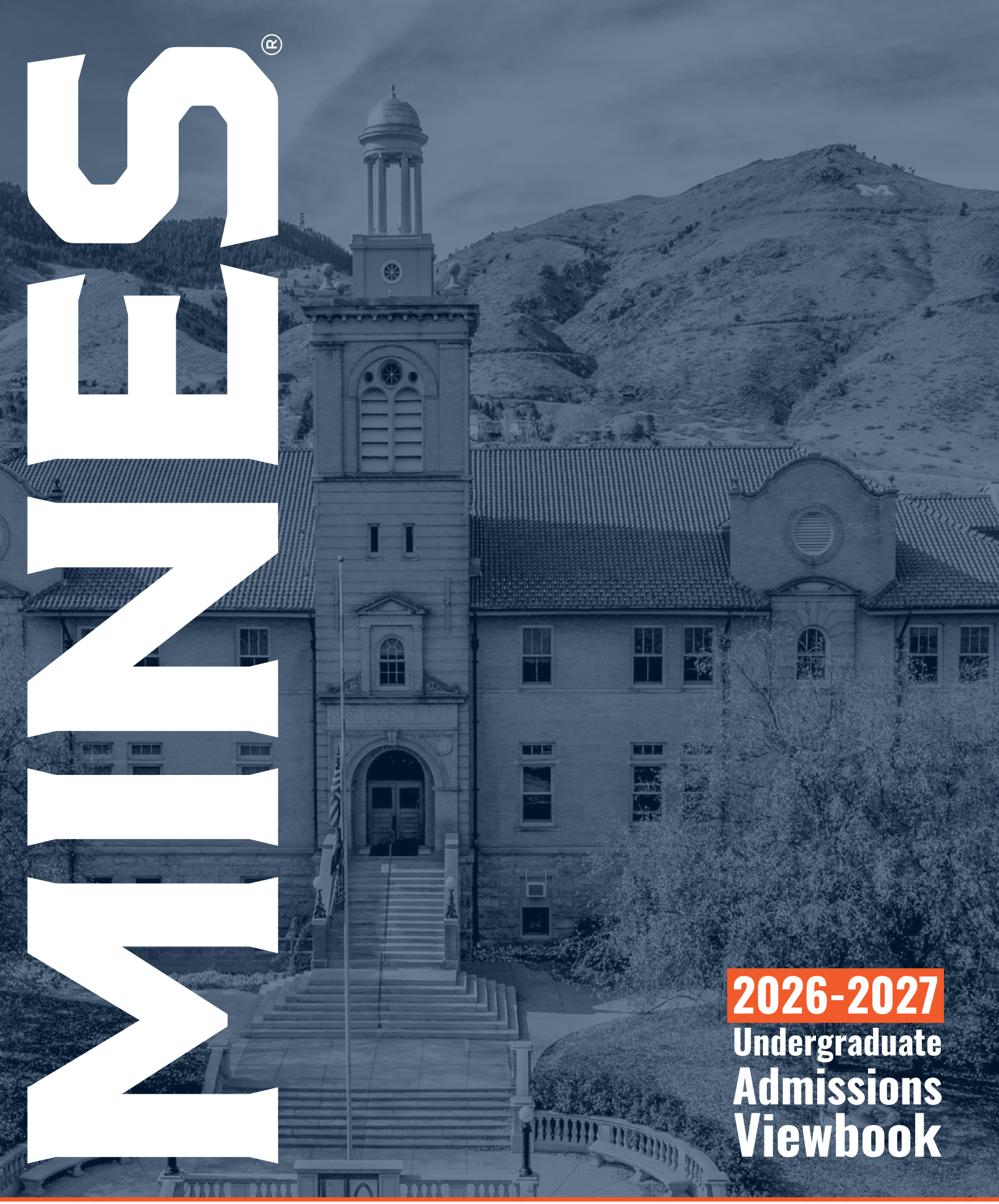
MINES®



2026-2027 Undergraduate Admissions Viewbook

Colorado's Premier Engineering and Applied Science University

More than a hard hat

A symbol of your next chapter

Students at Colorado School of Mines will not only find themselves immersed in academics, they also become part of the story. **Founded in 1874, Mines is Colorado's premier engineering and applied science university.** And with 150+ years come traditions that last a lifetime. College is recognized as one of the most valuable experiences in one's life, offering not just academic benefits, but opportunities for personal growth, career advancement and social development. Each fall, students will partake in a number of events to kick off the semester. Receiving the **Mines hard hat** marks the beginning of the next chapter as an Oredigger.

