



LOPER'S COLLEGE

Guidebook

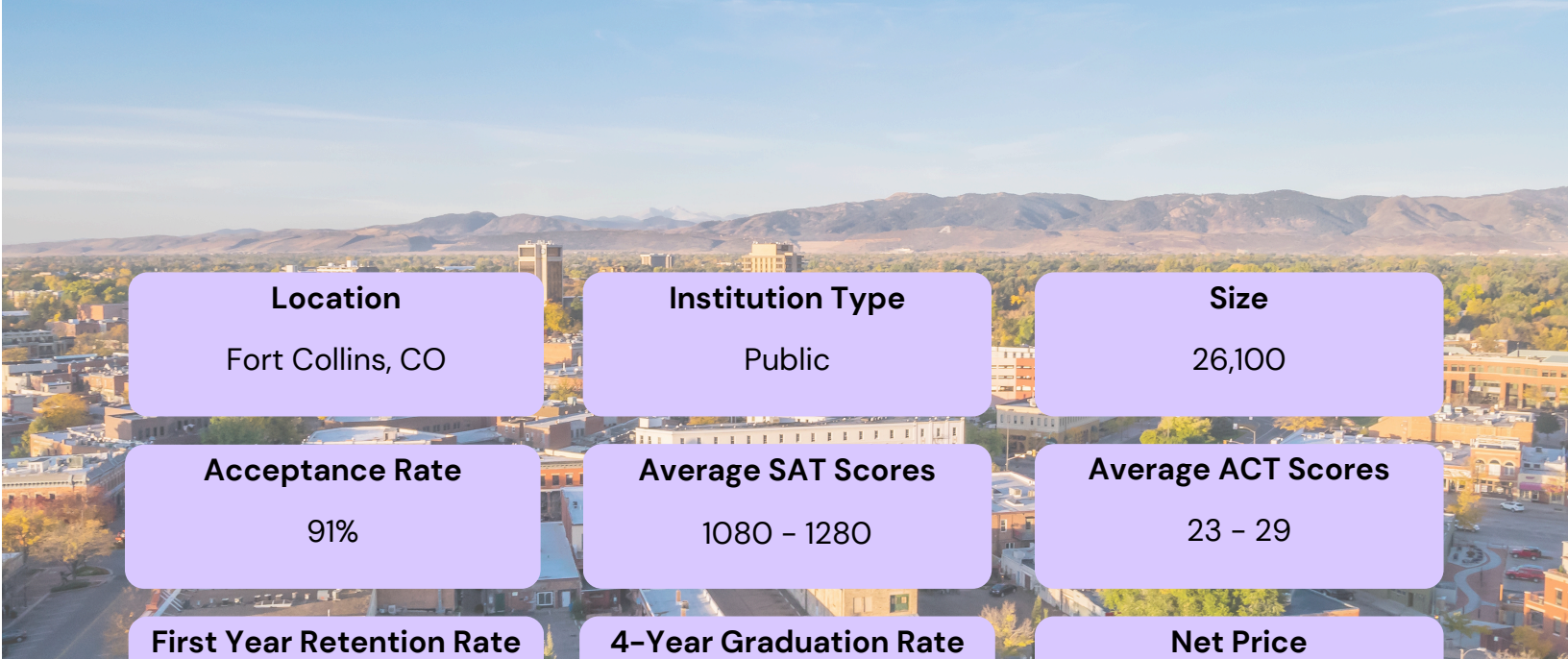
2025

Edition #1



**Colorado State
University**

Learn what the college
experience at CSU is really like
from current students!

**Location**

Fort Collins, CO

Institution Type

Public

Size

26,100

Acceptance Rate

91%

Average SAT Scores

1080 – 1280

Average ACT Scores

23 – 29

First Year Retention Rate

86%

4-Year Graduation Rate

48%

Net Price

\$18.3K

OVERVIEW

Location & Campus 📍

CSU has a large but walkable campus and well-maintained facilities. Nestled at the foot of the Rocky Mountains, it offers easy access to outdoor adventures year-round, from hiking to skiing, which many students take advantage of after class and on the weekends.

