

THE SURVIVAL GUIDE

FOR

STATISTICS

GRADUATE STUDENTS

AT

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

FALL 2009

SURVIVAL GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION

This is an unofficial Survival Guide to graduate school from the Department of Statistics. We have collected helpful information from various sources and will present it in a candid and informal format. We've unabashedly ripped off stuff from folks who are undoubtedly unaware of our thievery, so we apologize in advance for that. If you would like to contribute to the next version or if you have complaints or suggestions about this version, please contact me. You can send e-mail or regular mail to our graduate coordinator, Jennifer (jent@stat.colostate.edu).

This guide should not be confused with official information and the policies of important people who know what they're doing. Some of the more important people you may want to see are Jennifer Tallchief, Assistant to the Chair, and Dr. Jay Breidt (the Chair). You can tell that these people are the important ones, because their offices are on the 1st floor (101 and 102A, respectively).

GETTING STARTED

After four or more years as a college student, everyone has an image of what's essential: a bicycle, a backpack, a mechanical pencil and a set of t- and z-tables. But before you can assume your role as a stats grad student, there are those other essentials to consider: food, water, and shelter. The goal of this section is to help you get settled into Fort Collins as easily as possible and to present some of the things that need to be done in your first few weeks here.

HOW TO ESTABLISH RESIDENCY –CRITICAL!

Residency is a much-cherished thing in Colorado, and it is not bestowed upon newcomers as automatically as you might think -- living here for a year is not good enough. So, if you are a U.S. citizen, are new to Colorado and for some particular reason would like to hold onto money next year that is rightfully yours, then you need to take some early steps to create evidence that Colorado is now your official domicile. That way, before the beginning of the next year, you will be able to file a petition and submit your evidence to officially establish residency for "*tuition purposes*." (That is an entirely different thing than residency for "everything else" purposes)

This is especially important to those who want an assistantship beyond their first year, since the department may not pay out-of-state tuition for more than one year.

Here are some things that you should do **BEFORE the FIRST day of your FIRST semester** (BEFORE in this case means the difference between being a resident or paying \$3500 a semester because you missed the deadline):

- Register and license your car. This can be done at the Larimer County Courthouse (200 West Oak, 498-7878). Colorado does not require automobile inspections, but does require an emissions test for cars registered along the Front Range. A list of testing stations is available at the courthouse. Some gas stations perform this service, as well as places like Jiffy Lube, so watch for signs. Another note: you must pass the test prior to registration, and cars don't always pass on the first try. So, if at all possible, allow for "tuning" (or fixing) time.
- Get a Colorado driver's license. The driver's license office is in the Department of Revenue Building located at 1121 West Prospect, Suite D (494-9809). Proof of identification is required (i.e., birth certificate, etc.) and a test is not required if your driver's license is current or less than one-year expired.
- Register to vote. This can be done at the Larimer County Courthouse. You won't be officially eligible to vote until you are a resident "for everything else purposes" (i.e., you have been here for 32 days), but you can register earlier than that and receive a deferred registration; it's the day that you sign the form that counts as your evidence of residency for "tuition purposes."

- Keep your first few in-state rent receipts or cancelled rent checks (you really don't need them all, but it wouldn't hurt to keep them anyway just in case the rules change). Also keep letters from your landlord, or anything that shows that you have been living in-state. A lease is the best evidence!
- These things are also excellent evidence of your intent to reside:
 - File a Colorado Income Tax Return. It first helps to have a job so that you will have some income to tax.
 - Own real estate in Colorado. However, if you can afford real estate as a student, you can also probably afford out-of-state tuition.

When you've been here almost a year, go to the Tuition Classification Office (Room 103 of the Administration Annex, 491-6321) and pick up a petition for in-state tuition classification and make photocopies of all your evidence. Get the form notarized (FYI - Jen T. is a notary) and return it to the Classifications Office. Do this at least two months prior to (and certainly **BEFORE**) the first day of the semester in which you intend to pay in-state tuition.

BE WARNED: Dates are everything - if you mess around and don't get your evidence together until a day after the semester begins, then you have missed the deadline and you will not get in-state tuition. If only part of your evidence is too late, then you still have a chance, but you're pushing your luck. It may seem unfair, but they don't pro-rate your tuition if you miss the deadline; you pay either in-state or out-of-state tuition and the burden is on you to prove you deserve the in-state rate. Again, don't take this advice as official, visit the Student Financial Services website at: <http://sfs.colostate.edu/residency/> or stop by their office in Centennial Hall (Administration Annex) for the official information. It is well worth your time.

NOW THAT I HAVE ESTABLISHED RESIDENCY, HOW DO I FIND A RESIDENCE?

On-Campus Housing

The university has two sets of apartments for single graduate students: Lory Apartments (the apts. that look like prisons across from Moby Arena) and International House on Plum and City Park, a little over a mile West of the Statistics Building), both of which have one- or two-bedroom apartments. There is family housing available at Aggie Village North and South, and University Village East and West. The university sends an apartment housing application along with other information to all newly admitted students. There is no guarantee that you will get an apartment, so you should file your application **well in advance**. Any questions should be directed to the Office of Housing and Dining Services (491-4743).

The apartments are nice, and they cost the usual going rate for nice apartments in Fort Collins. The chance of getting a single on-campus apartment is remote, and in 2-bedroom shared apartments, you have no choice of roommate. However, they only rent to grad students or non-trad students, so the apartments are extremely quiet. Odds are that you may also get to live with someone from another country, as these apartments are well liked by international students. Also, you are not required to sign a year lease. They have available month-to-month, but these are hard to come by unless you apply early.

Off Campus Housing

Finding a place to live in Fort Collins is hard. Fort Collins has a fair amount of off-campus housing available; however each fall brings a crowd of students, so try to make rental arrangements as early as possible. The influx usually begins at about mid-July and crescendos until classes begin. You would be pressing your luck if you waited until mid-August to find a place to live. As with most college towns, you pay for the convenience of being close to the campus. But remember that the popular advertisement "close to campus" is less meaningful to STATS grad students since the majority of apartments are west of the university, and the STATS building is on the east side of campus.

One excellent resource to help you in your search for off-campus housing is the Office of Renter's Information. This free service, located in Lory Student Center, lists private properties which are currently available. The files are divided into categories such as houses for rent, duplexes for rent, mobile homes for rent, and apartments/condos for rent. There are also listings for roommates wanted. If you're interested in sharing, you can also consult the roommate wanted ads in either the Collegian (the CSU paper) or the Coloradoan (the local Fort Collins paper). To make your calls, free telephones are available on the ground floor of the Student Center. There is also a free legal service there to help you with any landlord/legal problems that might occur.

Housing is extremely tight during the first few weeks of the semester, but as undergrad kids drop out, more and more places become available. At the end of every semester, there are scads of places freed up by graduating folks or transfers. Depending on the length of your lease (usually they're 9 month to 1 year leases); you may just have to find a temporary place during your first semester and then look in earnest in December.

WHERE DO I SIGN UP FOR UTILITIES?

Depending on the agreement of your housing, you may need to get a variety of utilities hooked up.

- Electricity, Water, Sewage - These services are all provided by the City of Fort Collins Utilities, 330 S. College, 212-2900 (www.fcgov.com/utilities).
- Gas – Excel Energy is responsible for natural gas service, 1-800-895-4999 (www.xcelenergy.com)
- Phone - To have your K-Mart phone hooked up to Qwest, grab a phone that's already plugged in and call toll-free 1-800-244-1111. They may require you to fork out a deposit of somewhere in the area of \$100 if you have never had a phone in your name before. The installation fee is around \$60. The deposit is refundable with interest after 12 months if your phone bills are paid on time. (www.qwest.com)
- Cable -- a necessity really; inside the Ft. Collins city limits, is provided by Comcast (1-888-824-4010). A fair selection of channels (2 PBS stations, ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, MTV, VH1, TNT, TBS, CNN, ESPN, among others)

WHERE CAN I KEEP WHAT MONEY REMAINS?

If you have any money left after buying your textbooks, there are several banks in Fort Collins that will be glad to keep it for you. Here is a list of the banks with their general locations.

Bank One, 2000 South College (484-2822)

Home State Bank, 303 East Mountain (203-6100)

Wells Fargo, 401 S. College (482-1100)

First National Bank, 205 West Oak Street (482-4861) as well as in the Student Center

Savings and Loan companies are abundant and there are a few Credit Unions as well. The Public Service is especially popular with state and municipal employees (including RAs & TAs). In the past, Norlarco had no fee checking with interest and no minimum balance. Also, if you arranged for direct deposit prior to opening an account, then the first batch of checks was free as well. Norlarco is located at 319 South Meldrum (970-221-1261).