More about traditions on pg 9



TRADITION LOOKS GOOD ON YOU!

Meet PCJ

President Paul C. Johnson, Ph.D.

President Johnson, or better known on campus as 'PCJ', is the 17th president of Colorado School of Mines. He too is an engineer by trade, with chemical engineering degrees including his master's and PhD from Princeton University. His unique, front-line leadership is one-of-a-kind and a standout difference from most. He and his wife, Elyse, are often at events and activities like Move-In Day and the annual M Climb.

PCJ is also known for his **selfies with students,** so if you run into him, feel free to say hi and give him a follow on social.

Follow PCJ on Instagram orediggerfan1

No.1
Best College in Colorado
Wall Street Journal, 2026

No.1
Best Public University in Colorado
Niche, 2026

Top 40
Public Universities
U.S. News & World Report, 2026

No.1
Mineral and Mining Engineering University
QS World University Rankings, 2026

Learn more

mines.edu/academics

MAJORS AND MINORS MINERS

Orediggers are hands-on learners who develop the technical expertise and specialized skills to thrive across a variety of engineering and applied science fields. Guided by renowned faculty and real-world projects, students turn ideas into reality.

Not sure what you want to study? That's okay. At Mines, all students start with the same foundational courses allowing you to explore what major you want.

Pick a major

- Applied Math and Statistics
- Biochemistry
- Business Engineering and Management Science
- Ceramic Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Chemistry
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Science
- Construction Engineering
- Design Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering Physics
- Environmental Engineering
- Geological Engineering
- Geophysical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Metallurgical and Materials Engineering
- Mining Engineering
- Petroleum Engineering
- Quantitative Biosciences and Engineering
- Quantum Systems Engineering

Pair with a minor

- Aerospace Engineering
- Applied Mathematics and Statistics
- Biology
- Biomechanical Engineering
- Biomedical Engineering
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Science
- Culture, Creativity and Communication
- Data Science
- Economics
- Electrical Engineering
- Energy
- Engineering Physics
- Environment and Sustainability Studies
- Explosive Engineering
- Geological Engineering
- Geophysics/Geophysical Engineering
- Global Politics and Society
- Humanitarian Engineering
- Humanities, Arts and Social Science
- McBride Honors Program in Public Affairs
- Mechanical Engineering
- Metallurgical and Materials Engineering
- Mineral Processing and Extractive Metallurgy
- Mining Engineering
- Music, Audio Engineering and Recording Arts
- Operations Research
- Petroleum Data Analytics
- Petroleum Engineering
- Physics
- Quantum Engineering
- Robotics and Intelligent Systems
- Space Mining
- Structural Engineering
- Teaching
- Underground Construction and Tunneling
- Water Sustainability

Customize your degree

Many majors offer **specialty tracks**, giving you the option to focus on an area that matches your interests and career goals. Often mechanical engineering students pursue an Aerospace track.

Other options include declaring an **established minor** or **Area of Special Interest (ASI)**, or you can **create your own** interdisciplinary minor.

Explore all track and program options.

COMBINED PROGRAMS

Multiple Degrees, One Plan, Less Time.

Explore how to complete your bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years.

79	9	6	45	27
196.97	18.998	12.011	102.91	58.933
Au	**F**	**C**	**Rh**	**Co**
Admissions	Financial Aid	Campus Life	Residence Life	Colorado

The **elements** to becoming an Orediger.





Colorado's Premier Engineering and Applied Science University

ROBOTICS
INNOVATION
COMPUTING
SCIENCE
AEROSPACE

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES

BIOSCIENCES
ELECTRICAL
MATH
QUANTUM
ENERGY
HEALTH







Ask us about the **nation's first bachelor's degree in Quantum Systems Engineering.**

79 196.97
Au
Admissions

PREPARING TO APPLY



Photo from the annual **M Climb.**
Read more on page 9 about this tradition.

