Undergraduate Applicant Definitions

The following definitions apply to all U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and international applicants. The International Admission section includes additional details specific to international applicants and U.S. citizens/permanent residents educated outside the U.S.

- Freshman/First-Year Students
- Transfer Students
- Second Bachelor’s/Post-Bachelor Candidates
- Returning Students

Freshman/First-Year

You are a Freshman/First-Year applicant if you have never taken college course work OR your only college course work was completed during high school (or homeschool) and prior to high school graduation, GED, or equivalent.

- Refer to instructions for dual/concurrent enrollment if you’ve taken college course work during or as your high school curriculum.
- Details for students who completed a GED or equivalent, homeschooled, graduated early, or completed an online high school diploma are below.
- The admission decision for transfer applicants with fewer than 30 post-high school credits at the point of application includes consideration of the high school record according to these factors.

Refer to the freshman application guide (http://admissions.colostate.edu/futurefreshmenhowtoapply) on the Admissions website for details.

Specialized Freshman/First-Year Populations

This information applies to freshman/first-year applicants and transfer applicants with fewer than 30 post-high school credits at the point of application.

Dual/Concurrent Enrollment Applicants

See the Admissions website for dual/concurrent enrollment applicants (http://admissions.colostate.edu/dual-enrollment).

Applicants whose only college course work has been completed during or as their high school curriculum are considered freshman/first-year applicants with dual/concurrent enrollment.

While high school credentials still are the primary basis for the admission decision for dual/concurrent enrollment students, college performance can be considered in the admission decision, and courses will be evaluated for advanced-standing credit after an applicant is otherwise deemed admissible.

Dual/concurrent enrollment students are eligible for freshman/first-year scholarships and are required to live in the residence halls.

GED (or Alternative) Applicants

See the Admissions website for GED (or alternative) applicants (http://admissions.colostate.edu/ged).

Applicants without a high school diploma or evidence of homeschooling must present a GED (or equivalent) as part of a full application packet. To be eligible for admission, GED applicants must present a minimum 150 in each subject area of the 2014 GED (550 average on the 2002 GED) in addition to demonstrating other evidence of academic readiness through transcript(s), ACT/SAT results (if applicable), and support documents.

Alternatives to the GED include state-governed completion exams such as CHSPE, Hi-Set, or the Wisconsin High School Equivalency Diploma. Applicants who have completed a state-governed completion exam other than the GED are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Note: Transfer applicants with more than 30 post-GED college credits but fewer than 60 transferable post-GED college credits must present a GED (or equivalent) as evidence of high school completion, but GED results are not considered in the admission decision.

Homeschooled Applicants

See the Admissions website for homeschooled applicants (http://admissions.colostate.edu/homeschool).

Homeschooled applicants are welcome at CSU and are evaluated for admission according to general CSU admission criteria; there are no special requirements for applicants who have homeschooled.

We recognize that homeschooling can allow for customized teaching methods, curricula, and learning environments that may differ from “traditional” education models. Our holistic review process is designed to accommodate unique backgrounds as long as we can assess core academic factors in our review of credentials.

Your homeschool transcript can take any form as long as we can determine 1) how you completed the recommended high school course work (http://admissions.colostate.edu/18units) and 2) how you were graded, assessed, or considered to have “mastered” content to move on in your chosen curriculum. If you did not follow a traditional academic calendar or age-based instruction, if you were not assessed using traditional letter or percentile grades, or if you have otherwise customized your homeschool experience so that something other than a traditional transcript with courses and grades is necessary to understand your college preparation, we encourage you to include with your application a description of the learning environment, a list of courses and brief statement about course content, and an explanation of how your content mastery was assessed.

Be sure to reference information for dual/concurrent enrollment applicants if you are using college enrollment as your homeschool curriculum (i.e., completing community college work as your junior/senior year equivalent).

Early Graduates

See the Admissions website for early high school graduates (http://admissions.colostate.edu/early-graduates).

Freshman applicants who complete high school in fewer than four years are evaluated for admission according to general CSU admission criteria. Admission preference is given to students who maximize their high school experience by taking accelerated and/or academically rigorous course work such as Advanced Placement,
International Baccalaureate and/or dual enrollment college courses in order to satisfy the recommended high school course work (http://admissions.colostate.edu/18units).

Whether an applicant is graduating high school one semester or one year early, fall entrance is strongly recommended. Students who leave high school one semester early are not eligible for spring semester entry if the high school only allows for May/June graduation.

Online High School Students
See the Admissions website for online high school students (http://admissions.colostate.edu/online-high-school).

Applicants who complete all or part of their high school curriculum online are evaluated for admission according to general CSU admission criteria. Admission preference is given to students who maximize their high school experience by taking accelerated and/or academically rigorous course work such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and/or dual enrollment college courses in order to satisfy the recommended high school course work (http://admissions.colostate.edu/18units), so online high school completion programs that include strong college-prep rigor are encouraged.

While we are flexible in our recognition of online high school completion programs and do not require a specific type of accreditation, regional accreditation typically is a good indication of alignment with our admission criteria.

Transfer Students
You are a Transfer applicant if you have enrolled in any amount of college-level course work at a regionally-accredited college/university after high school graduation, GED, or equivalent. If you will have completed 30 or fewer post-high school college credits at the point of application, the admission decision also will include consideration of your high school credentials.

Refer to the transfer application guide (http://admissions.colostate.edu/transferstudentshowtoapply) on the Admissions website for details.

Second Bachelor's/Post-Bachelor Candidates
You are a Second Bachelor's/Post-bachelor applicant if you will have completed a full bachelor's/undergraduate degree before enrolling in a new undergraduate degree program at CSU.

Refer to the second bachelor's application guide (http://admissions.colostate.edu/secondbachelorsapplicants) on the Admissions website for details, noting the following:

- Applicants who are new to CSU should reference the transfer applicant information.
- Applicants who completed an undergraduate degree at CSU and are applying to begin a new undergraduate degree at CSU should also reference the Returning Student information.

Returning Students
You are a Returning Student if you previously attended CSU as an admitted, degree-seeking undergraduate student and wish to resume studying at CSU as an admitted, degree-seeking undergraduate student.

Refer to the returning student application guide (http://admissions.colostate.edu/returningstudents) on the Admissions website for details, noting the following:

- Refer to the Second Bachelor's/Post-bachelor information if you are returning to CSU to begin a new degree program.
- Students returning to a degree in progress should reference the Returning Student information.