Regardless of the bank, most have ATMs in various parts of town. Some even allow withdrawals from other banks' ATMs without a fee, but this is the exception rather than the norm.

In general, the key phrase is "shop around" and ask other grads; they know the best deals to be had.

WHERE CAN I GET CASH ON CAMPUS?

The University Bookstore will allow you to write a check for cash. This service is located downstairs on the same floor as the textbooks. They do require a driver's license and a CSUID, which you will get at registration. There are three automatic bank tellers located on the main floor of the Student Center, two of which are located just south of the first floor entrance to the bookstore. Most banks in town are associated with Minibank or PLUS, thereby giving easy access to cash any time of the day or night.

HOW CAN I KEEP TRACK OF THE REAL WORLD?

There are several newspapers available in Fort Collins. The Coloradoan is relatively expensive (50¢ daily, \$1 on Sunday) but is the only consistent source for local information (e.g., movies, want ads); just don't depend on it for news. The Denver Post is the only morning newspaper left in Denver. The Collegian (the CSU newspaper) is published five days a week, is priced right (FREE for the taking), and has such necessities as cartoons and the daily crossword and Sudoku puzzles. You can pick one up right in the department, or in the Engineering Building. If you miss it there, there are always plenty in the Lory Student Center.

At the beginning of every semester, there are booths set up outside the upstairs entrance to the bookstore where you can subscribe to the commercial papers at reduced student rates. Plus, those helpful telemarketers will be calling every few months to get you to sign up.

WHERE CAN I GET RID OF THE POSTCARD THAT I WROTE FOUR DAYS AGO?

The Old Town post office is conveniently located at 301 S. Howes Street -- just 5 blocks north of the Oval. Just in case you're interested in exploring other fascinating Ft. Collins post offices, the main one is at 301 E. Boardwalk Dr.

United Parcel Service (UPS) is located on Highway 287 halfway between Ft. Collins and Loveland. There are also several UPS Mail Centers scattered around town; check in the Yellow Pages or on-line.

Campus mail requires no postage, but it is slower than the pony express. If you need to get something across campus quickly then the best delivery service is your hot little hands and your own two feet. However, if you plan ahead, then you can grab a recycled envelope in the main office (101), pencil in whatever on-campus address you are sending to (do scratch out any addresses on the envelope so as not to confuse the mail personnel) and just drop it in the white, U.S. mail basket on the floor under the mailboxes. You also may drop U.S. stamped mail into this basket and it will eventually get to its destination. I don't recommend mailing your Christmas cards from the department mail drop -- they might not make it.

Mail is delivered and picked up at the department once a day, somewhere between 9 and 9:30 a.m. Any mail received for a student is stashed in their mail slot or folder. NOTE: the departmental address should never be used as a forwarding address unless it is a very short term forward from your previous post office.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MY BICYCLE'S SURVIVAL?

It is mandatory that you register your bicycle with the CSU Police Department. You need to take with you the serial number, brand name, color and type of bicycle and \$5.00 with which you should be willing to part. There are a lot of bicycles in Fort Collins, and you shouldn't count on an Amber Alert for an unregistered bicycle. If you plan to not register your bike, then you should consider it a run-away if it leaves home one day.

The campus police have recently clamped down on bikes that are locked illegally - like to poles, stairs, trees, small animals, etc. So be sure to take advantage of the bike racks which are scattered around campus. A really secure bike lock is a MUST! Bringing your bicycle into the building and parking it next to your desk (in your "office") is no longer allowed.

DO I HAVE TO BRING MY AMERICAN EXPRESS CARD?

No, you can leave home without it. But you do want to have a CSU identification card with your picture on it. If you have been admitted but do not yet have an ID, stop by the RamCard Office on the lower level of the Lory Student Center (follow the crowd). Be sure to have a photo ID with you to obtain your new photo ID (a potential conundrum I know), such as your driver's license and/or your passport.

HOW DO I GET INTO CLASS?

CSU has a three-step approach to registration.

Step I – Obtain your eID (electronic identification within the University). This is relatively simple (but you know how relatives can be) and is done on-line at: <http://eid.colostate.edu>

Step II – A few weeks before the end of each semester, the University publishes a bulletin for the next semester which includes instructions for registering. The course schedule is only available online. You can access it from RamWeb. RamWeb is available on the Rampoint portal which will give you access to other resources within the University as well. To access Rampoint: go to: <http://rampoint.colostate.edu>. You will need your eID and password to get into Rampoint and onto the RamWeb tab. In order to register you will need an advising code. You must see your adviser (prior to your first semester, you will get your advising code at the Orientation meeting,) after that, you will get your advising code from Jennifer, AFTER you have met with your adviser about course selection for the coming semester.

Step III – You should be able to access your schedule on RamWeb. Several weeks after that, you will get your bill for student fees, which the department does not subsidize. Current fees are approximately \$600/semester (fall/spring).

If you did not pre-register, you can register a day or two before classes start and pick up your schedule and activity card at a later date. If your schedule is perfect, you can reward yourself by taking some time off before classes begin and head for the hills (mountains that is).

FORT COLLINS — THE STATISTICS

Fort Collins is about 130,000+ people big ... and getting bigger fast: the population in 1970 was about 43,000. There's a pretty good reason for this growth: Fort Collins is not a bad place to live. In fact, Money Magazine stated that Ft. Collins has the second most educated work force in the nation, and another survey ranked us in the top 5 percent for quality of life. Fort Collins was recently named Best Small Town in the West, again by Money Magazine.

The town is big enough to have many of the cultural and commercial conveniences of a mega-city, but not so big as to require interstate highways running through town (although some days they would be nice to get across town; it takes about ½ an hour to get from Old Town area to southeast Fort Fun). Even with the tremendous growth, somebody did a pretty good job of planning. If you're coming here from a bigger city, one of the first things that you notice is a lack of major traffic jams (we do have heavy traffic on the major thoroughfares such as College, Lemay, etc., but not the stop-and-go jams of larger cities); the streets are wide and somewhat maintained. Unfortunately, experience has shown that the zillion traffic lights are not very well timed, so be prepared to wait a bit when driving the main roads (Taft, Shields, College, and anything that crosses Mulberry). Also, in recent years it seems that the traffic people have made it a goal to put a four-way stop at every intersection that doesn't already have a traffic light. Thus the reason for so many bikes in the area! However, there are excellent bike paths running all throughout Fort Collins. And there is a bus service which is free to all registered CSU students. You just need that CSUID we talked about earlier.

If for some reason, however, you get a hankering for potholes, traffic jams, low flying aircraft and/or bad air, Denver is a mere one-hour drive to the south via Interstate 25. If you get a hankering to see a rodeo, then Cheyenne is just 45 minutes to the north via Interstate 25. Yes, we are closer to Hicksville than Metroland.

SO HOW DID IT GET HERE ANYWAY?

Fort Collins started out as a trading post where the Overland Stage route crossed the Cache la Poudre (pronounced Cash lah Poo der) River -- so called because it is where a party of French trappers stashed away some gun powder before pushing north through a heavy 1836 snowstorm. By 1862 a trading post erected and the army camped nearby. Then in 1864 it was named Camp Collins after Lieutenant Colonel William O. Collins of Fort Laramie. After being flooded out one spring, the army re-established the camp on higher ground and started calling it a fort. Although the army pulled out in 1867, it left the name and a small community.

Originally the town prospered on an economy based on sandstone, granite and marble, and then later on agriculture. In 1870, six years before Colorado became a state, the Agricultural College of Colorado was established, which eventually became Colorado State University.

WHAT'S THE WEATHER LIKE?

The weather here is great, provided of course that you like the sun but don't mind a rainy day here and there. It's almost always sunny -- 300 sunny days out of the year is the statistic you will find in every other Chamber of Commerce publication. At 5,004 feet elevation, the air is thin, but it's good "farm-fresh" air (there isn't a lot of heavy industry around here). Since this is a relatively dry area, temperatures tend to vary greatly from morning to afternoon hours (50s to 90s in a day during the summer). The average temperature in January is about 27 degrees. In July, it's about 80 degrees.