CSU is a large public university in Fort Collins, CO. Despite its size, it has a tight-knit feel where students say, “everyone knows everyone”. CSU is known for its laid-back atmosphere, mountain-town setting, welcoming community, a focus on hands-on learning, and plenty of outdoor adventures right next door.

Academics 📖

CSU is a research-focused university with 300+ programs and plenty of opportunities for hands-on learning. Majors range from business to engineering to exercise science, giving students an approachable academic experience with access to real-world research and applications.

Social Life 😊

CSU has a friendly, tight-knit social scene where students say “everyone knows everyone” despite its large size. Greek life and athletics are part of campus but don’t dominate, leaving plenty of ways to meet people through clubs, outdoor adventures, and a lively party and bar scene.



LOCATION

Colorado State University is a large public school located in Fort Collins, CO. Fort Collins is a classic college town with a lively, welcoming vibe. It's packed with great local restaurants, coffee shops, and outdoor spots to explore. Nestled near the Rocky Mountains, students commonly take advantage of the nearby outdoor activities on the weekends.

Weather Forecast

Fall: Cool & crisp

Summer: Warm & dry

Spring: Mild but unpredictable

Winter: Cold but sunny

Outdoor Activities

100% of students surveyed said it is common for students to do outdoor activities regularly or occasionally on the weekends. CSU also has a number of outdoor focused club, including the Snow Riders for skiing/snowboarding trips.

Popular outdoor activities include:

Hiking, Biking, Snowboarding, Skiing,
Fishing, Rafting/Kayaking, Hunting

💡 **Horsetooth Rock is one of the most popular hiking trails in the area**

Off Campus Dining

Fort Collins has a diverse food scene with plenty of affordable eats, late-night spots, and sit-down restaurants. Students rate the off-campus dining options 8.7*. Here are some faves

Midnight Snack

Las 4 Americas,
McDonald's, Taco Bell,
Cheba Hut

Sweet Treats

Mary's Mountain
Cookies, Gelato
Amore, Crumbl, DQ

Night Out w/ Friends

Penrose, Union, Blue
Agave, Brother's Bar
and Grill, Chili's

FoCo Classics

Nick's Italian, Crazy
Karl's

Parents Are Buying

Rare Italian, Ginger
and Baker, Jax
Fishouse & Oyster Bar

Cheap Eats

D.P. Dough, Cosmos,
Cane's, Chipotle, Fat
Shack

Location:
Fort Collins, CO

**Out of 10, based on student survey results*

17:1

Student to
Faculty Ratio

91%

Acceptance
Rate

6.9

Overall
Academics*

CSU offers a practical, hands-on academic experience with **strong research opportunities** and a **collaborative learning environment**. Students appreciate the accessibility of professors, though some find academic support services lacking. Overall, CSU provides a well-rounded education with opportunities for engaged learning.

ACADEMICS

Majors & Courses

Popular Majors

Business Administration, Psychology and Sociology, Human Development/Family Studies, Biology/Biological Sciences, Exercise Science and Kinesiology, Computer Sciences, Mechanical Engineering, Political Science/Government, Construction Engineering

Some **less common but unique** majors offered at CSU include Fermentation Science 🍷 and Apparel & Merchandising 👛

At CSU you've got plenty of options—nearly **300 academic programs**, with over 70 majors, 140 concentrations, and close to 100 minors to mix and match.

CSU is an **R1 research university** specializing in science, engineering, and sustainability. Students gain hands-on experience through research projects and real-world applications.

A few classes students love...

SPCM 358B

Gender & Genre in Film: Horror

Explore classic and modern horror films while unpacking how they represent gender & identity.



FIN 310

Financial Markets & Institutions

Break down how financial markets work, from stocks to banking, and why they matter.



RHS 220

Environmental Health

Dive into how the environment affects human health—and how we affect the environment.



**Out of 10, based on student survey results*



Academic Support Services

CSU offers a wide variety of free academic support services to students including:

The Institute for Learning and Teaching (TILT):
Offers twice-weekly group tutoring sessions.

Academic Success Coordinators: Every student is assigned an individual academic advisor.

CSU Writing Center: Offers video consults, draft reviews, and walk-in help for writing projects.