Requirements

4 Years
college-prep or advanced math
trigonometry or pre-calculus at minimum

3 Years
lab science
physics or chemistry at minimum

4 Years
english

You must also fulfill the required courses outlined by your high school to meet graduation requirements

Recommendations

Advanced mathematics
80% of incoming students completed Calculus I or its equivalent in high school

Advanced science
physics and chemistry preferred

AP, IB and/or CE Courses
Advanced Placement
International Baccalaureate
Concurrent Enrollment

STEM-Focused Electives
including computer science and/or engineering

Average accepted student profile

unweighted GPA
3.84

average ACT composite
31

average SAT composite
1372

*based on accepted students for the incoming class of 2026, test scores based on those who selected to submit

Need help? Every student is assigned an admissions counselor to help guide you every step of the way. Find yours on our contact page. **mines.edu/admissions**

AUGUST 1 Application opens
NOVEMBER 1 Priority deadline — Get your admissions decision by December 15
JANUARY 15 Regular deadline — Get your admissions decision by February 15
MARCH 1 Financial Aid priority deadline
MAY 1 National Decision Day

1 Apply at **mines.edu/apply**

- You can apply using the Golden Application or the Common App
- Applying creates a Admissions Application Portal

2 Pay your application fee within your application account

- Domestic students: **$60**
- International students: **$75**

3 Submit your high school transcript

- To apply, you may submit either an unofficial or official transcript

4 Application review

- All materials are carefully considered, so be sure to include as much detail as possible on why you are ready to be an Oredigger

5 Stay connected

- While your application is under review, you can log in to your application account at any time to check the status
- Make sure to check your email often. We will notify you with your admissions decision and you will get emails with other important information along the way

Submit your enrollment decision form and deposit

- Accepted students will need to submit their decision form and deposit to hold their spot. **It's recommended to do this as early as possible.**
- Students who complete their decision form quickly have early access to apply for housing starting **April 1.** On-campus housing is guaranteed if you enroll by **May 1.**

Good to know

Letters of recommendation and an **essay/personal statement** are not required to apply, but are highly encouraged.

Competitive? YES! More than **13,000** students apply for ~1,600 first-year seats.

College credit in high school

There are many ways to earn college credit while in high school. You should work with your high school counselor and Mines admissions counselor on which courses to take to best align with your Mines degree path.

Learn how credits transfer to Mines by scanning the QR code below or by visiting **mines.edu/collegecreditinhs**

Concurrent Enrollment/Dual Credit
An official transcript must be requested from the college that awarded the college credit for your CE classes and sent directly to Mines.

Advanced Placement (AP)
Official scores must be sent directly from College Board.

International Baccalaureate (IB)
Official scores must be sent directly from IB.

Learn **more**
mines.edu/apply

Admissions info
THIS WAY

Ideas to reality

Watching a SpaceX Starship launch with friends last fall sparked a question for Brock Schelhaas and two classmates: What would it take to build a rocket engine themselves?

Months later, the answer was firing in front of them.

Using skills developed in the classroom and equipment available through the Labriola Innovation Hub, the mechanical engineering students designed and manufactured a bipropellant rocket engine from scratch. After months of testing and iteration, the team successfully completed a nine-second hot fire in May. Faculty members offered advice along the way, and one professor even supplied piping needed for the plumbing system.

"We were sitting in a room watching Starship launch and asking ourselves if we could do this," Brock said. **"A few months later, we had built an engine and successfully fired it."**

For Brock, experiences like that capture what makes Mines different. Hands-on learning started during his first semester in Design I and continued through mechanical design courses, internships and student-led engineering projects. He landed an internship with Moog Space and Defense after meeting recruiters at Career Day and worked on a manufacturing team supporting satellite production. The experience reinforced the value of the technical communication and problem-solving skills he developed at Mines.

When Brock was comparing colleges, he considered larger universities. But after visiting Mines, his decision was clear.

"You know your professors. You know your classmates. Everyone wants to be here and everyone wants to build something," Brock said. **"That makes Mines a really special place."**



Watch the liquid rocket hot fire test video on YouTube.
The group named the rocket Tetelestai, meaning "it is finished."