The rainfall average is about 15 inches, making this not quite a desert region (you can tell by the surrounding terrain but not by the trees in town). In the winter it snows about once a week or so and then usually melts off the same day if not by the next day; crippling snowstorms have been known to happen, but they are not common. Sleet or freezing rain is uncommon, but you will get the occasional severe hailstorm during summer. May 12th is the average date of the last freeze in spring. September 26th is the

average start of the fall freeze. If you're into lightning, there are some pretty good displays in late spring and summer. But do watch from afar. There have been several cases of people being struck by lightning. Any wind you ask? Can't complain! A light breeze is typical. If you want to walk with a lean however, Cheyenne is just 45 minutes to the north via Interstate 25.

SO YOU LIKE TO EAT OUT?

Well join the group! I am quite frankly surprised they still build homes in Fort Collins with kitchens! There are more restaurants per person in Fort Collins than in any other metro area in the U.S. (p-value=0.003), and they are always busy. A drive along College Avenue will be proof enough. There is no way to list the many choices here, but there is certainly a restaurant for every taste. However, since this is a survival guide for grad students, we can at least list some of the favorite spots within walking distance of the department.

Avogadro's Number (Avo's). Two blocks north of the department on Mason. Sandwiches. Ice cream. Good food, but really slow service. Phone it in at 493-5555.

Bluebird Cafe. One block west, one block north on Laurel. Good breakfast and light lunch fare.

Pickle Barrel (Deli). New York comes to Ft. Collins. One block north on Laurel between Mason St. and College.

Old Chicago's. Pasta, pizza and World Beer Tour. 7-8 blocks north on College near Old Town.

College Cafe. Not obvious by the name, but Chinese nonetheless. Laurel and College.

Chipotle Mexican Grill, corner of College and Laurel.

D.P. Dough, 634 S. College Ave. Across College Ave. from campus.

Noodles, corner of College and Laurel

Canino's. Fine Italian food; on College north of Laurel Street.

The restaurants in the Lory Student Center. [See page 20]

TO QUENCH YOUR THIRST

What would a college town be without a few drinking and socializing establishments? Well we have at least a few, which include:

Washington's (132 LaPorte) -- Never a Cover. Young People go here. Cross a garage sale with a bar and you get this. Cheap drinks.

Sundance (East Mulberry) -- For Country Swing fans.

Coopersmiths (Old Town) -- Pub food and their own brewed beer.

The Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant (143 W. Mountain Ave) -- Their margaritas are legend.

Road 34 (1213 W. Elizabeth) -- Bike shop and bar.

For brewery tours skip ahead to Fort Collins under Sightseeing (pg. 19) Also Old Town has a plethora of drinking establishments for you to wander.

PIZZA

Who could imagine life without pizza?! The big pizza chains are here in Fort Fun – Pizza Hut, Dominoes, Little Caesar's. If you like to try local mom & pop pizza joints then look these up:

Panhandler's, 1220 West Elizabeth (221-4567). Thick style pizza, not bad, although cheese tends to be separate from the dough.

Pizza Casbah, 126 W. Laurel St (221-9144). Big stone-baked pizza made fresh for dine in or take-out

Blackjack, 1232 West Elizabeth (221-5454). Best deal we've found in all of Ft. Collins: Two 14" pizzas with 2 toppings each for 9.00 + tax if you're willing to pick it up.

Cazzola's, 241 Linden (482-3557). Wonderfully fresh pizza; can be made on several different crusts; fairly expensive, slow service.

East Coast, in the Foothills Fashion Mall (223-7007). If you are the type that prefers thin pizza, this is the place. East Coast prices too.

Mapo Pizza, 147 W. Oak St. (493-3390). Pick what you want and design your own delicious pizza here.

Beau Jo's, Old Town. Variety is the word here. You choose toppings, crust, cheese and sauce and they make it. Their buffet of salad, fruit and pizza is another favorite for lunch.

WHERE CAN I GET INTO SPORTS?

The Student Recreation Center is a new facility open to all fee paying students (six credits). Spouses of students may purchase (cheaper than a health club membership) passes for semester use. And there are family hours (though limited) when spouse and kids are free to join the fun.

Some of the facilities are:

- 10 lane, 25 yard pool
- Spa pool
- Sun deck
- Elevated, banked, carpeted running track (1/8 mile)
- Three full basketball courts that are multipurpose for volleyball and badminton
- 6 racquetball/handball/wallyball courts
- Weight/machine room
- Aerobics rooms
- Locker rooms – there are lockers for rent but they go quickly.

If you are interested in intramural sports, information can be obtained at the Recreational Sports Office in the Student Recreation Center. There are many team and individual sports to participate in: basketball, water polo, flag football, volleyball, racquetball, 2-on-2 volleyball, soccer, softball, triathlon, and golf scrambles. In the past, the stats department has put together basketball and soccer teams, and individual members have played on volleyball teams and competed in tennis and frisbee tournaments.

TENNIS

CSU has 10 tennis courts, the best of which are located just east of Moby Gym. Still, the city generally has better courts -- 56 of them. You might try City Park, Edora Park and Warren Park for some good courts. The Fort Collins Tennis Association is a fairly large non-profit organization that promotes tennis in Fort Collins and provides opportunities to play people at your own skill level. The Moby Intramural program also has tournaments in the fall and spring.

HANDBALL AND RACQUETBALL

There are courts available in the intramural gym are free to full-time CSU students. Reservations begin at 8:00 A.M. of the day before you wish to use it. It's usually not too hard to get a court. Don't forget your activity card. There are several private health clubs in Fort Collins that require membership, such as Pulse, Healthworks, and the Fort Collins Club. And of course there's the new Student Recreation Center on campus (see above).

SHORTCOURT

The first two Shortcourts in the world are at the Student Recreation Center. The game is sort of a cross between racquetball and squash; you can sign up for lessons at the Center.

GOLF

There are two public courses in Fort Collins. City Park 9 is, cleverly enough, at the City Park and has nine holes (amazing how they come up with these names). It also has a driving range, big trees, and club rentals. This is the more difficult of the two courses and is located less than a mile northwest of the campus. Collindale is an 18-hole public course with wide-open spaces. It's fairly new so it has small trees. It does have a driving range, club rentals and a snack bar. The course is located at 1441 E. Horsetooth Road.

There is another public golf course in the Fort -- Southridge. It has 18 holes, even smaller trees than Collindale, and some hills. It is located on Lemay, south of Harmony.

Yet another golf course open to the public (for the time being) is a Nicklaus-designed course. It is also new, but they got a faster start by planting larger trees. You get there by going south down I-25, taking the Windsor exit and heading east about a mile.

And still another golf course is Link-n Green, a 9-hole course located just northeast of downtown at 777 E. Lincoln. It is very flat and short.

ICE SKATING

Outdoor ice skating in town is at the City Park Lake. Indoor skating is available at Edora Pool and Ice Skating (EPIC), Riverside and Lemay. See the section on Statewide Recreation for details. Old Town also had a temporary rink set-up last winter.

ROLLER SKATING

There's only one roller skating rink: AR&E Roller Ranch, located at 324 Link Lane.

BOWLING

Chippers Lanes, with two locations: 830 N. College and 217 W. Horsetooth.

SWIMMING

There are four public swimming pools. The indoor pool is located just behind the Lincoln Center at 424 S. Sherwood (on Mulberry) and is clogged with kids. There is also an outdoor city pool at City Park (just north of the lake and east of the golf course) and is clogged with the kids who didn't make it to the indoor pool. If you really want to enjoy swimming, the pool in the Rec. Center is available for lap swimming, free to full-time CSU students. Also see EPIC (under ice-skating).

WHERE CAN I WATCH A FRISBEE OR THROW A DUCK?

Fort Collins has at least 17 public parks. The biggie is City Park, located at Mulberry and Jackson, just northwest of the main campus. Besides an abundance of wide-open space, it has ducks. (You can't go wrong if you have ducks.) Besides the golf, swimming and tennis, it also has baseball diamonds, picnic areas, a playground (very useful for stats grad students at the end of a semester), fishing, boat rides, and an exercise/jogging path.

If, after a particularly unsuccessful day at the keyboard, you feel a strong desire to pull up a tree and sit a spell (pull up a tree?), there is the oval right outside the department. It's not officially a park, but it has plenty of space for frisbees. No ducks but we got squirrels.

At the western edge of the city, at the base of the Rockies, is Horsetooth Reservoir. It offers fishing, water skiing, boating, picnicking, and at Lory State Park hiking, rock-climbing, swimming, and a spectacular view of the city.

WHERE CAN I GO TO GET CULTURED?

