



# COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

## OUR HISTORY

Colorado State University's College of Liberal Arts has existed under several names since 1934 and in its current name and structure since 1992, but the liberal arts have been essential to the University since its first class in 1880. During their first year, these first five pioneering students took courses in English Composition and Analysis, U.S. History, and Rhetoric. The College continues to evolve; in the last decade, it added three professional graduate programs: Arts Management, Public Policy and Administration, and Sport Management to serve the needs of professionals looking to enhance their careers, skills, and marketability.

YEAR FOUNDED  
**1934**

NUMBER OF STUDENTS  
**5,351**

Fall Census 2024

SPONSORED PROJECT EXPENDITURES  
**\$4,221,479**

Fiscal Year 2025

## DEPARTMENTS

- Anthropology and Geography
- Economics
- Journalism and Media Communication
- Political Science
- Sociology
- Art and Art History
- English
- Languages, Literatures, and Cultures + Int'l Studies
- Race, Gender, and Ethnic Studies
- Communication Studies
- History
- Philosophy
- School of Music, Theatre, and Dance
- Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts

## WHAT WE'RE KNOWN FOR

**Multidisciplinary environmental studies** including environmental ethics, policy, sociology, economics, and more recently, environmental humanities.

**Professional programs** in journalism and media communication and music, theatre, and dance, plus electronic arts and digital humanities use the latest technology to ensure students have up-to-date training.

Since 1968, the **Economics Ph.D. program** has welcomed students from around the world who bring their skills to CSU and take their new knowledge back to their home countries.

**The Center for Public Deliberation**, which trains student associates to guide communities through difficult conversations, is a resource for the local community and a hands-on learning lab for students.

**The Straayer Center for Public Service Leadership**, named for Professor Emeritus John Straayer, is a place for any student interested in public service to engage in educational events, participate in legislative internships (both in Denver and Washington, D.C.), and develop civic skills.



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<p><b>ACCOLADES AND RANKINGS</b></p>	<p>The College of Liberal Arts is home to three <b>Guggenheim Fellows</b> in poetry – all of whom teach in creative writing for undergraduates and graduate students.</p>	
<p><b>STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND ALIGNMENT</b></p>	<p><b>Priorities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student success and healthy growth.</li> <li>• Elevate research and creative excellence.</li> <li>• Culture as the engine of success.</li> </ul>	<p><b>University alignment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convening a democratic future beyond disagreement.</li> <li>• Driving innovation in the Colorado creative economy.</li> <li>• Partnering across CSU to deliver human solutions for rural Colorado.</li> </ul>

**AREAS OF EXCELLENCE**

<p>The <b>Public and Environmental History Center</b> integrates research, education, and outreach in the best tradition of a land-grant university. Faculty and students collaborate with national and state parks, CSU Extension, local communities, and others interested in connecting the public to their past through historical research.</p> <p>The <b>Institute for Research in the Social Sciences</b> aims to connect and support social scientists with other researchers, as well as university, community, and industry partners.</p>	<p>The <b>music therapy program in the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance</b> is internationally recognized for its leadership in clinical training and research. Students can pursue a Bachelor’s of Music, a master’s degree, or a doctorate in music therapy.</p> <p>The <b>Regional Economic Development Institute</b> is an engaged research enterprise that aims to understand, analyze, and inform economic development strategies particularly in struggling regions in both rural and urban areas, especially in Colorado.</p>
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**RECENT HIGH-IMPACT RESEARCH**

<p><b>Costume Crafts: The Artisan’s Hand (and heart) in Democracy and Civic Engagement</b>, by Assistant Professor of Theatre Erin Carignan, explores the intersection of intention, ideation, and craftsmanship in creating wearable accessories, known as costume crafts.</p> <p>Assistant Professor Katherine Knobloch’s project, <b>Using Community Guides to Frame Citizens’ Assemblies</b>, evaluates the impact of a locally developed democratic innovation. Since 2017, the Center for Public Deliberation has worked with the City of Fort Collins and community partners to develop and implement community guides.</p> <p>The decline of organized labor in the United States has been a topic of interest and renewed discussion in recent years. Assistant Professor Zachary Schaller’s book, <b>The Geography of Union Decline in the U.S.</b>, delves into the realities of current circumstances.</p>	<p><b>History Matters</b> builds research-based, equity-driven, hyperlocal K-12 curriculum that represents the untold histories of Fort Collins, Northern Colorado, and Colorado. Led by the history department’s Jessica Jackson and Alexander Pittman in collaboration with historians and educators, the program delivers classroom-ready lesson plans and resources to local schools.</p> <p>Professor Anthony Roberts’ project, <b>Sentiment, Identity, and Emotions of Political Polarization in the United States</b>, develops a novel sociological perspective of affective political polarization synthesizing affect control theory (e.g., Heise 1979, 2007) and identity theory (e.g., Stryker and Burke 2000; Burke and Stets 2022).</p>
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