Brock Schelhaas

BS Mechanical Engineering - Aerospace Track

Combined Program Student

Daniels Fund Scholar

9 18.998 F Financial Aid

COST OF ATTENDANCE

2026 - 2027

Out-of-State **Non-Resident**	
Tuition	$44,790
Room and Board	$18,900
Fees	$3,206
Books and Supplies	$1,500
Personal Expenses	$3,074
Estimated Total Cost	**$71,470**

In-State **Colorado Resident**	
Tuition	$19,800*
Room and Board	$18,900
Fees	$3,206
Books and Supplies	$1,500
Personal Expenses	$3,074
Estimated Total Cost	**$46,480** *after COF

Types of aid

Mines offers a variety of financial aid options to help students manage the cost of attendance. At Mines, **91 percent of students receive some form of financial assistance** to help invest in their education.

Scholarships

Merit-based scholarships: When you apply to Mines, you're automatically considered for merit-based scholarships. Amounts vary for Colorado residents and out-of-state students. Visit our website for current ranges and details.

The General Scholarship Application: This option allows accepted students to apply for a range of scholarships offered by Mines through one general application.

Special scholarships: These include ROTC, athletics and additional scholarships through the Mines Professional and Scholar Communities Applied Learning (PASCAL) Center. PASCAL Scholarships are applied for through the Mines Scholarship Portal and emphasize core areas such as service, leadership and entrepreneurship.

External scholarships: Students can also apply through clubs, organizations and companies worldwide.

Student employment

There are a number of on-campus employment opportunities for students.

Grants and loans

You may be offered a grant or loan as a part of your financial aid award. Grants are a form of aid that do not require repayment, unlike a loan that will need to be repaid.

OCTOBER
1
FAFSA opens

DECEMBER
General scholarship application opens

MARCH
1
Financial Aid priority deadline
Complete the FAFSA or CASFA and General scholarship application

FASFA and CASFA

Any student, regardless of income, who wants to be considered for federal, state and school financial aid programs must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at **StudentAid.gov using Mines school code 001348**. Students who do not meet the criteria for FAFSA can complete the Colorado Application for State Financial Aid (CASFA).

Top 3
Public Universities in the Nation for 40-Year Return on Investment
Georgetown, 2025

Top 30
Best Value Colleges in America and Best Colleges for Engineering
Niche, 2025

$84K
Average Undergraduate Starting Salary After Graduation

Learn more
finaid.mines.edu

BACK TO
Financial Aid info



6 12.011 C
Campus Life

19:1 student-to-faculty ratio

~150 incoming transfer students

50 states represented on campus

43 countries represented on campus

~1,600 incoming first-year students

R1 research status

200+ student clubs and organizations

18 Division II varsity sports

35,000+ square feet of makerspaces

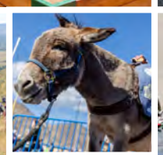
OREDIGGER CAMP

A summer camp experience with a Mines twist, Oredigger Camp has become a new-student favorite. Head into the mountains for campfires, engineering challenges and intense gaga ball showdowns. It is all about building friendships, confidence and a strong sense of community during **Helluva Welcome Week.**









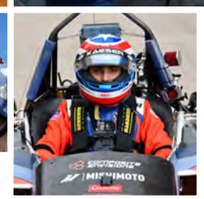
M CLIMB

Be part of a century-old tradition! **New Orediggers hike up Mt. Zion with a 10-pound rock from their hometown.** You'll be cheered on by student organizations, sing the fight song and give the hillside 'M' a fresh coat of paint. It's lively, spirited and one of the most unforgettable traditions at Mines.

RESEARCH

With **R1 status** and more than **300+ active research faculty** working alongside students on game-changing projects in energy, robotics, space and more, undergraduates can often get involved in their first year. You can even showcase your work at the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium.





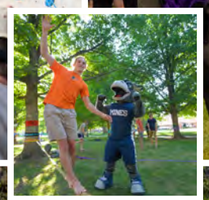
MAKERSPACES

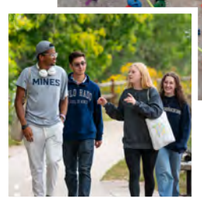
Mines offers **35,000+ square feet of makerspaces** on campus, with access to tools like **3D printers, CNC machines, laser cutters and woodworking equipment.** These spaces give students the freedom to test ideas, build real solutions and develop the hands-on skills that will set them apart in the workforce.