The Lincoln Center is the place (Mulberry and Meldrum, one block north and one block west of the department). Touring versions of hit Broadway shows plus concerts. Season tickets are expensive and tickets to individual performances are hard to come by. See if you can get hired on as an Usher.

There are also many cultural activities on campus, and they are usually advertised in the Collegian or by the Box Office at the Student Center. Some things to watch for are:

Fine Arts Series. Every year the FAS puts together a program of dance, artists, and what-have-you revolving around some theme. Most events are cheap or free.

University Theatre Season. About six plays a year put on by the Dept. of Music, Theater and Dance.

Summer Sunset Concert Series. Free outdoor concerts during the summer, Wednesdays around 6 p.m. by the lagoon.

Ben and Jerry's Concert Series. Friday Nights in Old Town Square

HOW DO I GET AROUND?

Transport: Fort Collins has a good bus transportation system for a city this size. It runs throughout the city and is free to CSU students with the mere flash of an activity ticket and CSU ID. The CSU transit center is right beside the CSU library, and maps and other info are available there.

Airports: Denver is the home of Denver International Airport (DIA). The nicest toll-free ride to DIA from Fort Collins follows:

Take I-25 South to Exit 229 (near where the road goes from 3 to 2 lanes)

Left at end of exit ramp (CO Rt. 7)

Continue for ~10 miles (into the town of Brighton)

Pass under US Hwy 85; continue to 4th Ave (CO Rt. 51)

Right at 4th Ave, follow for ~5 miles to where Rt. 51 meets I-76.

Note: there is a truck stop on the left

Cross over I-76, Left onto 120th Ave.

Follow 120th to Tower Road; turn Right on Tower Road

Follow Tower Road for ~5 miles, pass under Pena Blvd, turn left on Pena Blvd.

As you turn onto Pena, you should see the "Entering DIA" sign

If you are running late, you can take the E-470 Tollway off I-25 near the Brighton exit; saves time but it'll cost you. Price per toll is \$1.75.

A possible alternative to either of these options is Shamrock Airport Express. Their mini-bus will pick you up at two major hotels in Ft. Collins (Hilton-Fort Collins, Ramada, Marriott), as well as at the CSU Transit Center, and for \$32 one-way, they will deliver you to DIA. They can also come right to your door for an extra fee. Pick-up at DIA is twenty minutes after the hour at Door #513, Island 5 "Scheduled Bus" area, or if you don't believe us, you can get a schedule by calling 482-0505. They're obviously quite busy during the holidays, so be sure to get to your pick up location early. www.rideshamrock.com

STATEWIDE RECREATION

Colorado is a great place to have fun. Even the most prudent student becomes tainted with the urge to "get out and do something," even when there's homework to do. If writing proc glm's starts to lose its appeal and you can live with moving your graduation date back a few weeks, you'll be pleased to know that you live in the right state for frolic.

Since the seasons in Colorado are somewhat ill-defined (i.e., some years you can ski in May and backpack in February), the recreational activities have been divided not by season but rather by snow and no snow. Also included is a section on year-round recreation and sightseeing.

SNOW

The first thing that comes to mind when you mention snow and Colorado in the same breath is skiing. Colorado is famous for having some of the deepest and lightest powder snow in the world. In fact, it is affectionately referred to as "champagne powder."

DOWNHILL SKIING

Contrary to popular belief, very few (if any) graduate students ever return from the slopes with broken bones. More likely, they return with a few sore muscles and a sure give-away that they didn't spend the weekend in front of the ol' CRT: a sunburned face. In fact the Psychology department was once considering an experiment to determine just how long students would be willing to forgo food and sleep in order to conserve money and time for skiing. After a big ski weekend with the Psych department something happened to the grant proposal and the idea has never re-surfaced.

The skiing season is usually from Thanksgiving until April but on occasion it won't start until January and in a really good year, it won't end until June 1. There are approximately 34 different ski areas, each with its own flavor and style. If you want to rub skis with the rich and famous (remember Gerald Ford?) and like an international flavor, then Vail is the place for you. However, if "ya'll" want a more down-home western flavor, then you may want to mosey over to Steamboat Springs.

During the prime of the skiing season, just ask around. Usually at least one group of students is forsaking food and their studies to hit the slopes. (Send your request via email to students@stat and see what kind of response you get.)

If you rent your skis, it's better to rent them in Fort Collins (check the yellow pages). It will save you a bundle and you are less likely to find yourself standing in line. Ski racks are also available locally for a nominal fee.

To avoid making this guide the size of the New York City phone book, we have included only an abbreviated list of ski areas. We left some areas out because they are generally considered insignificant (e.g., Sharktooth) or there exists a comparable area that is closer to FC (e.g., Snowmass).

Lake Eldora. Medium size. Inexpensive. Snow is never very good. About two hours away. Popular with Boulderites. Night skiing available.

Winter Park/Mary Jane. Large size. More expensive. Popular with Denverites. Winter Park is mostly for beginners and intermediates; Mary Jane is mostly for experts. Good bump skiing.

Loveland. Medium size. Moderate expense. Located this side of Eisenhower Tunnel on I-70. About two hours via Denver. Narrower slopes.

Keystone/North Peak/A-Basin. Large size. More expensive. Past Eisenhower tunnel and southeast on highway 6 (exit 205 at Dillon). About two and a half to three hours away. Mostly intermediate slopes at Keystone whereas North Peak and A-Basin cater to the more advanced skier; lots of moguls. Steeps at A Basin. Cruising and night skiing at Keystone.

Breckenridge. Large size. More expensive. Past Eisenhower tunnel and south on Colorado 9 just past Dillon. About two and a half to three and a half hours away. More difficult slopes than Keystone. 3 Super-Chairs. The town is a fun place to walk around. Popular with Texans - so beware!

Copper Mountain. Very large size. More expensive. Past Eisenhower tunnel to Junction 91 (just off I-70). About two and a half to three hours away. Wide variety of slopes. New Powder Bowls.

Vail. Very large size. Expensive. Forty-five minutes west of Copper Mountain on I-70. Vail has many unbelievable powder bowls. Discount books for Vail can be procured by calling 1-800-455-8245, or so says an unreliable source.

Steamboat. Very large size. More expensive. About three hours away. West on Colorado 14 and west on Colorado 40. Mostly intermediate slopes and advanced slopes. Famous for tree skiing and larger single snowfalls (dumps). This is Ski Town, USA and a really fun place to ski and be.

Snowy Range (Wyoming). Only 98 miles from the Fort and west of Laramie WY. Affordable, but not as expansive (or challenging?) as the major Colorado resorts. Good for beginners. (www.snowyrange.com).

PRICE DISCOUNTS

So you're a grad student, which means you can't afford these \$25 to \$35 lift tickets, right? Wrong –the actual prices at these ski areas are probably higher than that – but a number of discounts are available through grocery stores, clubs, and coupon books. Safeway, Albertson's, and King Soopers all sell discounted tickets to Front Range ski areas. In addition, the "Ski-America" Card purchased when one joins the local CSU ski club, the "Ski Bums," entitles the bearer to many 2-for-1 days at selected ski areas.

Lately there has been a plethora of ski-card deals hitting the market, although the real `deals' seem to be diminishing at the same time. In general, for the last season anyway, the best deals are obtained from the grocery store or the Sunday paper coupons. Steamboat accepts their own Steamboat card (good for a modest discount) and you must buy the card during early season if you want one.

If you have the money (and the time) to go skiing for more than a day, here are some numbers that may be of interest:

Resorts	Information Numbers
Arapahoe Basin	1-888-272-7246
Aspen Highlands	1-800-525-6200
Aspen Mountain	1-800-525-6200
Breckenridge Ski Resort	1-800-789-7669
Copper Mountain Resort	1-866-841-2481
Crested Butte Mountain Resort	1-800-810-7669
Keystone Resort	1- 877-625-1556
Loveland Ski Area	1- 800-736-3754
Monarch Ski Resort	1-888-996-7669
Purgatory-Durango Ski Resort	1-800-982-6103
SilverCreek Ski Area	1-970-887-3384
Snowmass Ski Area	1-800-525-6200
Snowy Range Ski Area	1-800-GO-2-SNOW
Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp.	1-970-879-6111
Telluride Ski Resort	1-970-728-6900
Tiehack	1-800-262-7736
Vail/Beaver Creek	1-970-476-5601
Ultima Ski Resort	1-800-265-6723
Winter Park Resort	1-800-979-0332

The Ski-America card is best purchased through the Ski Bums club. It's less costly and comes with membership in the Ski Bums club which entitles you to additional benefits as well. The "Gold C" coupon book has coupons for specials at many ski areas. These coupon books are sold separately at grocery stores for about \$15. That is, they are sold separately from the free discounts that grocery stores also offer.

