CU Boulder Electrical, Computer & Energy Engineering
Prospective Master's Student Webinar

CU Boulder, Our College & Our Department

Boulder
- Consistently voted one of the top college towns in America & the best place to live in the USA, learn more about [living here](#).
- 81% of College of Engineering graduate students live in the city of Boulder.
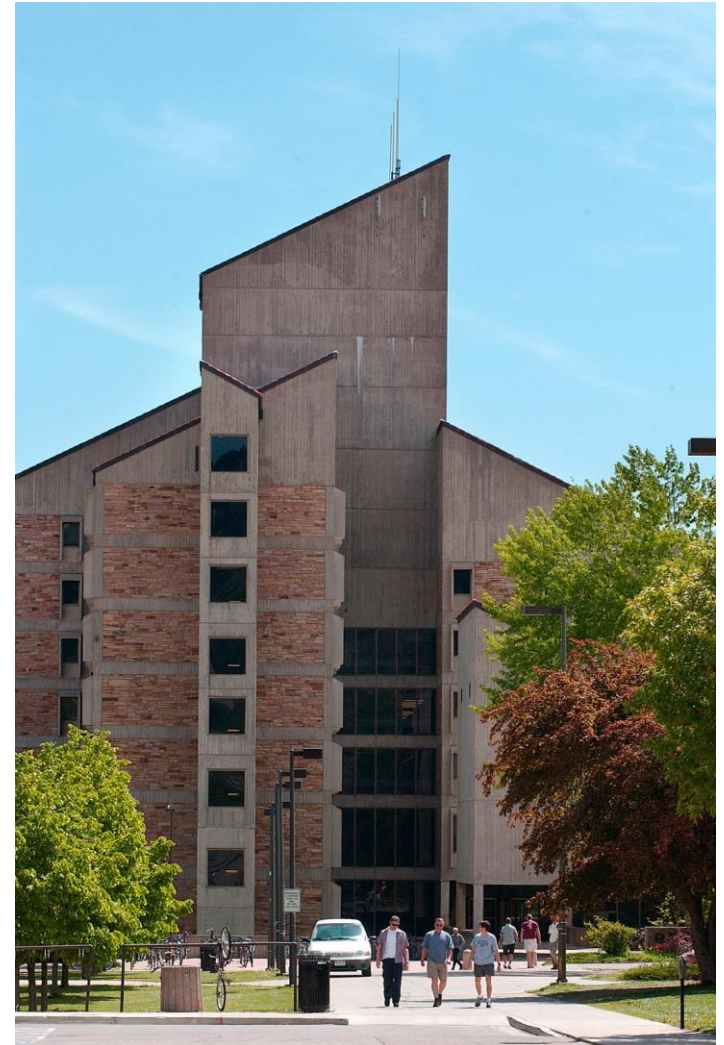- 22% live in family/graduate housing.

CU Boulder
- Check out our virtual campus tour feature [here.](#)

College of Engineering & Applied Science (CEAS):
- The College of Engineering and Applied Science is ranked #11 overall in *U.S. News and World Report's* Best Graduate Schools for 2025.
- [CU Boulder leads the charge toward gender parity in engineering](#)

