CU Boulder Institutional Fact Sheet

About the University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder)
- Founded on July 1st, 1876, the University of Colorado Boulder is the flagship university of the University of Colorado System. CU Boulder is one of the four University of Colorado public universities. CU campuses are located in Boulder, Denver, Colorado Springs, and at the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora.
- CU Boulder is one of the 62 members of the Association of American Universities, an association of the nation’s leading research universities. We are the only school in the Rocky Mountain Region invited to join this prestigious organization.
- We are a tier-one research university according to the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, one of the 115 R1-Doctoral Universities – Highest Research Activity.
- As a major research university, we compete for federal and private funding to support cutting-edge research by our faculty and students. Award funding for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 totaled $437 million, 76% of which came from federal agencies.
- CU Boulder is home to more than 2,100 academic faculty, nearly 2,000 research faculty, more than 700 visiting international scholars, and over 3,600 staff members.
- CU Boulder has more than 1,100 tenure and tenure track faculty.

Faculty Honors
- Faculty honors include five Nobel Laureates, nine MacArthur Fellowships, and two Carnegie Foundation Professor of the Year awards. Howard Hughes Medical Institute faculty honors include one HHMI Professor, five HHMI Investigators, and one HHMI Faculty Scholar.
- Between 1989 and 2007, CU Boulder became known for its five Nobel Laureates, bringing the university and community recognition as a global innovation hub. Prizes have been awarded in chemistry, physics, and for contributions to climate change research.
- Four CU Boulder professors have been awarded the National Medal of Science, the nation’s highest scientific honor. These were won in 1976, 1995, 2000, and 2006 for discoveries in geography, chemistry and biochemistry, and molecular, cellular, and developmental biology.
- Three faculty members received awards from the W. M. Keck Foundation: 2013 Science and Engineering Program award in Chemistry and Biochemistry; 2014 Science and Engineering award in Chemical and Biological Engineering; and 2014 Undergraduate Education Program award for the School of Education.
CU Boulder’s Strategic Imperatives
Our vision at CU Boulder is to be a leader in addressing the humanitarian, social, and
technological challenges of the twenty-first century. This vision informs our three strategic
imperatives.

- Shape Tomorrow’s Leaders
- Be the Top University for Innovation
- Positively Impact Humanity

Research & Innovation
Innovation and entrepreneurship are at the heart of the research enterprise at CU Boulder. As
we work to shape tomorrow’s leaders, a diverse and wide ranging group of world-class experts
work collaboratively in new ways to accelerate ideas through the entire innovation lifecycle—
from idea to impact. Our faculty work to positively impact humanity, to improve lives by
developing capabilities and approaches that move academic research into applied innovations.

Impact
CU Boulder plays an integral role in the vibrant Boulder community—one of the nation’s top
regions for technology, innovation and startup businesses. We are a primary source of
Colorado’s highly skilled workforce. Combined, our community of more than 38,000 faculty,
staff and students contribute over $2 billion each year in economic impact on the state of
Colorado.

Rankings and Reputation
- Home to Colorado’s top-ranked schools of business, education, engineering and law.
- U.S. News & World Report 2017 rankings:
  - #38 among public universities in the United States, or #92 overall in the
country—including public, private and for-profit universities.
  - CU Boulder’s atomic, molecular and optical physics program has been ranked
    #1 in the nation since 2006.
  - CU Boulder’s undergraduate engineering program ranked #18 among public
    institutions whose highest degree is a doctorate. The graduate school ranked
    #32 among public engineering programs in the nation. CU Boulder’s College of
    Engineering & Applied Science is the top-ranked engineering school in Colorado
    and the entire Rocky Mountain region, with 56 programs in 18 areas of study.
    Engineering faculty include a former NASA astronaut and the founder of
    Engineers Without Borders-USA.
  - #2 in the world in Geosciences.
  - Top ten in aerospace engineering, ceramics, environmental law, geology,
    physical chemistry, quantum physics, and environmental engineering.
  - Serving as an umbrella organization since 1892, the Graduate School oversees
    over 100 graduate and professional programs. Seventeen CU Boulder Graduate
    School specialty programs were ranked in the top 40 in the nation, including
    seven in the top 10. CU Boulder offers 35 different concurrent
    bachelor’s/master’s degree programs. Students also can pursue 14 dual master’s
    degree programs.
  - #59 in Best Colleges for Veterans.
Rankings and Reputation (continued)

- #18 most entrepreneurial university in the nation (Forbes, 2015).
- #22 worldwide for scholarly impact of journal publications (Leiden University, 2015).
- #5 in the nation for graduates serving as Peace Corps volunteers (2016).
- CU Boulder is among the top five recipients of NASA funding in the nation. Leading space scientists, physicists and engineers are teaching students while also running research labs and assisting NASA in carrying out missions.
- The Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) is a world leader in environmental research. Hundreds of environmental scientists work to understand weather and climate, changes at Earth’s poles, air quality and atmospheric chemistry, water resources and solid Earth sciences.

Student Enrollment: Nearly 32,000 students were enrolled in Fall 2016, consisting of approximately 44 percent women and 56 percent men; 83 percent undergraduate students and 17 percent graduate students; 60 percent Colorado residents and 40 percent nonresidents; nearly 22 percent U.S. students from minority backgrounds, 68.5 percent other U.S. students and 9.5 percent international students.

Student Success:
- CU Boulder has the highest graduation rate among Colorado public universities.
- More than 7,000 degrees are awarded each year, the most of any university in Colorado.
- Rated a “Best Value” university every year since 2009 (USA Today and the Princeton Review).
- According to a career services survey of May 2014 graduates, six months after graduation, 95% of graduates were employed, in graduate school, volunteering or in military service.

Undergraduate Research—Transformational Experiences through Creativity and Scholarship
- Each year, more than 2,000 undergraduates are involved in research on the Boulder campus.