Beginning in 2008-2009, the incomplete system was changed from IF (Incomplete Fail) and IW (Incomplete Withdraw) to just I (Incomplete)
 - In the college of Engineering and Applied Science a grade of IW cannot be assigned
 - An incomplete Grade Record Form must be completed by the instructor and student. In addition to reflecting the course and term taught, it also states what work must be completed to award the final grade and when the work must be finished
 - Incomplete grades are not calculated into the GPA.
 - If a student does not complete a course assigned an incomplete grade within one year, the incomplete grade will automatically convert to an F or W grade respectively.
 - When the IW/IF system was discontinued, the I grade is converted to a F after one year
 - Students cannot repeat an equivalent course at another campus of the university or at another institution and expect the CU-Boulder grade of “IW/IF” to be removed, changed, or excluded from conversion to an F/W.
 - A student is expected to complete any course with an “I” grade and not to re-enroll in a course in which a grade of “I” was awarded.
 - Once the work has been completed, the instructor must complete and submit a Change of Record form. However, it is the student's responsibility to verify that the grade change was processed and is reflected properly on the transcript.

Independent study

- The College allows a maximum of 6 hours of Independent Study degree credit towards the BS, but major departments may be more restrictive.
 - A maximum of 3 hours may be taken in any one semester.

- Prior written approval, via the College's Independent Study Agreement, is required prior to any initiation of course work.
- For an undergraduate student to be eligible for Independent Study, a student should have completed a significant portion of his/her undergraduate studies with a very good GPA, and must have some relevant background knowledge and/or experience.
- Colorado Commission of Higher Education (CCHE) policy states that a minimum of 25 hours of work-time on the part of the student is required for each 1 semester hour of Independent Study credit.
- Independent Study is to be enrolled for in the same time frame as all other courses

Pass/fail

- The College allows a maximum of six pass/fail credit hours per semester. Pass/fail hours counting toward graduation shall not exceed a cumulative total of 16.
 - Not all majors in the College allow students to take courses pass/fail. Because this varies, students are required to submit a petition requesting approval to register for a course with the pass/fail grade option (by the third week of classes at the latest).
 - CU Boulder sponsored study abroad programs convert grades to Pass/Fail and are exempt from institutional limits placed on Pass/Fail credit.

Academic Progress - Engineering

Academic Good Standing

- Good Academic Standing (GAS) (1989-2011): 2.000
- Good Academic Standing (2011-2018): 2.250

Consequences of not meeting required performance

- If adequate progress in the major is not completed the first semester, the student is placed on Academic Probation.
 - If a student is placed on AP, they are required to remain in that status for two consecutive semesters, and they are required to maintain fulltime student status (12 hours), and are not allowed to go over 16 hours. This requirement can be appealed, but if the student does not maintain fulltime status for the time on probation, the time of AP will be extended.
 - Furthermore, coursework that does not progress towards degree requirements (i.e. humanities, ROTC, social sciences, etc.) does not count towards the 12 credits required to maintain fulltime status
 - If the student's cGPA is less than GAS but above 1.000: For the first semester of AP, the student must attain a semester GPA of at least GAS. For the second semester of AP the

student must attain a semester GPA, and cumulative GPA, of at least GAS. Summer term is not included.