ECEE:
- Ranked No. 16 in public computer engineering programs and No. 18 in public electrical engineering programs in *U.S. News and World Report's* Best Graduate Schools for 2025
- We receive roughly 400 master's applications for Fall admissions.
- Our minimum threshold to apply is a 3.0 GPA or higher on the 4.0 scale from a STEM-focused Bachelor of Science program.
- We have ~250 master's students in our traditional and professional programs.
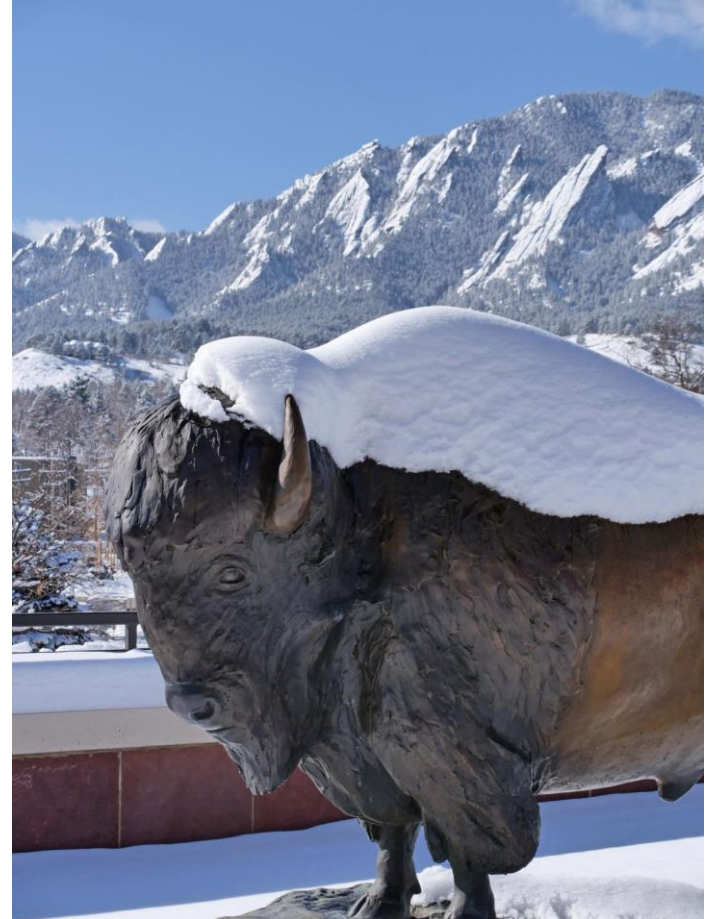- About 60% of our master's students are international, and 40% are US citizens.

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Our Master's Programs

We have a traditional MS degree and a Professional Master's degree.

Similarities:

- Both award the student a Master of Science in Electrical & Computer Engineering.
- 30 total credit hours required, (ten classes x 3-credit hours, each).
    - Generally, 18 of the 30 course credit hours (6 classes) must be ECEN 5000+ level coursework. (ESE requires 21 be solely in ESE, with 9 that can be in other STEM courses)
    - The remaining 12 credit hours (4 classes) can be in ECEN or other STEM coursework.
    - Our general course offerings are listed here.
- Completed over 4-semesters/2-years.
- Students generally take 2 classes their first semester, then 3-3-2 classes each subsequent semester to complete the degree.
    - We do not usually offer summer coursework.

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Differences Between MS Degrees

Employers in the United States do not care which MS degree you graduate with. They only care you have learned the skills and acquired the degree.

You should consider the differences below:

Professional MS	Traditional MS
Required to complete a specific subplan; more depth and focus in one area of study. • Embedded Systems Engineering • Power Electronics • Next-Generation Power & Energy Systems • High-Speed Digital Engineering	No subplans, no specifically required courses. Students "build-their-own-degree" from their personal interests across focus areas. • Computer Engineering, Embedded Systems, High Speed Digital Engineering, LINCD Sciences, Power Electronics, Next Generation Power & Energy Systems, Photonics & Quantum Engineering, RF/EM, Systems & Controls
May receive priority enrollment access to specific subplan courses required for the degree.	Do not receive priority enrollment access to specific courses required for PMP subplan students.
More affordable for international and out-of-state students.	More affordable for Colorado residents. *Colorado does allow domestic students to gain residency after one year.
No thesis permitted.	Optional to complete a thesis. *Less than 5% of ECEE Traditional MS students complete a thesis annually.

Application Process

You can find full details of the application process [here](#).

- Complete the **online application.**
- **Pay the application fee** ($60 domestic applicants/$80 international applicants).
  - There are no fee waivers available for master's applicants.
- Upload your **CV/resume** to the application portal.
- If needed, **submit unofficial English proficiency scores.**
  - TOEFL (score 7.0) or IELTS (90+) or Duolingo (120+); scores must not be older than 2 years.
  - Not required for applicants from Australia, Belize, Botswana, Canada (except Quebec), Commonwealth Caribbean, Ghana, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Nigeria, Singapore, South Africa, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe
- Input contact information for your **3 letters of recommendation**.
  - If your submitter does not receive the link to submit their recommendation, contact gradadm@colorado.edu
- **Upload unofficial copies of all transcripts** – we take care of foreign transcript evaluation, no WES needed.
  - You only submit official transcripts if you are accepted and choose to attend.
- **Statement of Purpose** – 500-750 words, double-spaced.
  - Note your enthusiasm for your academic focus, how you came to enjoy ECE studies, which projects you have done, which experiences shaped you as a student, as a professional, as an individual, and what your goals are.