CAMPUS RECREATION

With **150,000 square feet of space**, the Student Recreation Center is your go-to spot for fitness and fun. Climb the rock wall, join an intramural team, hit the gym or gear up for outdoor adventures across Colorado. **From esports to yoga, there's something for everyone.**









E-DAYS

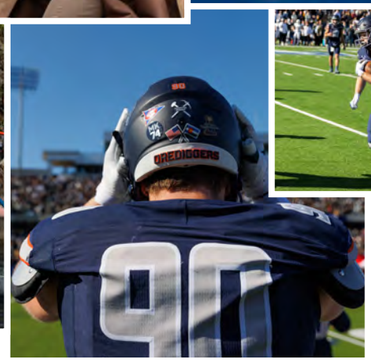
E-Days is Mines' spring celebration of engineering and community. **The highlight is the cardboard boat race, where students test their designs in the cold waters of Clear Creek.** With concerts, fireworks and hands-on challenges, it's a weekend that captures the spirit and creativity of Orediggers.

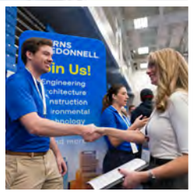
CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

With **more than 200 student organizations**, you can build an F1 car, join a cultural or professional organization, compete in robotics or get involved in Fraternity and Sorority Life. Want more? **Study abroad programs, like the First-Year Semester Abroad in France, let you explore the world while staying on track for graduation.** However you get involved, you'll find your people here.









ATHLETICS

With **18 Division II varsity sports**, from football and basketball to soccer and swimming, athletics brings the campus community together. **At the center of it all is Blaster, our mascot.** Games are a chance to connect with classmates while wearing your Mines gear and singing the fight song. **#HelluvaEngineer**

HONORS

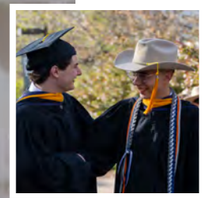
Join **a community of more than 1,200 students** across ten honors and scholars programs at Mines. The First-Year Honors experience offers two pathways: Thorson, with a humanities and ethics focus, or Grandey, with an emphasis on leadership and systems thinking. Both programs offer small class sizes, creative projects and a community of students that live together in a signature learning community within residence life.



THE END GOAL: GRADUATION

Commencement at Mines honors the hard work behind every degree. Students receive a **silver-plated diploma and can choose to wear a distinctive Mines hat or traditional mortar board** for graduation. Both are symbols of Oredigger pride and traditions that mark the start of what comes next. And don't forget about **ringing the bell located outside Guggenheim Hall.**





CAREER DAYS

Each semester, **Career Days brings hundreds of employers to campus**, and **~1,300 organizations recruit and hire Orediggers each year.** The Career Center helps you prep your resume, practice interviews and find internships or full-time jobs.

Learn **more**
mines.edu/student-life



LIVING ON CAMPUS

A two-year experience

Living on campus means being part of a community from day one and **just steps from your classes, campus dining, activities and support services.**

Mines has a **two-year live-on requirement**, setting students up for success. You'll gain life skills, build strong support networks and be part of an active campus community.

You'll also find the Student Wellness Center which offers health, counseling services, along with wellness programs to support your mental health, nutrition and sleep. So you stay balanced and ready for what's next while on your college journey.

Signature Learning Communities

Signature Learning Communities (SLCs) give students the opportunity to live with others who share something in common. **This can be academically focused or based on an affinity or passion area.** Whether you are interested in wellness, the arts or leadership, you can **live and learn with like-minded Orediggers** who are just as engaged as you are. These communities make it easier to get involved, build friendships and feel at home at Mines, starting with day one.

At Mines, we're integrating AI into education to prepare students for what's next. AI was used to add elements to this image. Can you spot them?

Answer on the back page.

Learn more

mines.edu/residence-life



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Residence Life

LET'S EAT

Dining on campus

You'll always have access to fresh food, quick bites and your go-to coffee order without having to leave campus. Mines Market is the main dining hall, featuring nine distinctive stations. Options for vegetarian, vegan and allergen-free diets are always available. **Your meal plan also includes Munch Money, which you can use just like cash** at different locations around campus, like Qdoba, Einstein Bros. Bagels and Starbucks.