Interested in skipping a few meals so you can afford to buy some ski equipment? The CSU ski team has got a deal for you. Swap your equipment or pickup some slightly used boards at the annual ski swap. This is really a good place to buy or sell your first or second pair of boards. Some advanced equipment is available also, but the good stuff will be gone in an hour - so show up early for the best selection. A small fee and commission imposed on sellers benefits the ski clubs, so it's a total win all the way around.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

If you would like to experience Colorado's famous snow without having to fight the crowds (yes, the slopes can get crowded, especially on Sundays) or without having to buy a lift ticket, then cross-country skiing is for you.

If you don't happen to own a pair of 'skinny skis' to put on your feet, you can rent them from any of the sporting good stores in town or go to the basement of CSU's student center and inquire at Outdoor Equipment Rental. The equipment is a lot less expensive than the downhill stuff.

Some of the favorite spots for cross-country include: Beaver Meadows, Cameron Pass (Poudre Canyon), Rocky Mountain National Park, Lake Eldora Ski Area

Again, ask around. You'll probably find a few people going cross-country skiing each weekend but they aren't as abundant (that's why it is less crowded than downhill).

If you want to have fun in the winter but putting a couple of boards on your feet is not your idea of fun, there are some other alternatives.

ICE SKATING - You can ice skate at City Park, Hidden Valley Ski Area and Lake Eldora. Edora Pool and Ice Center (EPIC), at Riverside and Prospect, is Ft. Collins official ice rink. The fee for admission and skate rental is nominal. EPIC has professional instructors who offer classes year-round, usually two sessions per semester. The Ft. Collins Ice Skating Club entitles you to even more rink time - check at EPIC for information.

SNOW CAMPING - If you are a seasoned backpacker and you don't mind heating snow just for a cup of water, then check this sport out. Good places to go include Rocky Mountain National Park, the Rawahs, and Roosevelt National Forest. Be sure and check out weather conditions and heed avalanche warnings.

SNOWSHOEING – Another option for fun in the snow. There are several trails in and around Fort Collins providing not only a work out but a great view of the surrounding area. Some area trails include Cirque Meadows and Emmaline Lake (6.5 miles), Crown Point (12 miles, easy with a gradual incline), Little Beaver Creek Trail (2 miles, best with a good early snow season), Mineral Spring Gulch (4 miles, short mid-winter excursion), Signal Mountain (5 miles, offers protection from winter winds and follows Pennock Creek) and Stormy Peaks (6 miles).

NO SNOW

Contrary to popular belief, when the snow is gone the mountains don't become a useless heap of rocks. Instead, they become a haven for campers, fishermen, hikers, bikers, backpackers, rock climbers, canoers and kayakers.

Generally you can expect good camping weather from about the middle of May until October. However, there have been years when hiking without snow was possible in February. It's always a good idea to carry some rain gear too; Colorado's weather has a tendency to change quite quickly.

Yes, there are bears in the Colorado mountains, but if you see one, you'll be among a very elite group in the last decade to do so. About the wildest animal you'll ever see while camping is the 2-legged kind, but generally they are very friendly.

If you think you can't go camping because you failed to bring (or never owned) a Sierra tent, camp stove, sleeping bag, etc., well worry no more. Downstairs in the student center is Outdoor Equipment Rental, where you can rent just about anything you may need for camping. Once you have the gear, it's just a quick drive up the Poudre Canyon to get to your favorite campsite. If it's not during the tourist season (mid-June to Labor Day) you may even get to camp for free. Otherwise, it's about \$5.00/night.

If you want to drive a little further, you can go up to Rocky Mountain National Park where they have several campgrounds. During the summer, advance reservations are recommended. You can call 1-970-587-3271 to place the reservation in advance. You can either pick up the permit at the gate as you enter or, if the reservation is made 30 days or more in advance, they will mail it to you. For more information about where to camp, contact the National Park Service or:

Back Country Office
Rocky Mountain National Park
Estes Park, CO 80517

HIKING

Many people have the false impression that you have to be an iron man or own a lot of gear to enjoy hiking. Not so! If you can walk up the stairs to the 3rd floor of stats, then you can hike. There are two kinds of hiking: day hiking and backpacking. If you are interested in a 1/2-to-1-day excursion without needing a lot of equipment, then day hiking is for you. If you'd like to spend the night camping outdoors away from the whirl of computers and you don't mind carrying 15-30 lbs. on your back, then try backpacking.

Day Hiking

There are many places to go for day hikes and they range in difficulty from easy to "lung busters." The most popular place locally to go day hiking is in the Rocky Mountain National Park where the trails are well marked. There are a few hikes, however, up the Poudre Canyon. All you need to go on a day hike is a small backpack (daypack) (and what student doesn't already own one??), a pair of tennis shoes or boots, and a fantastic lunch (the mountains are notorious for swelling an appetite). If you are a novice or feel somewhat out of shape, the following hikes are recommended.

Deserted Village (drive up the Big Thompson Canyon, take Glen Haven turn-off, turn left at the sign onto a dirt road, drive a few miles to the parking lot on the left). The first 1/4 mile is downhill (remember, if you go down it you must come back up). After that the trail is fairly flat and runs by a mountain stream. Deserted Village is in a beautiful valley and there is currently one old log cabin still standing.

Gem Lake (drive up the Big Thompson Canyon, take the Glen Haven Road, drive until almost reaching Estes Park, turn right at MacGregor Ranch, and drive on paved road about .8 mile to the parking lot). To get a "birds eye" view of Estes Park, this trail is a must. It tends to be uphill (on the way back it's all downhill) but it's not very far (about 2 miles). At the top is a small mountain lake surrounded by interesting rock formations.

Alberta Falls (drive up Big Thompson Canyon to Bear Lake Road, continue on the Bear Lake Road to Glacier Gorge Junction parking lot which is inside the switchback). This is the shortest hike of all (1/2 mile). The falls are worth seeing and if this hike is not challenging enough you can continue on to either Mills Lake or Loch Lake.

Horsetooth Rock (Drive up Horsetooth road towards Bellvue - about 10 miles from town -- parking lot on the right). This a short (2 mile) hike that takes you to the "pride o' Ft. Collins" - Horsetooth Rock. From the summit one can see many of the Front Range Cities. To the West, a good view of Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) is visible.

Greyrock Mtn. (Drive up Poudre Canyon about 8 miles after Ted's Place turnoff -- parking lot on left side) Follow trail across bridge and to the north. This moderate trail (about 3 miles) is mostly uphill – GREAT view from the top – added bonus: Go down via the Meadows. From the Summit – one can see Horsetooth Reservoir, Ft. Collins, Comanche Peak, and Wyoming (well, it's not completely spectacular).

For those who want more information about the trails, try the bookstores. There are several good books that describe the trails in northern Colorado. Also, there are groups that go on day hikes regularly each weekend. These groups include the Colorado Mountain Club and the Sierra Club; your friendly neighborhood mountain shop should have information concerning who you can contact.

Backpacking

If you enjoy hiking, don't mind carrying a little weight, and can do without fast-food restaurants for a day or two, you'll love backpacking. Don't despair if you don't have your own backpack, tent, or sleeping bag. The rental stores mentioned in the section on skiing magically turn from ski rentals to backpacking rentals when the snow melts.

If you've never backpacked before, the place to start is in Rocky Mountain National Park. Before going it might be advisable to either plan the trip with someone with a bit of experience or do a little reading on the subject. You should learn such things as how to pack your backpack so you won't tip over the first time you put it on!

To backpack in Rocky Mountain National Park you will need a permit, which is not as ominous as it sounds. It simply reserves a camping spot for you so you won't be camping with 16 zillion other campers.

To get the permit, drive up to the Rocky Mountain National Park Visitors Center and they'll advise you about the best trails based on your experience and tastes.

There are many trails in Northern Colorado, each with its own beauty. Check out the books in the bookstore for descriptions of the trails. Also, most sporting good stores carry topo maps. (If you don't know what a topo map is, you're not ready to go backpacking). Good maps can be found at the Mountain Shop, Holubar and at the Forest Service.

We've found Roosevelt National Forest to be even better than RMNP: less people, great scenery and fewer restrictions. To camp in a national forest, you just follow the local postings -- no permits required. Great places include Emmaline Lake by Pingree Park and Brown's Lake off the Crown Point road. If these names seem mysterious, just ask around for directions.