- If the student has two consecutive semesters (summer term not included) with semester grade point averages less than GAS: For the first semester of AP, the student must attain a semester GPA, and cumulative GPA, of at least GAS. For the second semester of AP, the student must attain a semester GPA, and cumulative GPA, of at least GAS. Summer term is not included.
- If AP is due to both circumstances, the student will be placed under the first condition
- Beginning in 2014 if a student completes at least 12 graded credit hours of CU-Boulder engineering curriculum coursework in the student's first semester of AP (i.e., fulfilling all requirements specified in the previous paragraph above, along with no incomplete or missing grades), and the student's semester GPA is at least 3.250, and the cumulative GPA is at least 2.250, the student's strong performance allows him or her to come off of AP a semester early and be restored to good academic standing.
- Students will be placed on academic suspension if, while on AP, they fail to meet the academic requirements associated with AP. Beginning in 1999-2000 a student will be placed directly on academic suspension if the CU cumulative grade point average is below a 1.000. The College of Engineering and Applied Science takes the action of academic suspension on the premise that the student is currently unable to make satisfactory academic progress toward a Bachelor of Science degree.
 - The period of suspension is indefinite, but must be at least one academic semester if it is the first suspension and two semesters for the second academic suspension. A third academic suspension is permanent and the student may not return to the College.
 - While suspended, the student is not allowed to take any regular classes at any CU campuses, and has the following options to raise their GPA to be readmitted.
 - The student may enroll in "Evening Credit" and "Online Credit" courses offered by the CU Boulder Continuing Education Office. During the fall and spring semesters, students must earn a term GPA of GAS or higher.
 - The student may enroll in "Summer Session" courses at any of the CU campuses. Students on academic suspension may not be enrolled in more than 16 credit hours at a time (in any combination of the aforementioned courses), and all CU-Boulder Continuing Education enrollment policies apply.
 - The student needs to attain a cGPA of at least GAS to continue with an engineering degree. Furthermore, if a student is eligible (not defined), they are allowed to complete coursework at other non-UC institutions, but need to be preapproved beforehand

- Between 1998-2010, under certain circumstances the dean of the school of Engineering can extend the probationary term (avoiding suspension), under his discretion.
- Must have a minimum GPA of 1.95
- Trend of grades must have an upward trajectory
- Must still be enrolled and intend to graduate from the College of Engineering
- Must have completed 15 hours per semester for the previous two semesters of probation
- For first semester freshmen in 2017-2018 there is an additional academic standing of Academic Alert. Students placed on academic alert instead of AP must improve their cGPA to at least GAS by the next semester, or they are placed on AP
 - If the student does not achieve a term GPA of at least GAS, the student is immediately suspended

Classification Hours

Classification	Credits
Freshman	0-29.9
Sophomore	30-59.9
Junior	60-89.9
Senior	90-124

Engineering Degree Progression

Common Introduction to Engineering

- There are introduction to Engineering courses, however it is up to the major to decide which, if any, are required

Engineering Co-Op

- Boulder has an optional co-op program that students can apply for from sophomore year on. Co-op is for one semester at a time.

Progress in Engineering Major

- Each department decides what courses each student is required to take, however there are several courses that most engineering students are expected to take, and they are as follows: APPM 1350 (Calc I), 1360 (Calc II), 2350 (Calc III), 2360 (Differential Equations), PHYS 1110 (General Physics I), 1120 (General Physics II), and after 2017-2018, CSCI 1320 (Computer Science I) was added to the list
- GPA to Graduate: 2.250

Financial Aid

Does/does not meet full demonstrated need

- Colorado Boulder spreads out grant money to help many students; therefore, grant funding will never pay the full cost of an academic year by itself.
 - Almost half of the funds they distribute to students are in the form of grants and scholarships (free aid that doesn't need to be repaid). The other half is work-study, student loans and parent loans. Loans offered by our office are financial aid.
 - In previous years, Colorado residents with a \$12,000 Expected Family Contribution (EFC) or less were more likely to be considered for grants than a family with a higher EFC.
- The amount of aid received cannot exceed the cost to attend

Standards for retaining

- Colorado Boulder uses the FAFSA to determine need and eligibility
- In addition, federal regulations require students to make satisfactory academic progress in a program of study to be eligible for financial aid (Maintain at least GAS).
 - The consequences of failing to meet the requirements, the student loses eligibility.
- Furthermore, in order to receive financial aid, students are expected to be enrolled as full time students (12 credit hours).
 - Starting in 2011-2012 there is no mention of this policy, but full time status is still defined for financial aid purposes

Policies for Students with Disabilities

Accessing accommodations

- Students are encouraged to fill out a Request for Accommodations and Services form, and the university will do what it can to accommodate the student

Name of offices

- The name of the office is “Disability Services”

Services offered

- Any disability will be catered to, such as mobility issues, reading issues, hearing issues, ADD/ADHD, etc.

Miscellaneous

- The last 45 credit hours of the 128 required for the BS degree must be earned via CU Boulder coursework only and while rostered in the College of Engineering and Applied Science.