GETTING AROUND TOWN



Ore Cart Shuttle

Operated as a partnership between Mines and the City of Golden, **the Ore Cart Shuttle is free for all riders** and connects the Mines campus with downtown Golden and more.



Bike, blade, board

Golden has been named a Bicycle Friendly Community for its infrastructure for bicyclists. You'll find bike lanes to get around and even mountain trails and races for the avid biker.



RTD Light Rail

Mines students get a free RTD College Pass with unlimited bus and light rail rides, including to and from Denver International Airport via the A Line with connections to Golden.

IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL 1
First-year housing application opens

MID JUNE
Room selection begins

LATE JUNE
Deadline to complete housing process

Built on support

Mae came to Colorado School of Mines for the same reason she has stayed: the support.

An engineering physics major from Longmont, Colorado, Mae first visited Mines as a prospective student through SWE Shadow Day, a program hosted by the Society of Women Engineers. She shadowed a junior engineering physics student, asked every question she could think of and left with a clear feeling.

"I knew I would be supported here," Mae said.

Now, she is helping create that same experience for others. As president of SWE, Mae leads a 24-person officer board focused on supporting women on campus, in the community and in engineering. The role has helped her build leadership skills, including the chance to attend the national SWE conference with thousands of engineers from across the country.

The support Mae found at Mines mattered. She is preparing for graduate school in medical physics, with the goal of working in radiation oncology. It is a focused path, and she said Mines faculty have helped her find connections in a niche field.

Her hands-on experience started early. In one project, Mae helped design, build and program a sign language translation glove in under 40 hours. Using sensors, the glove recognized different signs and displayed the translation on a screen.

She is also working in a research lab on campus, gaining experience with an ultrafast femtosecond laser and learning from faculty and graduate students. Those moments, she said, are where Mines stands out.

"Everything at Mines is so hands on," Mae said.

For students wondering whether they will fit in, Mae has a clear answer. Mines is challenging, but it is not cutthroat. Students work together, trade ideas and help each other get through hard classes. **"Everyone wants everyone to succeed,"** she said.





Mae Oling

BS Engineering Physics

Society of Physics Students

President, Society of Women Engineers

27 58.933
Co
Colorado

Access the online **Visitor's Guide** using the QR code on the back page.

WELCOME TO COLORADO



FROM THE CITY TO THE SLOPES

Colorado is home to **58 fourteeners, four national parks, 42 state parks** and numerous trails. Whether you're camping, hitting the slopes or just catching a sunset, the outdoors are always within reach. And when you're craving local food, arts, music, or a pro game, **Denver is just 15 miles away** with museums, concerts, theaters and major league sports year-round.

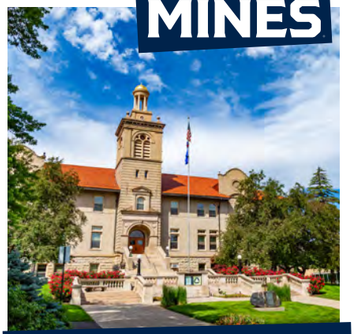
LOCATION GOLDEN



WELCOME HOME

Golden is a walkable town with a **small-town vibe** and Rocky Mountain views. Three blocks from campus, downtown is filled with restaurants, coffee shops, galleries and local favorites. Golden delivers four true seasons and **300 days of sunshine** per year. And don't forget to explore Red Rocks Amphitheatre, one of the most iconic outdoor venues in the world, just minutes away.

