The Colorado State University main campus is located in Fort Collins, an award-winning city of about 155,000 residents, located an hour north of Denver near the foothills of the Rocky Mountain Front Range. Easy access to bike trails, hiking, skiing, water sports, rafting, fishing, and other outdoor sports make Fort Collins an ideal location for those looking for outdoor adventure and natural beauty coupled with a vibrant and diverse community.

The county seat of Larimer County, Fort Collins is 65 miles north of Denver on Interstate 25, 45 miles south of Cheyenne, Wyoming, and within an hour's drive of such major recreational areas as Estes Park, Red Feather Lakes, Horsetooth Reservoir, and several mountain parks, including the 790,000-acre Roosevelt National Forest and Rocky Mountain National Park.

Located at an elevation of 5,000 feet, Fort Collins has a clear, dry atmosphere, more than 300 days of sunshine and generally pleasant temperatures throughout the year. The summer temperature ranges from an average high of 85°F to an average low of 52°F; the winter temperature ranges from an average high of 42°F to an average low of 13°F.

Fort Collins is home to a robust arts and entertainment culture and includes an active local music scene, several museums, a vibrant public library district, the civic symphony, and CSU's own University Center for the Arts. The packed University calendar – athletics events, guest speakers, art exhibits, theater, cinema, concerts – adds to community life. This broad spectrum of cultural and outdoor recreational facilities, the excellent climate, and the mountain surroundings contribute to making Fort Collins an ideal university setting.