

DIVISION OF STUDENT LIFE

STRATEGIC ROADMAP

2026-2030



Division of Student Life
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**



We shape moments that matter.

VISION

To be a global innovator in student life—creating transformative experiences that foster welcoming, affirming communities through an unwavering commitment to student success.

MISSION

The Division of Student Life creates an inclusive student-ready community centered in student success, holistic well-being and self-advocacy. We shape moments that matter—transforming ordinary interactions into meaningful opportunities for self-discovery, connection, belonging and growth. Together, we cultivate lifelong learners and globally engaged citizens who thrive in a diverse and dynamic world.



Strategic Priority 1: Student Excellence

Create a transformative CU Boulder student experience that extends learning, engagement, belonging and mattering beyond the classroom.

Goal 1: Empower Buffs through holistic learning and development

Equip students with the knowledge, skills and experiences needed to thrive academically, personally and professionally.

OBJECTIVE 1.1

Expand co-curricular learning opportunities, beyond the first year, to provide robust and rich experiences that support continuous growth.

OBJECTIVE 1.2

Create and implement a system for students to exhibit and document co-curricular skill development and meaningful experiences, showcasing their journey at CU Boulder.

OBJECTIVE 1.3

Align key learning and development opportunities with division and university outcomes, including the common curriculum and first-year experience outcomes, measuring impact on student achievement and retention.

OBJECTIVE 1.4

Increase spaces and places for students to engage in well-being and recreational experiences.

OBJECTIVE 1.5

Equip students with the tools and strategies to enhance their life skills, health literacy, develop a strong sense of agency and advocate for themselves effectively.

Goal 2: Amplify student engagement and transformative experiences

Provide dynamic opportunities for Buffs to connect, lead and grow, ensuring their time at CU Boulder is meaningful and impactful.

OBJECTIVE 2.1

Reimagine CU Boulder's residential learning experience to strengthen student connections between curricular and co-curricular activities and environments.

OBJECTIVE 2.2

Develop a peer mentorship framework and broaden peer mentorship programs, ensuring students have access to networks that enhance their success and create a supportive community.

OBJECTIVE 2.3

Design and implement a leadership development structure, with a focus on accessibility for Buffs of all backgrounds.

OBJECTIVE 2.4

Establish a student employment model aligning experiences with in-demand career competencies that prepare students for an evolving global workforce of gainful employment.

OBJECTIVE 2.5

Connect students to CU Boulder high impact initiatives that enrich their university experience.

Goal 3: Cultivate a sense of belonging and mattering, and an inclusive community

Build an environment at CU Boulder where all students feel valued, supported and empowered to contribute to a vibrant and inclusive campus community.

OBJECTIVE 3.1

Ensure Student Life programs, resources and spaces are intentionally designed to foster inclusion, accessibility and belonging for all Buffs.

OBJECTIVE 3.2

Strengthen family and community engagement initiatives to enhance student support networks.

OBJECTIVE 3.3

Assess and improve initiatives that promote belonging, mattering, retention and academic progression.

OBJECTIVE 3.4

Enhance student well-being by providing education, resources, and opportunities that promote healthy practices across the campus community.



Strategic Priority 2: Staff Excellence

Support and develop engaged professionals who are essential to student success at CU Boulder.

Goal 1: Strengthen workplace culture and staff retention

Create a collaborative, inclusive and rewarding work environment in the Division of Student Life that values staff well-being and engagement.

OBJECTIVE 1.1

Enhance departmental staff engagement ensuring team-building and appreciation efforts align with divisional values.

OBJECTIVE 1.2

Expand staff recognition experiences to highlight staff excellence.

OBJECTIVE 1.3

Conduct regular staff experience assessments to inform divisional staff recruitment, engagement and retention strategies.

OBJECTIVE 1.4

Educate staff about initiatives that support a healthy workplace culture.

OBJECTIVE 1.5

Develop and implement programs that strengthen employee well-being, satisfaction and engagement.



Goal 2: Invest in professional growth and development

Provide staff with learning, mentorship and career development opportunities to encourage a growth mindset and enhance their professional impact.

OBJECTIVE 2.1

Establish a divisional culture encouraging continuous learning and professional development.

OBJECTIVE 2.2

Improve staff access to and engagement in division and campus opportunities for ongoing learning, well-being and leadership training.

OBJECTIVE 2.3

Redesign and implement a leadership development program for staff interested in pursuing, or new to, leadership roles within the division to support long-term career growth.

OBJECTIVE 2.4

Expand cross-departmental learning and engagement opportunities, encouraging knowledge sharing and collaboration across units to boost our collective expertise and effectiveness.

Goal 3: Promote inclusive and effective leadership

Equip the Student Life team at all levels to lead with integrity and with a commitment to student and staff success.

OBJECTIVE 3.1

Enhance strategic leadership and business acumen to drive change, influence direction, manage resources and lead high-performing teams.

OBJECTIVE 3.2

Consistently embed inclusive excellence strategies into comprehensive hiring practices.

OBJECTIVE 3.3

Strategically build and facilitate cross-divisional partnerships that encourage collaborative leadership, planning and problem-solving, promoting a unified approach to achieving our goals.

Strategic Priority 3: Operational Excellence

Ensure efficiency, innovation and collaboration as the foundation for promoting student and staff excellence through data-informed strategies and continuous improvement.

Goal 1: Improve organizational efficiency and resource allocation

Optimize systems, processes and resources through data-informed decision-making to maximize impact and effectiveness.

OBJECTIVE 1.1

Explore and refine budgeting and resource allocation models, ensuring funds are directed toward high-impact initiatives that align with the divisional mission and values.

OBJECTIVE 1.2

Centralize key divisional processes and resources, guaranteeing staff have direct access to essential tools, policies and best practices.

OBJECTIVE 1.3

Evaluate the utilization and effectiveness of shared services units to identify opportunities for improved engagement and collaboration across the division.

OBJECTIVE 1.4

Establish a systemic process for the holistic review of units/departments, focusing on programming efforts, organizational operations and structure, to generate actionable recommendations for improved effectiveness and to maximize resources.

Goal 2: Strengthen campus partnerships and community engagement

Collaborate within the division, across the university and beyond CU Boulder to create seamless, student-centered experiences.

OBJECTIVE 2.1

Expand collaborations with academic units and campus partners to align co-curricular efforts with student success goals.

OBJECTIVE 2.2

Increase staff engagement in learning opportunities to share innovations, best practices, assessment successes and research projects.

OBJECTIVE 2.3

Create a robust and effective communication strategy aligning unit communications with divisional mission, values and priorities to improve student and community engagement with the division.

Goal 3: Enhance infrastructure and physical environments

Strategically invest available resources in our infrastructure to enhance physical environments for our students and teams to flourish.

OBJECTIVE 3.1

Renew, replace and reinvest in our facilities and technology in alignment with university sustainability goals and priorities.

OBJECTIVE 3.2

Create or enhance accessible and inclusive environments that intentionally attract all students to Student Life spaces.

OBJECTIVE 3.3

Optimize space utilization and event booking processes, developing guidelines and improving access to Student Life facilities.

OBJECTIVE 3.4

Review and improve Student Life operational frameworks and trainings that focus on safety, risk assessment and mitigation, security and emergency preparedness.