DESTINATION MINES



ENGINEERING THE ENGINEER

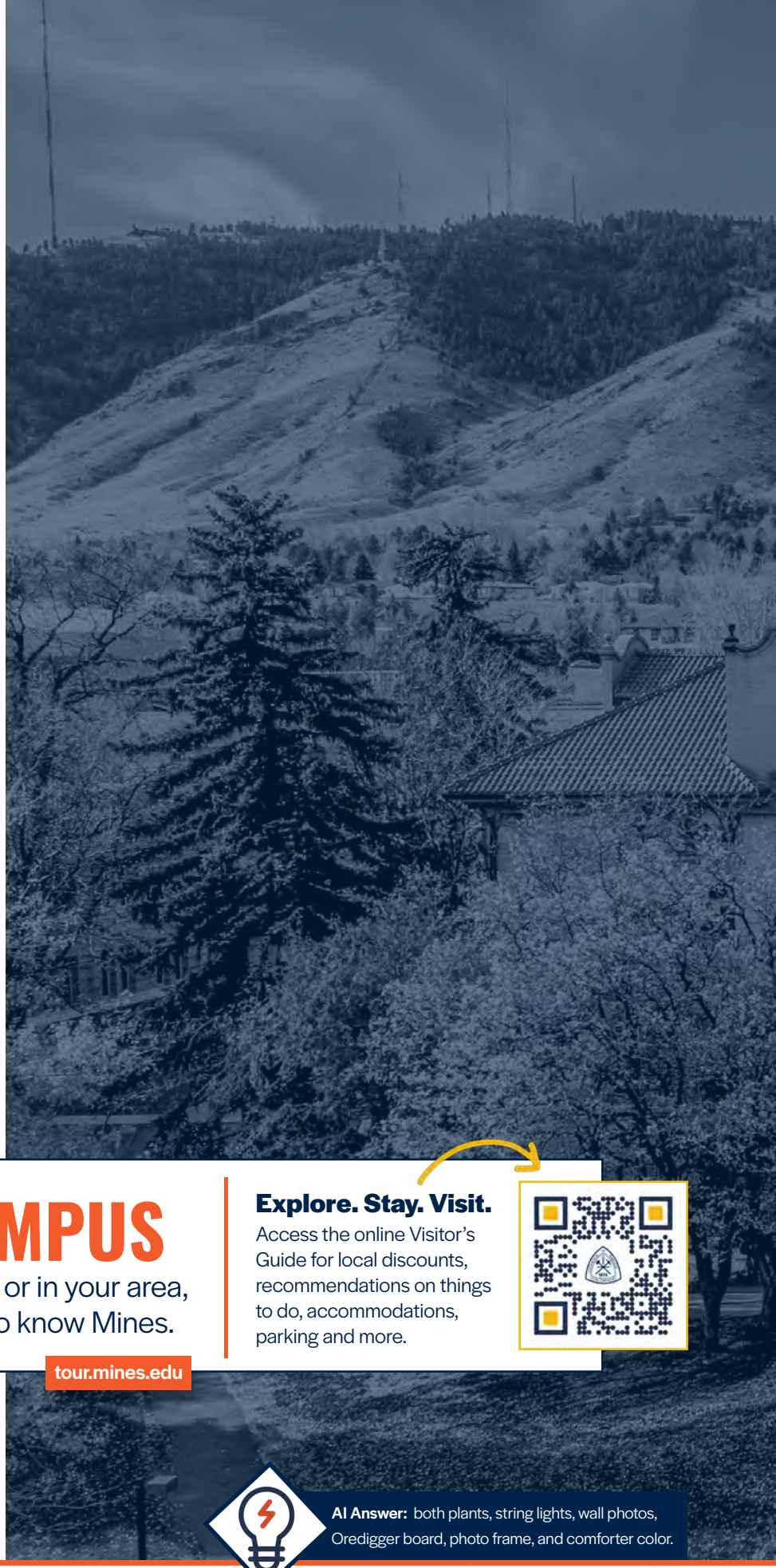
At Mines, **8,204 total students, 6,339 of whom are undergrads,** make up a close-knit, high-achieving community. Students tackle rigorous academics through hands-on learning, internships and research opportunities. They work with top companies and organizations shaping the future of energy, technology and infrastructure. It's a campus built for collaboration, discovery and real-world impact.

COLORADO SCHOOL OF
MINES®

Colorado's Premier Engineering and Applied Science University

303-384-2027 | admissions@mines.edu

mines.edu



VISIT CAMPUS

On campus, virtually or in your area, we want you to get to know Mines.

tour.mines.edu

Explore. Stay. Visit.

Access the online Visitor's Guide for local discounts, recommendations on things to do, accommodations, parking and more.

AI Answer: both plants, string lights, wall photos, Oredigger board, photo frame, and comforter color.

Mines does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), pregnancy, sexual orientation, marital status, race, ethnicity, color, religion, creed, national origin or ancestry, disability, genetic information, veteran status or current military service. Mines' commitment to nondiscrimination, equal opportunity and equal access is reflected in the administration of its policies, procedures, programs and activities and in its efforts to achieve a talented student body and workforce.