

Postsecondary Education Resources

Access a Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) resource or connect directly to a Colorado Higher Education Institution. Potential candidates for these opportunities include anyone who is interested in a short term certificate, 2-year degree, or 4-year degree including individuals who have no college experience or those who have earned some college credit but who stopped out before completing a degree or credential. Additionally, many of these institutions offer career and technical education programs.

<p>Finish What You Started</p>	<p>The Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative launched the Finish What You Started Program in 2021 to help Colorado residents go back to school and earn their certificate or degree. The program supports students in two ways: providing financial assistance and support services throughout their college experience. Finish What You Started is designed to support adults with some college experience but no degree or students who were admitted but never enrolled in the 2019-20 or 2020-21 school years with financial and student supports to complete a degree or certificate. Individuals can learn about this program at the COSI website but must contact an institutional representative to enroll.</p>
<p>Finish What You Started for low-income Adams County adults</p>	<p>The Colorado Department of Higher Education’s Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI) and One Million Degrees launched “Finish What You Started,” a two-year pilot program providing wraparound support services for low-income Adams County, Colorado adults, aged 18+, to obtain college credentials or degrees. The program combines financial support with additional services such as career planning and student coaching, connection to community and public resources (e.g., transportation assistance, childcare centers, legal aid</p>

	<p>services, housing support, etc.), and career connections. The program will largely serve students of color and first-generation students with some college, encouraging them to re-enroll in postsecondary education and graduate.</p>
<p>Back To Work program</p>	<p>As part of the state’s larger recovery plan, the governor signed SB21-232, which provided \$15 Million to help displaced workers get Back to Work by funding their education and training program as well as wrap-around supports to help students succeed and career supports to help them transition back to the workforce. Individuals that make within 250% of Pell eligibility who were displaced by the COVID-19 pandemic and enrolled in a degree or certificate program at a public institution in Colorado could be eligible. Students can learn about this program at the COSI website but must contact an institutional representative to enroll.</p>
<p>State financial aid for students available through the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE)</p>	<p>Individuals who are interested in attending a college or university may qualify for federal and state aid but are generally required to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid known as the FAFSA. More information about State financial aid for students from CDHE can be found here. [Please note, that in addition to student financial aid awarded by the State, individuals may also qualify for Federal Grant Programs like Pell. More information about these Federal programs can be found on the Federal Student Aid website here, and a listing of Federal Student Aid programs can be found here.] Please contact the financial aid office at the institution of choice for additional information about available aid.</p>
<p>Colorado Community College System</p>	<p>The Colorado Community College System (CCCS) is made up of 13 unique colleges with over 35 locations across the state. A listing of the colleges can be found here. In addition to the 1,000+ certificate programs including several workforce training programs in Colorado’s fastest growing industries, the system offers</p>

	500+ associate degree programs and 15 bachelor's degree programs. This resource from CCCS describes the difference between degrees and certificates. And you can explore more about the specific programs available here .
Area Technical Colleges	Emily Griffith Pickens Technical College of the Rockies
Additional colleges of note that are not part of the Community College System and are not a public 4-year institution.	Aims Community College in Greeley, Colorado, is what the Colorado Department of Higher Education calls a “local district community college,” meaning that while it is a state-funded community college, it is not part of the Colorado Community College System but is locally managed. Colorado Mountain College (CMC) with 11 campuses, is a dual mission college offering a blend of certificate programs and associate degrees as well as bachelor's degrees with a commitment to graduating students with less student loan debt. They have recently received a federal designation as an Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) after years of deliberate efforts to grow CMC's student body to be 25% or more Latino. Adults may qualify for CMC's Colorado Mountain Promise which covers tuition for any Colorado resident whose family income is below \$70,000. If you're an independent student (typically over 24 years of age) we'll cover your tuition if your household income is \$50,000 or less.
Colorado Apprenticeship	Registered Apprenticeship Directory
Public 4-year institutions	Find a public 4-year institution using the Colorado Department of Education's Directory of Colleges and Universities by selecting “4-year institutions”.

Public 4-year institutions with select adult-friendly programming for degree completion especially for those with some college credit but no degree.

Adams State University (Alamosa, CO)	Educator Preparation Online Degree Completion Program Earn a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education online. This program is perfect for teacher candidates living in small towns and rural communities.
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<p>Colorado Mesa University (Grand Junction, CO)</p>	<p>Adults may be able to earn their degree more quickly and save money while doing it because of the resources and programs Colorado Mesa University offers to adult students. The Grand Valley Fresh Start Grant is available specifically to qualifying adult students who want to finish their degree.</p>
<p>Colorado State University Global (Online)</p>	<p>This is a 100% online state university in Colorado focused on the success of working professionals and nontraditional students. Classes begin every four weeks.</p>
<p>Western Colorado University Adult Degree Completion program (Gunnison, CO)</p>	<p>Western Colorado University’s Adult Degree Completion program serves to aid professionals with some college experience in finishing their credit requirements and earning a bachelor’s degree in a flexible, accessible and completely online environment.</p>
<p>University of Colorado Boulder CU Complete (Boulder, CO)</p>	<p>CU Complete is a service designed to help former degree students learn about their options to complete their degree.</p>
<p>Metropolitan State University of Denver (Denver, CO)</p>	<p>Adult students may be able to earn credit for prior learning and test out of some course work. All general studies classes can be completed online.</p>
<p>University of Northern Colorado Extended</p>	<p>Extended Campus offerings are tailored to fit the needs of adult learners.</p>

<p>Campus (Greely, CO)</p>	<p>In addition the University of Northern Colorado Denver Center at Lowry hosts the Center for Urban Education with a focus on Early Childhood, Elementary and Special Education.</p>
<p>Colorado State University Pueblo Division of Extended Studies (Pueblo, CO)</p>	<p>The primary goal of the Division of Extended Studies is to provide courses to part-time students. Students may earn academic credit toward a degree, study for career advancement, or pursue cultural and vocational interests. They also offer a needs-based Extended Studies Scholarship of up to \$2,000 of tuition to adults who reside in Pueblo County and seek to obtain their degrees through the Division of Extended Studies.</p>