

THE COLORADO COLLEGE PLAN: BUILDING ON THE BLOCK 2.0

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2: *Build Nationally Recognized Summer and Half-Block Programs*

INTRODUCTION

In 2013, Colorado College produced a far-reaching strategic plan that laid out the priorities for the next decade and recommendations on how to achieve this vision. Five years in, the institution is assessing progress made, addressing hurdles that have arisen, and adapting priorities to recent developments, both structurally and culturally.

In the last five years, the activities and opportunities offered in the summer months have skyrocketed – expanded course offerings (including courses with embedded experiential learning elements), new student-faculty research opportunities, greater financial support for student internships in the summer, and increased programming through the Summer Music Festival and Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College that have made CC the cultural hub of Colorado Springs. All have contributed to supporting Recommendation #2 of the strategic plan and growing the vibrancy on-campus.

Alongside the growth in research, coursework, and student and faculty support, departments across campus have seen the summer months as an opportunity to extend their operations and advance other strategic plan recommendations. These concerted efforts to utilize the summer months and the effort to build a nationally recognized summer program are inextricably linked, as departments' advancement of strategic plan recommendations feeds the vibrancy of the campus and scaffolds summer programming that will garner national attention and recognition. Considering the range of initiatives offered, it is vital to recognize the summer months as a point of intersection for multiple strategic plan recommendations, specifically,

- **PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TO REALIZE THE POTENTIAL OF OUR PIONEERING BLOCK PLAN**
 - Institutional investment in students, especially high-need students, has increased over the last five years
 - Added support and newly developed funding opportunities has expanded the number of students engaging in summer opportunities
- **ENHANCE OUR DISTINCTIVE PLACE OF LEARNING**
 - Responsible stewardship of the physical campus is imperative, and the summer months allow for necessary renovations and refurbishments
- **FOCUS ON WORKPLACE EXCELLENCE TO FOSTER AN ORGANIZATION THAT IS AS INNOVATIVE AND DYNAMIC AS THE CC ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**
 - Continued professional development programming in the summer ensures a collaborative environment across campus
- **INTEGRATE THE FINE ARTS CENTER INTO CC**
 - The summer months provide unique opportunities to underscore our Sense of Place and enliven the CC Community

Because the summer months support a range of departments and institutional priorities, the **Campus-Wide Committee for Summer Programming (CCSP)** was created in 2018 to refresh and operationalize plans for a nationally recognized summer program, as well as, inform the CC Community of strategic plan successes advanced in the summer. Members of the CCSP represent the entire campus, which ensures organizational transparency and a cohesive understanding of how to utilize the summer months and advance departmental and institutional priorities.

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As the Campus-Wide Committee for Summer Programming (CCSP) prepares to develop new recommendations, the CCSP has requested key metrics from all departments operating during the summer months (see below).

While most reported metrics support Recommendation #2 of the strategic plan, some departments operating in the summer support other institutional priorities; therefore data points are grouped by the most relevant strategic plan recommendation.

The CCSP report is the first cross-campus account of summer activities. Once the committee reconvenes, the immediate goal will be to analyze the reported data, highlight gaps in student/faculty support, and propose recommendations that are informed and able to be operationalized. The CCSP welcomes any questions or suggestions by senior leadership.

Strategic Plan Recommendations Supported During Summer

	Build Nationally Recognized Summer and Half-Block Programs for a New Generation of Learners
	Integrate the Fine Arts Center into CC
	Provide Additional Support to Realize the Potential of the Pioneering Block Plan
	Focus on Workplace Excellence to Foster an Organization that is Innovative and Dynamic
	Enhance Our Distinctive Place of Learning

BUILD NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SUMMER PROGRAM

SUMMER SESSION	2017	2018	SUMMER RESEARCH	2017	2018	DEAN'S OFFICE	2017	2018
Students enrolled	384	379	Students conducting research projects with faculty/staff	123	120	Flex Blocks approved for faculty	5	3
Courses offered on-campus	38	31	Faculty/staff overseeing research	45	55	Bridge Program (BSP) first year students	66	83
Courses offered off-campus	13	9	Natural science research	84	91	BSP course sections	5	5
Units earned by CC students	537	448	Social science research	22	18	Global Scholars (GSP) first year students	32	17
Pre-College students	51	45	Humanities research	14	8	GSP course sections	3	2
			Interdisciplinary research	3	3	Keller Venture Grants	26	35
			Pell-eligible research students	25	31			

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Graduate MAT/LISCP		
Students enrolled	64	51
Courses offered	15	13
Units earned	101	84
Children's Summer Programs		
Gifted and Talented Students	186	183
Gifted and Talented Courses	10	10
Whiz Bang Science Students	149	122
Whiz Bang Science Courses	8	8

CAREER CENTER

Self-reported internships	307	TBD
Self-reported summer job	148	TBD
Internship funding awarded	\$287K	\$237K
Students receiving internship grants	115	95
Summer student programs	12	TBD
Summer program participants	128	TBD
CONFERENCE SERVICES	2017	2018
On-campus conferences	17	26
Guests brought to campus	2,000	2,373

ALUMNI AFFAIRS

Block Break Away Trip	1	1
Alumni participants	32	13
Faculty/Staff participants	2	1
ADMISSIONS	2017	2018
Summer Info Sessions	843	815
Group visit attendees	135	457
On-campus interviews	374*	293
*of the 374 interviewed, 277 applied, 111 admitted, and 64 committed		