Academic Support:

7.0*

Students surveyed have mixed feelings about advisor quality but love the easy appointments and free services

Professor Availability

7.0*

Professors at CSU

CSU has plenty of professors across 300+ programs, most of whom are easy to reach during office hours. Classes are interactive and focused on real-world learning, with professors who are supportive and make lessons more engaging.

A few favorite teachers of students surveyed include: Matt Camper, Mike O'Reilly, Todd Donovan, Joe Shicke, Riana Slyter, Jason Downing, Shrideep Pallickara, Mike Mansfield, Robert Paton, Jenny Albright



Matt Camper
Agricultural Biology

"His lectures feel like a live nature documentary."

Known for his engaging teaching style & making entomology fun and accessible, using hands-on science to bring biology to life.



Mike O'Reilly
Construction Management

"Super funny and really cares about his students."

Brings 20+ years of industry experience to his classes. His test-heavy but structured approach challenges students while setting them up for success.

**Out of 10, based on student survey results*

CAMPUS & FACILITIES

CSU's campus is big but super walkable, with a mix of modern and classic buildings and awesome mountain views. Students love the green spaces and wide variety of study spots. It's a lively, scenic place where there's always a spot to study, relax, or meet up with friends.

Campus Overall:

8.5*

"All classes and campus in general are highly walkable"

Longest Walk to Class: 10-20 minutes*

Facilities Overall

6.5*

Campus Safety

7.8*

CSU students generally feel safe on campus but noted emergency alerts and security response times could improve



**Based on student survey results*

ACADEMIC BUILDINGS

CSU's campus features modern classrooms, study spaces, and research labs. Most buildings are well-maintained and easy to navigate, with ongoing upgrades to enhance classrooms, technology, and common areas for students.



Behavioral Sciences Building

The Best ✓

Lory Student Center (LSC): The go-to spot for food, study spaces, events, and student resources, plus the bookstore and Ramskeller Pub.

Behavioral Sciences Building (BSB): A bright, open space for psych and social science classes, with modern classrooms, research labs, and study areas.

Rockwell Hall: The business school's home base, packed with classrooms, lecture halls, and plenty of spots to collaborate or study.



Eddy Hall

The Worst ✗

Eddy Hall: A dated humanities building with cramped classrooms, little natural light, making it one of the least favorite spots on campus.

Engineering Building: Functional but old and overcrowded, with limited study spaces and outdated labs.

Clark Building: Known for its dreary design and worn-down classrooms, but a renovation is underway, with updates expected by summer 2027.

Morgan Library

Student Rating: 7.5*

Morgan Library offers plenty of space for studying and group work, making it a go-to spot on campus. However, it can get really crowded, and students feel it could use renovations—especially when it comes to adding more individual study rooms. Despite these drawbacks, it remains a solid and frequented study space.



Morgan Library

**Out of 10, based on student survey results*

Most CSU freshmen live in traditional dorms, which are basic but centrally located, offering easy access to classes and campus amenities. After freshman year, most students move off-campus, where options include apartments, townhomes, and rental houses.

Common years to live on campus



Freshman



Junior



Sophomore



Senior



Corbett Hall: Loved for being the “party dorm”, its large size, and being attached to the one of the best dining halls.

♥ Freshmen also love: Parmalee and Academic Village



Newsom Hall: AKA 'Gruesome Newsom,' is hated by students because it is dirty. One student described it as “absolutely disgusting.”

🗨 Freshmen also dislike: Edwards and Allison

STUDENT HOUSING

How current students rate the quality of housing options* for each grade-level...

Freshman

4.8

Sophomore

9.1

Junior

8.5

Senior

9.3

Most students live off campus after freshman year, with average cost of off campus housing between \$700 – \$1,000 per month*. Some common apartment complexes include affordable options like Ram’s Village and more upscale ones like State or Stadium. Aggie Village, CSU’s on campus apartments, are also common for upperclassmen.



Aggie Village



Ram’s Village



State

*Based on student survey results

ON-CAMPUS DINING

CSU has four dining halls, so grabbing food on campus is quick and convenient. Students appreciate the variety of options, but the food quality is just okay, so a lot of students mix it up by checking out Fort Collins' huge selection of off-campus eats.

The Foundry: The largest and most popular dining hall, designed like a food hall with multiple stations and build-your-own options.

Ram's Horn: Located in Academic Village, it serves classic comfort foods, customizable meals, and pizza. Known for its spacious setup and variety.