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Application Process

No GRE Required

The GRE is not required for our application process. Submitting these scores does not have any added benefit as these scores are not part of the review process.

Application Deadline

The deadline for Fall admissions is 15 February, 2026, 21:59pm / 9:59pm Colorado "Mountain" Time Zone.

Decisions

We do not review any applications until after the 15 February deadline.

Visit the [status page](#) on the application portal for updates regarding your application.

Decisions are made after careful consideration of all applicants and are not necessarily issued in the order an application was received.

Applicants will be notified of the admission decision by 30 April.

Software Issues While Applying?

Please contact **gradadm@colorado.edu** with any software / technical support questions (i.e. whether your payment went through, or for recommendation writers who occasionally have trouble accessing links to submitting online letters).

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Funding Your Degree

- **The department does not provide funding for master's students.** Master's students should plan on providing their own fellowships and/or private funds to finance their education. Possible funding sources may include student loans, outside fellowships, employer sponsorships, etc.

- Some funding information/opportunities may be found on the **Graduate School's funding website.**

- The **CU Office of Financial Aid** has full information on federal programs for domestic graduate students, eligibility, and what you need to do apply.

- ECEE does not use Teaching Assistantships. Instead, we hire **hourly course support student roles** which both traditional and professional MS students are eligible for. Research Assistantships are generally reserved for PhD students and are rarely available to master's students. Research positions are not centrally managed. Students must reach out directly to faculty to find research opportunities. Professional MS students are not eligible for Teaching Assistantship or Research Assistantship roles; only traditional MS students are eligible if positions become available.

- **Student employment** can also be found throughout campus.

- Tuition costs differ between the professional master's program and traditional MS program; additional tuition differences apply due to in-state or out-of-state residency. For more information, visit the Bursar:
  - **Professional Master's Program Costs**
  - **Traditional Master's Program Costs**

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Internship Opportunities

We have excellent campus and College of Engineering resources that provide career fairs with industry recruiters, skills training in resume writing, interviewing, dining etiquette specific to interviews, intercultural business practices, salary negotiation and that assist students with visas for international conference attendance, study and/or work.

Many students pursue internship opportunities in the summer between their first and second year in the program. In Summer 2025, our master's students worked at these companies and more:
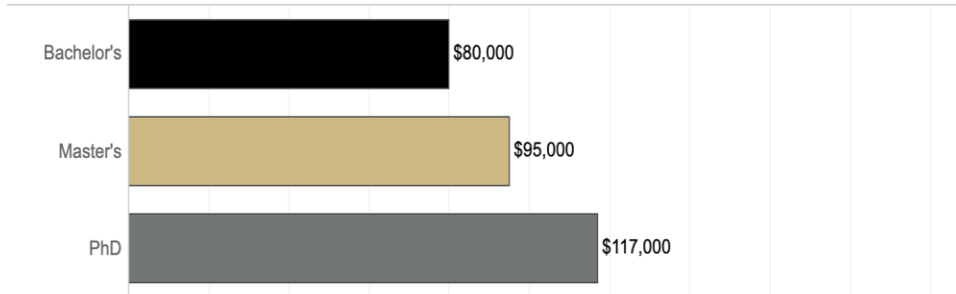
Job Prospects After Graduation

Graduate Destinations Survey: Salaries

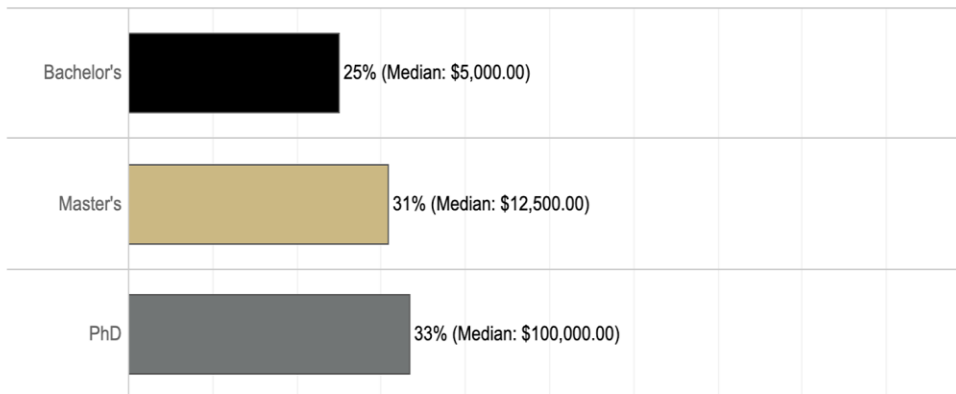Viewing for: School/College: **Engineering**; Major: **Electrical Engineering**