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Summer Session	2017	2018
Wild Cards used	287	280
Financial Aid released to on-campus students	\$123K	\$103K
Number of on-campus students receiving aid	36	31
Financial Aid released to off-campus students	\$282K	\$280K
Number of off-campus students receiving aid	46	54
Pell-eligible students receiving aid for on & off campus courses	44	46

FINE ARTS CENTER

Museum	2017	2018
Special Exhibitions	6	10
Visitors (June-August)	6,278	7,436
Performing Arts		
Special Events	4	7
Visitors (June-August)	5,857	6,844
Bemis School of Art		
Courses and events	3	2
Visitors (June-August)	6,372	5,581
FAC Events		
Special Events	6	5
Visitors (June-August)	3,373	4,189

WORKPLACE EXCELLENCE

Human Resources	2017	2018
Excel @ CC courses offered (June-August)	7	16
Excel @ CC enrollment (June-August)	102	223

DISTINCTIVE PLACE

Facilities	2017	2018
Capital improvement projects (start after 5/22)	-	53
Capital improvement budget request	-	\$3.4M

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The newly created College-Wide Committee on Summer Programming (CCSP) serves as an advisory group to the President and Provost on all aspects related to Recommendation #2 of Building on the Block, “Build a nationally recognized summer program.”

When the CCSP first convened in Spring 2018, the group took the opportunity to think intentionally about the progress made towards the strategic plan’s recommendation, “build a nationally recognized summer program.” The committee consists of faculty and staff representing departments with substantial operations during the summer months and departments committed to finding and addressing gaps in student and faculty support. This combination of broad expertise, first-hand understanding of student and faculty needs, and commitment to advancing student access, retention, persistence, and thriving ensures future summer programming will advance the priorities set forth in the Building on the Block strategic plan.

Major Accomplishments to Date:

- Summer Collaborative Research Program created 2014
- Created extended thematic blocks that combined liberal arts skills and career-related experience, specifically, FM220: The Colorado Documentary Project – 6 student documentaries featured on Rocky Mountain PBS
- Pre-College Program was created in 2016 – summer courses specifically designed for high school juniors and seniors that serve as an introduction to the Block Plan for prospective CC students
- Global Scholars Program was created in 2016 to prepare new degree-seeking international students with academic preparation and additional language instruction
- (2017) Bridge Scholars Program expanded to 66 first year students and five course sections
- (2018) Offering two Half Block courses during Block B - one is offered in evening to accommodate working students
- (2018) Piloting continuing education workshops with education and music departments

Sample Future Initiatives:

- Update Summer Experience Survey administered by the Career Center
 - The purpose of this survey is to give the College a better understanding of the types of opportunities (including internships, summer jobs, research, and coursework) which CC students are taking advantage of throughout the summer.
 - Metric #1: increase campus-wide response rate to 30% (current status: 22%)
- Develop introductory lab skills course for Summer 2019 to stimulate increase in SCoRe student-faculty research collaborations
- Increase bottleneck course listings in Summer Session, e.g. CH 250/251, EV 211, PY 202
- Expand course development funding for summer half unit courses and experiential opportunities
- Expand continuing education offerings for community members
 - Summer 2018 offers two pilot continuing education workshops: Art as Literacy Workshop - a collaboration between the FAC and MAT program to support local art teachers, and the Bluegrass Workshop that offers ensemble instruction to musicians from across the U.S.
- Create thematic linkages between NSO programming, January Half Block, and Summer Session to provide more holistic learning and preparation for first-year students’ transition to sophomore year
- Develop competency-based adjunct courses or intensive boot camps to support academic and professional readiness

College-Wide Committee on Summer Programming Role, Responsibilities, and Members

ROLE

The role of the College-Wide Committee on Summer Programming (CCSP) is to facilitate collaboration and engagement among all departments and academic units offering summer programs at Colorado College. The CCSP serves as an ongoing advisory group to the President and Provost on all aspects related to Recommendation #2 of Building on the Block, “build[ing] a nationally recognized summer program.”

RESPONSIBILITIES

While final programmatic decisions will rest with individual offices, the CCSP will guide the development of a plan to fulfil the recommendations made by members of the 2017 Summer Strategic Plan Project during the next 3-5 years. The plan will build on and refine the central elements of these recommendations and develop a more operational plan to coordinate summer programming, avoid redundant efforts, enhance community and civic engagement with the Colorado Springs community, and raise institutional priorities that should be addressed in the summer months.

Annually the CCSP will prepare a comprehensive report on summer activities, enrollments, and program specifics for each summer term. The report will assess progress towards building a nationally recognized summer program and identify program elements that are working well and areas that need improvement. Reports will be submitted to the President of the College and the Provost.

MEMBERS

- Chair, Jim Burke, Director of Summer Session
- Dr. Pedro de Araujo, Associate Dean of the College & Associate Professor of Economics
- Dr. Paul Buckley, Assistant Vice President & Director of the Butler Center
- Erin Hannan, Director at Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College
- Megan Nicklaus, Career Center Director
- Anita Pariseau, Director of Alumni and Family Relations and Assistant Vice President for Advancement
- Lisa Schwartz, Student Collaborative Research Coordinator
- Gina Spiers, Assistant Director, Summer Music Festival
- Rochelle Taylor, Room Assignment & Conference Manager

Appointed by the President of the College, the Director of Summer Session will serve as Chair of the College-Wide Committee on Summer Programming (CCSP). Membership of the CCSP includes academic faculty and administrators, as well as representatives from institutional offices that support faculty, students, and external stakeholders of Colorado College. Members will be asked to serve on the College-Wide Committee on Summer Programming for two-year terms, with the option to renew.