Braiden: A smaller, quieter option near academic buildings, offering custom sandwiches, salads, and rotating hot meals.

Durrell: Features a variety of options, including breakfast, sushi, sandwiches, and global dishes. Students like its kiosk ordering system.

Some favorite dining hall meals include: popcorn chicken, Mediterranean bowls, the salad bar @ Ram's Horn, steak & fries, and pizza

In addition to the dining halls, students have plenty of dining options at the Lory Student Center (LSC). The LSC is home to a variety of fast-casual options from well-known chains to local favorites. It's a central spot for students to eat, study, or catch up with friends between classes. Some of the most popular on-campus restaurants include:

Panda Express 🍜

Taco Bell 🌮

RAMwich 🍔

Dining hall quality*

5.5

Heads up: Student meal plans only work at the dining hall, and cannot be used at Lory Student Center restaurants



**Out of 10, based on student survey results*

GYM & HEALTH SERVICES

Main Gym

Student Rating: 7.5*

CSU's Student Rec Center has a wide range of workout equipment, plus free fitness classes and a friendly staff. It's a great place to exercise, but it can get crowded, making it hard to find open machines during peak hours.

Recreational activities available on campus:

Basketball
Pickleball
Ping Pong
Racquetball
Rock Climbing
Squash
Tennis
Volleyball



Health Services

Student Rating: 6.0*

CSU's Health Network offers medical, counseling, dental, and optometry services at its on-campus medical center, located near the south side of campus. All degree-seeking students taking six or more credits can use these services, but health insurance is required through CSU's plan or a comparable external provider. While services are comprehensive, students report high demand and understaffing, making timely & quality care sometimes difficult to access, especially for students that do not have health insurance.

**Out of 10, based on student survey results*

SOCIAL LIFE

CSU has a close-knit, friendly vibe, where students say "everyone knows everyone" despite it being a big school. Social life has something for everyone—from parties and bars to outdoor adventures and campus events. Greek life and athletics are around but aren't the main scene, so students can find their own crowd. Most say it's easy to meet people and get involved.

Social Life Rating*

7.9

"I love CSU so much! I've met some of my best friends and wouldn't trade my support here for anything."

Do you feel like your college fosters a strong sense of community & belonging?*

88%

YES

12%

NO

How has your social life experience met your expectations for your college?*

77%

Met
Expectations

22%

Did NOT Meet
Expectations

11%

Exceeded
Expectations

💡 You should know...

Greek life exists, but it's not a huge part of the social scene

The bar scene is active but not for underclassmen

"Everyone knows everyone" vibe despite being a large school

Students describe the vibe as "relaxed" and "easy to meet people"



*Based on student survey results

GOING OUT

CSU's going-out scene is fun and easy to jump into. Greek life is around but not the main scene, so people find their own groups to go out with. With outgoing students and plenty going on, there's always something to do.

Fun Fact: Fort Collins is a craft beer hub, home to New Belgium, Odell, and 30+ breweries, making it a top spot for beer lovers.



- **Greek Life:** Students rate Greek life around 5.2*—it exists but isn't the main social scene. There are plenty of parties outside of Greek life, and most students graduate to the bars once they turn 21.
- **Party Scene:** CSU has a solid but lowkey party scene, mostly house parties in smaller spaces rather than huge blowouts. Greek parties can be popular for underclassmen, but upperclassmen mostly go out at the bars.
- **Bar Scene:** Old Town is the go-to for nightlife. Popular spots include Lucky Joe's, Bondi, Yeti, Rec Room, and the Bar District. Ram Band is a popular Thursday night event, where students can get unlimited Well drinks for ~\$12 at a few Old Town spots.



A classic freshman night out includes pregaming in the dorms, hitting a frat or house party (or two), then getting a late-night snack to end the night.