OTHER MOUNTAIN ACTIVITIES

If you're into more adventurous activities, you may want to try rock climbing. Or if you'd like to see the mountains by water instead of by car or foot, try canoeing, rafting, or kayaking.

The best place (some say it's world famous) for rock climbing is outside of Boulder in Eldorado Canyon. Horsetooth Rock also offers bouldering. Several outfitters in Ft. Collins have climbing walls, so you'll be able to have a go without actually worrying about dying.

If you like canoeing, rafting, or kayaking, the favorite spots include the Poudre River and the Platte River. There are some white water rafting operators in Fort Collins that offer anywhere from 1/2 day to week-long river trips. (This way you can enjoy the scenery and let someone else do the rowing!) If you're planning on navigating the waters on your own, it's advisable to check with the Park Service on the status of the river. Especially in June with the snow melt-off, the rivers can get rather exciting and dangerous.

YEAR ROUND OR NEARLY YEAR ROUND ACTIVITIES

BICYCLING

Yes, you can ride year-round. Only a few days out of the year does the snow and ice really get in your way. For those occasions, just slip on your studded bike tires! For those who wish to see the scenery by bicycle, some favorite rides include:

- Riding up the Poudre Canyon (Highway 14)
- Riding around Horsetooth Reservoir (partly dirt road, however)
- Riding up Rist Canyon -- and coasting back down
- Riding the Trails about town
- North to Wellington
- Riding to Boulder
- Loveland via Masonville (Horsetooth) and back
- Riding over Trail Ridge Road in Rocky Mountain National Park (for the really ambitious).

It's a great way to see the sights without having to buy the gasoline.

If you lack ambition but still depend on your bike to get to and from school, you might try to procure a bike map of Ft. Collins. Most bike shops carry them; if they're out, you can always pick one up at the Ft. Collins Library (201 Peterson St) or the Transportation Dept (210 East Olive).

RUNNING

You can run just about anywhere in town; if you're into hills and no traffic a good place to run is up, down and around Horsetooth Reservoir. If you're interested in races (other than the rat kind), keep your eyes open

for the Rawhide Marathon and 1/2 Marathon, and the Bolder Boulder. There are other races held around town, too. Check with a local sporting good store or at your favorite footwear store. Foot of the Rockies, located in the Campus West shopping plaza, sponsors most of the local races and fun runs so you might want to check with them from time to time.

SIGHTSEEING

For those of us that want to get away but don't want to over exert ourselves, there are many places around the state to see.

FORT COLLINS

Fort Collins Museum (200 Mathews) – This place has a lot of mementos of the early days in this area. If you're into history or old things, this is the place to go. Generally they also have good photography/art exhibits here too.

Fort Collins Public Library (201 Peterson) – The Public Library is in the same block as the museum, and it is a wonderful modern library.

New Belgium Brewery (500 Linden St.) – This unique brewery is the most well known microbrewery in Fort Collins. Stop by for a tour of this eco-business or just stop in for a tasting. Bring addresses with you because they'll send a New Belgium postcard for you. Tasting – Mon. – Sat. 10 AM – 6 PM Free.

O'Dell's Brewery (800 E. Lincoln Ave) – Another Fort Collins favorite. Tasting – Mon- Sat. 11AM – 6 PM \$3 each.

Old Town (Linden Street) – There are many unique and interesting stores to see and visit. If barhopping is a favorite sport of yours, this is definitely the place to go at night.

JUST OUTSIDE OF FORT COLLINS

Anheuser-Busch Brewery (Follow the signs on I-25 north) – Home of the Bud Clydesdales and interesting factory tour, Nov-Apr: Wednesday thru Sunday, 10 AM to 4 PM; May-Oct: Daily, 9:30 AM to 5 PM.

Poudre Canyon (Highway 14, heading north) – A great place to go for a drive or a picnic. If you continue up the canyon, you'll go over Cameron Pass, see North Park, and eventually get to Walden, Colorado.

Estes Park / Big Thompson Canyon – The drive up the canyon is spectacular. You might also try the Glen Haven turn-off (1/2 way up the canyon) for an alternative route to Estes Park. Once in Estes Park, there are lots of shops to explore.

Rocky Mountain National Park / Trail Ridge Road – Just outside of Estes Park is Rocky Mountain National Park. By car, some favorite drives include Bear Lake Road (there's also a short nature trail around the lake) and Trail Ridge Road (the highest continuous auto highway in the world -- it's open only in the summer)

DENVER (MILE HIGH CITY AND CAPITOL OF COLORADO)

Coors Brewery (13th and Ford Street, Golden) – The fifth largest brewery in the US. The daily tours are interesting, but if you've already seen the brewery, just ask for the "short-tour." This is the tour where they point you in the direction of the bar for a little beer tasting.

Denver Art Museum (100 West 14th Avenue) – Each floor and area of the museum depicts a different culture and period of history. Plan a full day to really see this place. Your CSU ID will get you in with a nominal fee.

Denver Botanic Gardens (1005 York Street) – The only botanic gardens between St. Louis and the West Coast. Yes, this place stays open year-round. A good part of it is enclosed in a protective covering.

Denver Museum of Natural History (E. 17th Ave. between York and Colorado Blvd.) – The seventh largest museum in the world. It also houses the internationally known Gates Planetarium and the IMAX Theater.

Denver Zoo (City Park) – If you want to see real animals, this is a good place to visit.

Molly Brown House (1340 Pennsylvania) – This place is a registered historical landmark. It contains artifacts and was the home of the "Unsinkable Molly Brown."

State Capitol (Colfax and Broadway) – The 13th step is exactly one mile above sea level. They offer daily tours and sometimes you can sit in on some of the legislative sessions.

U.S. Mint (320 West Colfax) – This place houses a \$2 billion gold depository. We doubt if they'll show it to you, but they will show you how coins are made.

Tattered Cover Bookstore (2526 East Colfax Avenue and 9315 Dorchester Street) – A multi-story bookstore with lots of books and places to sit while you read them. A bookworm's paradise

COLORADO SPRINGS

Air Force Academy (just north of Colorado Springs on I-25) – A great place to visit and tour. Especially the chapel.

Pikes Peak Highway / Cog Railway – A beautiful drive or ride up to the summit of Pikes Peak (14,100 feet). Only open during the summer.

Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame (I-25) – Even if you're not into rodeos, this is an interesting place to visit.

Broadmoor Resort and Skating Arena – This is luxury at its finest. Also, you can see the world-famous ice-skating arena.

Olympic Training Center – Free public tours are conducted daily on a year-round basis by the USOC Tour Program staff and the U.S. Olympic Spirit Store offers Olympic sports merchandise and gift items unavailable elsewhere.

Garden of the Gods – Well known for its fantastic geologic formations consisting of vertically free standing bright red sandstone cliffs. Be sure to bring your camera.

BOULDER

Pearl Street Mall – Greenwich Village West or Haight-Ashbury East – Just smell the angst in the air!

Drive up Flagstaff Mountain to Flagstaff Park – or go to Chataqua Park

NCAR – This is the National Center for Atmospheric Research. It's an interesting place surrounded by great scenery. For you trivia buffs, it was the location for the filming of Woody Allen's movie "Sleeper." The local American Statistical Assoc. Chapter meets there periodically.

Celestial Seasonings – Tour the herb gardens and view the magnificent paintings which are originals of the artwork on the Celestial Seasonings packaging. Tour information can be found at: www.celestialseasonings.com/whoweare/tour

OTHER ENTERTAINMENT

If "slots" is your game, try a visit to Black Hawk or Central City, the closest thing to Las Vegas in Colorado. Vintage mining towns that have now become home to Harrah's, The Isle of Capri, Colorado Station, Bullwhacker's, etc. casinos.

THE UNIVERSITY

Colorado State University was established under the Morrill Act of 1862 as one of the nation's land-grant institutions; its first name was the Agricultural College of Colorado. The huge "A" on the hillside overlooking the campus stands for "Aggies" as a tribute to the university's first mascot (they later changed the mascot to Rams which is so much better than a bulldog named peanuts).

Today's CSU has grown and broadened its offerings, but is still under the auspices of the State Board of Agriculture, which does things like set tuition, fees, rent for on-campus housing, etc. As of Fall 2002, enrollment was about 24,000 students (both undergrad and graduate). There are 8 colleges and 51 departments, which offer 66 majors. The statistics department, like the math and computer science departments, is lumped into the College of Natural Sciences. Since you're a grad student, though, you are actually property of the Graduate School. Trust me, wear a cup, because they've got you with both hands.