Alumni Salaries: Median
For those employed full-time and who report a salary greater than $0

Bachelor's	$80,000
Master's	$95,000
PhD	$117,000

Signing Bonuses: Percent Alumni Receiving Bonuses, Median Bonus
For those employed full-time

Bachelor's	25% (Median: $5,000.00)
Master's	31% (Median: $12,500.00)
PhD	33% (Median: $100,000.00)

In 2023, Power Electronics subplan graduates self-reported a typical salary range of $95,000-153,000 with a median of $130,000 as they received job opportunities with leading companies in power electronics, electrified transportation, renewable energy, and semiconductor industries.

In Spring 2025, all master's programs graduates were able to opt-in and complete a survey to self-report job and salary offers.
- Salary offers ranged from $90,000 - $165,000, with a median offer of $120,000.
- Students accepted job offers at Apple, AMD, Qualcomm, Western Digital, BAE Systems, Lockheed Martin, Keysight Technologies, Cisco, and other companies.
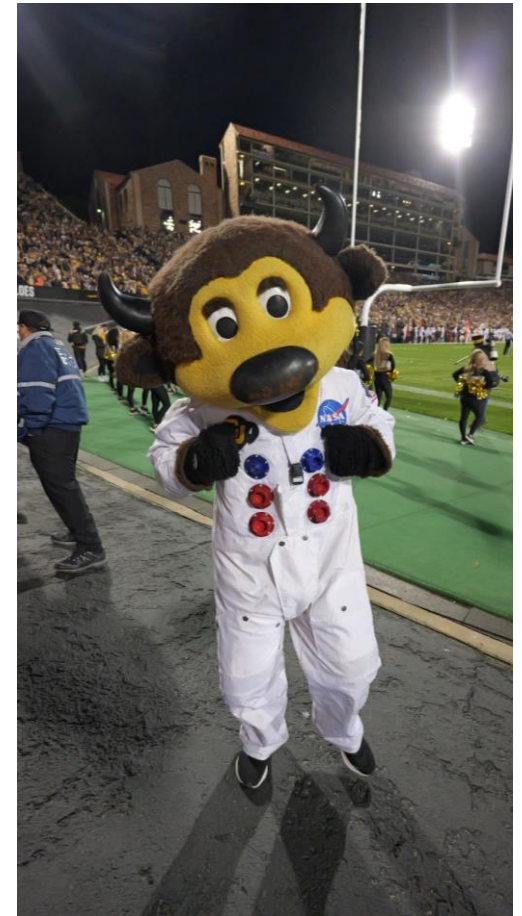
Warmly Welcoming to Everyone

Quality of Education and Openness to Everyone:

I (Graduate Advisor, Adam Sadoff) have worked in our dept for 29 years (and one of our faculty has worked in our dept for 66 (yes, sixty-six) years, because that faculty member and I truly believe in the quality of education we provide our students—and especially our visa students, who receive outstanding support and warm welcomes, campus-wide. Our International Students and Scholars Services Center (ISSS) is a fantastic resource for our visa students. Boulder also has a disproportionate number of very well-traveled U.S.-born students, staff and faculty (many also were born, overseas, themselves) who are culturally wide-open and welcoming. I was warmly welcomed in every country, and I am happy to return the favor—to all our visa students, from whichever countries you are coming from.

And, to extend the distances of those 'well-traveled': Our campus has produced more astronauts than nearly any other, and has had one of the highest numbers serve in the Peace Corps started by President Kennedy in the 1960's.

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More Questions?

PhD and Traditional Master's:

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Professional Master's

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We are Colorado!

Lori   Adam