Lucky Joe's

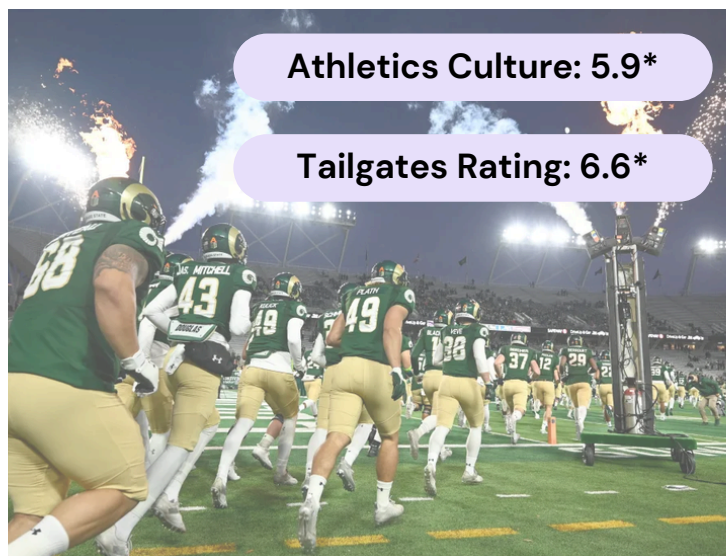
Lucky Joe's is a CSU staple with a laid-back Western saloon vibe. It's always buzzing with college students, cheap drinks, and live music. Open mic nights keep things lively, and the crowd is always down for a good time. Perfect for a casual hangout if you go on the earlier side or a rowdy night out.

**Out of 10, based on student survey results*

SCHOOL SPIRIT

Athletics

While CSU is a big school, athletics don't dominate the culture like it does at some other large public schools—you can go to games if you're into it, but it's not a must-do for everyone. Tailgates are just okay, and most students aren't die-hard fans. Football and basketball games are popular for the average student to attend, but more for the social vibe than school spirit. Students also go to volleyball and hockey games occasionally.



Popular Sports: Football – Basketball – Volleyball – Hockey

Campus Events

CSU's outgoing vibe and tight-knit community make it easy to feel at home. The school does a lot to bring people together. Here are a few of the biggest & most fun events on campus:

- **Welcome Week** – Kicks off the school year with social events, info sessions, and activities to help new students settle in and meet people.
- **Rocky Mountain Showdown** – CSU's biggest rivalry game against CU Boulder, featuring pep rallies, tailgates, and tons of school spirit before the big football matchup.
- **Homecoming Weekend** – A fall tradition with a parade, bonfire, pep rally, and football game, bringing together students, alumni, and families to celebrate Ram pride.



*Out of 10, based on student survey results



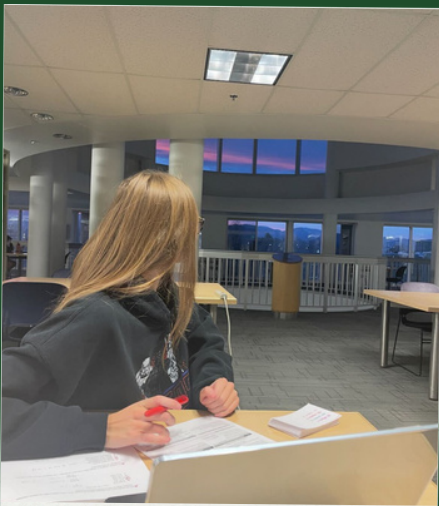
CSU Main Campus



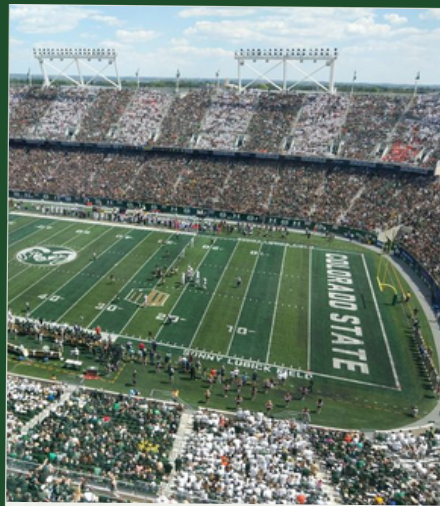
University Center for the Arts



The Lagoon



Morgan Library



Canvas Stadium



Lory Student Center



The Oval



Natural Sciences Building



CAM the Ram

Want help finding the best colleges for you?

Whether it's CSU or somewhere else, Loper will help you find schools you love. Instantly match with schools that fit your goals and get a personalized application for free.

Try it today!