The university has four campuses (the main one, the funny one, the smart one, and the cute one) but unless you feel like taking veterinary or forestry or equine classes, you'll probably never see the other campuses. The main campus has about 100 buildings but just a few of these deserve special attention.

THE STUDENT CENTER

The Lory Student Center, located in the center of the main campus, contains many services. Of course, the headquarters for campus information is the Information Desk in the middle of the first floor. They have some interesting pamphlets and a friendly, knowledgeable staff depending on what you ask them.

The bookstore in the student center has both a bookstore and an "all the other trappings of the college existence" store. The bookstore proper is downstairs past the cash registers and posters. This is where you might buy your textbooks, calendars, Unix books, and pressed pulp. They accept checks with a driver's license. If you get there ahead of your fellow textbook buyers, you may be lucky enough to purchase used texts, which are usually much cheaper than new ones. The upper level of the bookstore is where you may buy all things CSU - clothing, cards, gifts, records, and school supplies. Note that the CSU bookstore doesn't have a monopoly on CSU goods, school supplies, or even textbooks. You may buy used texts at Ram's Bookstore, which is on the other side of the railroad tracks. It never hurts to compare prices at both bookstores - you may save a bunch. Even the local grocery store and Wal-Mart carries CSU paraphernalia.

Lory Student Center also houses all of the on-campus public restaurants. With the Ramskeller, Villa Pizza, Bagel Place 2, and Subway on the lower level, and Panda Express, Taco John's, That's a Wrap, Carl's Jr., Bagel Place, and Spoons on the main level, the Student Center offers a variety of menus. The prices are a little on the high side but at least the food is...okay.

The student center also houses some special programs such as Renter's Information, Legal Aid, and Consumer Protection. Renter's Information is the clearinghouse for all of CSU's off-campus housing information. Legal Aid does free notarizing for leases and other official stuff. The Career Services Office is responsible for organizing the on-campus interviews and giving out job-hunting advice. There is also a bike shop in the north end of the basement that offers relatively low prices on simple repairs.

On the entertainment side, the box office on the first floor sells tickets to most on-campus events, including movies at very reasonable prices. To take advantage of Colorado's great outdoors and any leisure time, visit the Outdoor Recreation Program in the basement.

THE LIBRARY

The William E. Morgan Library is on the main campus. Prior to its major damage as a result of the Fort Collins (and Campus) flood of '97, the Library had an extensive selection of STATS books, journals, and other reference materials, most of which was damaged beyond repair. The library has done an excellent job via inter-library loan and is has rapidly returned to its "pre-flood" state. But if you write the ultimate thesis or dissertation then we won't need the library.

STUDENT HEALTH CENTER

The Health Center is just west of the Morgan Library. The building seems a little obscure so you may want to check out its location before you really need it. All students carrying six or more credits pay a health fee making them eligible to use the center (up until the beginning of the semester following your full-time semester). Part-time students and/or spouses may elect to pay the health fee for care by enrolling at the center. All students are required to complete a medical history form prior to treatment. Outpatient services are available 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m Monday through Friday. (Hours vary during the summer session and breaks.) Your fee covers

Visits to the staff physician of your choice
Emergency care during clinic hours (fee on Saturdays)
Walk-in cold clinic (no appointment necessary)
Physical therapy as ordered by your physician
Mental health counseling (up to three visits)
Nutritional counseling and health education

Extra fees are assessed for the following items

Pharmacy, Laboratory, X-Ray
Saturday care
Allergy screening and medications, Inoculations
Casts, dressings, rental items
Dental Clinic
Psychiatric visits after the third visit.
Low cost (and low coverage) health insurance is also available. You can usually get a better deal by shopping around.

For more information about the center, pick up the nifty brochure at the center. They do wonderful work and are genuinely interested in your health. Unfortunately, the wait to see someone is often a long one, so you may want to take you linear models homework along with you.

MOBY GYM AND SPORTS

CSU competes in the Western Athletic Conference for the major sports. We are competitive in football, as well as women's basketball and volleyball. Moby rocks when the basketball team is hot. Hughes Stadium (way the heck off-campus) is a great place to work on your tan and socialize when the football game turns ugly. There are nineteen intercollegiate programs at CSU but this number fluctuates monthly. Your CSU ID will get you into all events except basketball where you have to endure long lines to get the scraps the Athletic Department tosses to the students.

THE DEPARTMENT

All that stuff about the university is nice, but to a STATS grad student, the University will seem very small at first. That's because we are on the Oval (gorgeous no matter what the season), which was the first set of buildings of the old Agricultural College. Most of our classes are in the Engineering building, which is

right beside the STATS building, and the Lory Student Center is right on the other side of the Engineering building. Unless you're an adventurous sort, you'll only occasionally see the rest of campus.

The Statistics building is one of the oldest buildings on campus. It used to be the old economics building. Our department is fairly young -- Dr. Frank Graybill (yup, he's still around and visits our dept. every once in a while) founded the STATS program in 1960, and we separated from the math department in 1971.

The STATS Building underwent a remodel during the 1995-1996 school years, and we moved back into it in May 1996. Before the remodel, the STATS building would have made a great haunted house. It actually had the distinction of being scheduled for demolition, and oh, how we would have missed it. Statistics shared the building with the Intensive English program and a flock of pigeons (nothing like A Flock of Seagulls) before the move.

The remodeling brought the STATS Building up to current handicap accessibility standards, took out all of our asbestos, chased away most of the pigeons, and also gave us new neighbors, the Dean of the College of Natural Sciences and her entourage. But we demanded we keep the creaky floors.

COMPUTING AT CSU STATS

The Department consistently strives to maintain a state-of-the-art computing environment. Full details and information regarding computing facilities and capabilities can be found in the enclosed FAQ (the FAQ from the email). John Dzuberka (who goes by "Zube") is our systems administrator and his office is in Room 004 of the Statistics Building (in the basement). Please don't touch his stapler.

WHO'S MY ADVISOR?

When you first get to CSU STATS, you'll be assigned a temporary advisor. Prof. Jay Breidt (Room 102A, Phone 491-6786) is *the* faculty member to talk to if you have any questions with respect to what courses you should take or how to get a good start at achieving your educational ambitions.

Later, when you have some classes under your belt and you know what areas you enjoy, you should pick a new advisor who also works in those areas. Ask that person if they'd like to be your advisor; showing up with a plate of cookies helps. If agreeable, the two of you will work together toward the completion of your degree. See the remarks on graduate committees below.

SO WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO GET A MASTERS?

For the official line, you need to get your hands on the Statistics Master of Science description. If you don't already have one, see Jennifer in room 101, although we can flesh it out a little bit here. (Research assistants would be wise to eyeball the first two of these options in particular for the possibility of actually getting paid for what you have to do anyway.)

PLEASE NOTE, THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT, REPEAT AFTER ME – All Grad School forms are more important than your classes and grades (the world according to the Grad School).

I am just kidding and it's not true (so keep those grades up), but they are the people who allow or deny you your degree. The GS-6 is the Program of Study form, as well as the form where you list your new advisory committee. What you write on your GS-6 form will haunt you for the rest of your grad school career. So please, enter your name as you wish it to appear on your diploma (or as it appears in RamWeb), write down every and any course you think you will take or wish to take, know the type of degree you are seeking (Thesis vs Project), and select your advisory committee very carefully (make sure everyone is a CSU employee, or at least in the HR system). Once this is completed, keep a copy of your GS-6 in your back pocket at all times. It is your manual for everything you do from here on out. It is more or less a contract between you and your committee (which you must form if you hadn't yet). You must refer to it to fill out all the other 56 grad forms that will come your way. Everything must match, all T's crossed and all I's dotted.

MASTER'S PROJECT

If you elect to do a Plan B (project option) MS, you first pick a professor with whom you think you'd like to work with and then, between the two of you, come up with a research project. Your advisor will point you in the direction of other faculty members with similar interests, although you have to have one person on your graduate committee from outside the department. It does take some legwork to find professors willing to serve on your committee, but these will be the people to whom you will present your project. So be sure to pick people who like you, unless you like a challenge.

You may opt for the Plan A (thesis option), which entails original research and development. If you're not that ambitious, other acceptable projects are applying statistical methodology to solve a non-trivial problem and thorough literature reviews on emerging theory.

For the two options above, you are also required to give a seminar presentation and defend your project to your committee afterwards. You are also required to provide the department with a bound copy and a pdf copy of your thesis/project.

It's a good idea to get started early on your MS project, but in the meantime, there are lots of classes to take. If there are some topics that you particularly enjoy, you might consider working in that area for your project.

Students who prefer examinations over written research results may elect to complete the MS under Plan B (exam option). Details can be found in the Department's program description brochure and also online at www.stat.colostate.edu

SO WHAT IF I GET AMBITIOUS ENOUGH TO GO FOR A PHD?

You will have to do these things:

Pass qualifiers (a.k.a., the Doctoral Candidacy Requirement). The DCR is a set of written exams in four different areas.

- An examination in probability and mathematical statistics
- An examination in statistical methods and linear models
- Your choice of two exams from sampling, time series, or stochastic processes

You have to start taking these tests within 13 months after arriving at CSU STATS. If you get a Master's first, you have 12 months after you obtain the Master's degree to start taking the tests. Everybody has two tries to pass the tests, and if you get an A in sampling (ST605), time series (ST525), or stochastic processes (ST521) class, you don't need to take that particular test. If you fail them twice, you can't get a PhD in Statistics at CSU.

If you pass everything required with flying colors then your next step is to form a graduate committee for a PhD. Usually the graduate school will bug you about filing a GS-6 form before you're ready. You must list the courses you will take to satisfy the Statistics Department's PhD course requirements. Plan to download the worksheet and have it reviewed by your advisor or Jennifer or the Chair or the pope before completing and submitting the final and very "official" program of study. The GS-6 form is available at: <http://www.graduateschool.colostate.edu/index.asp?url=forms>

After all your qualifiers, you'll need to prepare and submit a dissertation proposal to your committee. As time goes by, you will need to get your committee together to give you the Preliminary Exam (be sure to feed them well). At your prelim, you impress the socks off your committee with your proposal, tell them about what the literature says, and tell them what you want to do for your dissertation. Your committee will evaluate whether or not your proposal is worthy of a PhD, ask you some questions about the theory or

methods in your proposal, and make recommendations for your dissertation. Pay careful attention to their recommendations; they expect to see their recommendations taken seriously and appear in your dissertation, unless there's a compelling reason not to.

After your prelim, you just need to write your dissertation, present it at a seminar, and defend it like you have never defended anything in your life before. A lot of dissertation (ST 799) credits will go toward the total number of credits needed for your PhD. Be sure to include all credits on your GS-6.

Of course there are lots of other details (tons of forms to file, talks with graduate committee members) so you need to get your hands on the official doctoral program description.

INTERNSHIP NETWORK

This new program was founded in 1995. CSU Statistics graduate students, who would like to land an internship before they graduate, have the opportunity to join the network. You need to have your CV up-to-date and give it to Jennifer Tallchief and she will give it to Jay Breidt who will let me know who is taking care of this program for Jennifer Hoeting while she's on sabbatical. Your CV will be added to the internship booklet, which will be circulated to businesses around Colorado (and a few places that are farther away). If the companies are interested in you and your qualifications, they'll work with you and make arrangements for an internship. Internships are valuable experiences, and they certainly bolster your CV. They may give you an edge over other job applicants when you finally graduate from CSU STATS and are looking for your first professional job.

"I WILL HAVE SOME TUTORING ON THE SIDE PLEASE"

Every semester, the department hears from undergrad students who need help with their STAT classes. A list of willing STATS grad tutors is published every semester. If you are willing to tutor, ask Jennifer T. to add your name to the list. Our tutors usually earn from \$20-30 an hour.

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

There are two annual "get-togethers" in our department. The first is the Fall Picnic, which the graduate students organize; the other is the Christmas Party, which is organized by the faculty. The picnic is held in mid-September, usually at Rolland Moore Park (on the west side of Shields, between Prospect and Drake). It's a fun time to get to know the faculty and their families and friends (and vice-versa). Everyone brings a dish to share, and there is wonderful food and company. You might participate in volleyball, soccer, or basketball or just chat with each other about anything except statistics. The Christmas Party is a bit more formal. It traditionally takes place just prior to finals week of Fall semester. The department chair has hosted it for several years now and dress is slightly more formal than the picnic.

GRAD STUDENT REP GROUP

The Statistics Graduate Student Representative Group, composed of graduate students, represents the conventional wisdom of the current batch of grad students. The reps are nominated/elected by the students and report grievances or suggestions to the department chair. If you have a grievance but want to remain anonymous or don't want to talk to the chair directly, then ask a student representative to speak on your behalf. In the past, the Student Rep Group has participated in such decisions as faculty hiring and the structure of the DCR, as well as organizing volleyball get-togethers.

LUNCH ROOM

Located in the basement, it has a table and chairs, a sofa and loveseat, a sink, two microwaves, a toaster, a fridge, a window and that's it.

STATS LIBRARY

There is a lovely set of stats journals and books in room 213. This is the stats department library, and it is made up of contributed books by faculty and students. The stats library has some good probability texts (in case you need to look up the functional form of an F-distribution) and some good introductory stats texts (in case you need an example for a class you're teaching). It may be worth your time to check out the stats library before you head to the Morgan library, since most of the big journals (Technometrics, JASA, JRSS) are already in the stats library.

SECURITY AND SAFETY ISSUES

Security: As much as we would like to report that the stats department is theft-free, that's unfortunately not true. Although our building is relatively safer than the larger, more heavily accessed buildings on campus, many students have had books disappear from their desks when they went away. Other things have been nicked too, such as portable CD players, but books are stolen somewhat regularly. Be very careful not to leave your important textbooks, disks with grades on them, and other valuable items out in the open when you're away from your office. Things are never stolen if someone is in an office, so work with your officemates to look after each other's stuff. Never leave your office unattended and unlocked. Always be sure to lock your office door when you leave. The same goes for any building doors through which you may enter or exit after hours.

Safety: As much as you might like to think otherwise, grad students have been known to "burn the midnight oil." Overall, our campus is relatively safe. However, the Oval on campus is not a particularly well lighted area for those of you who may find it necessary to walk home late in the evening. That is why the University has a "safe-walk" service for students. More information on this service can be obtained by calling 491-1155.

OTHER TIDBITS

All CSU numbers start with 491, 495, or 497 (restricted to the CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital). If you're using a CSU phone, you may drop the "49" part and just dial 1-5269, for example. To dial an outside (off-campus) number, dial "8" and then the number.

CSU Phone Numbers

Main Campus	491-1101
Roadhouse (crisis center)	491-5744 or 229-0888 (8am - 5pm)
Information Desk	491-6444
Police	491-6425
Emergency	8-911
Health	491-7121
Morgan Library	491-1841
Bookstore	491-6692

Statistics Phone Numbers

Department Office Room 101	491-5269
Department Fax	491-7895
Consulting Lab Room 219	491-6568
Stats Computing Systems Room 004	zube@stat.colostate.edu
CSU modem bank	491-2222

Fort Collins Phone Numbers

Police, Fire, Ambulance	911
Museum	221-6738
Public Library	221-6740
Lincoln Center	221-6730
Parks and Recreation	221-6640
Time & Temperature	224-9955 Ext. 1444
Weather Forecast	224-9955 Ext. 2000
Joke of the Day	224-9955 Ext. 1300
Ski Report	224-9955 Ext. 8840

FM Radio Stations (just a sample)

KRFC	88.9	Public radio (NPR)
KCSU	90.5	College Radio
KUNC	91.5	Jazz, classical (NPR)
KTCL	93.3	Modern Rock
KBCO	97.3	Classic Rock
KSME	96.1	Top- 40
KYGO	98.5	Country
K-99	99.1	Country (and local news/weather)
The Point	99.9	Top- 40, Rock
KTRR	102.5	Greatest hits of 70s-90s
KRFX	103.5	Classic Rock
KBPI	106.7	Hard Rock
KS	107.5	Hip Hop and R&B
KPAW	107.9	Greatest hits of 60s-90

Local Network Television Stations

2	Independent/WB
4	ABC
6	PBS (Public Broadcasting)
7	NBC
9	CBS
12	KBDI (Public Broadcasting)
13 (31)	Fox

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Since this document is based on CS's original survival guide, our department is indebted to their pioneering efforts. A special note of thanks goes to Zube, who defected from CS and brought his editorial expertise to our new statistics guide.

Please don't forget the invitation for comments and additions from all stats grad students and faculty members.