Living in Denver

Denver’s Neighborhoods

- Cap Hill
- Highland
- Baker
- Wash Park
- Sloan Lake
- City Park
- Congress Park
- Cheesman Park
- Curtis Park/Five Points
- Jefferson Park

10,000 Acres of Urban & Mountain Parks
Capitol Hill (aka Cap Hill)

- Densest neighborhoods in Denver
- HUGE millenial/Gen Z population
- Grocery Stores
- Bars, restaurants, and shops
- Walkable and bikeable
- Close to Downtown and East Colfax Ave
- More affordable, but older buildings
- Nearby neighborhoods have similar vibes (Uptown, Cheesman, Congress Park, etc.)
- Known to be difficult to find street parking
Highland
Formerly “The Northside”
• More expensive
• Variety of housing options: apartment complexes, duplexes, homes that rent out individual rooms
• Fun shops and good restaurants
• Little Man ice cream is a true Denver establishment
RiNo

- “Trendy”
- Close to downtown
- Larimer Street has lots of options for entertainment, breweries, etc.
- Has a bit of a “party” vibe on weekends
- A bit expensive
- More affordable neighborhoods close by: Five Points, Cole, Globeville and Elyria-Swansea
Getting Around: Transit

- RTD operates 365/24/7 with over 10,000 bus stops in 8 counties! Unlimited pass included w/ student fees.
- RTD has experienced reliability issues due to operator shortages, but this shouldn’t impact your ability to get to class.
- Download the Transit app for live bus/train tracking! Bus and rail schedules are also incorporated onto Google Maps.
- Protip: apartments.com has a “search by transitshed” feature! We recommend living within a 30-45min transit commute to school.
FARES

LOCAL
Travel through 1–2 rail fare zones.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Type</th>
<th>Full fare</th>
<th>Discount*</th>
<th>Youth**</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-hour pass</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
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<td>MyRide Card</td>
<td>$2.80</td>
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REGIONAL
Travel through 1–3 rail fare zones.

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AIRPORT
Travel to and from the airport.

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<th>Service Type</th>
<th>Full fare</th>
<th>Discount*</th>
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<tr>
<td>3-hour pass</td>
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<td>$3.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>MyRide Card</td>
<td>$10.30</td>
<td>$5.15</td>
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<td>Day Pass</td>
<td>Purchase a Regional/Airport Day Pass</td>
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Union Station

- Historic train hall renovated in 2014
- Ten minute walk to CAP Building
- Transit hub
  - A Line to airport, G Line to Arvada
  - Most light rail lines
  - Amtrak
  - RTD’s Flatiron Flyer to Boulder
  - CDOT’s Bustang to Ft. Collins, Colorado Springs, and points west.
- Great study spot during the day + entertainment options at night
Getting Around: Bike

• If you’re used to biking in a city, biking in Denver should be a breeze.
  ○ If not, many Denver streets can feel uncomfortable.
• 100 miles of off-street, multi-use trails
• 130 miles of bike lanes
• Denver installing more protected/high-comfort bikeways every year.
• Both dockless scooters and e-bikes are available. Some companies offer reduced-price programs for folks on Medicaid or other gov’t assistance programs.
Around Denver

• Get outside! Colorado is an outdoor-focused place. Mountain biking, cross-country skiing, downhill sports, climbing, hiking 14ers, etc. Many trails are accessible without a car!

• Catch a game! Denver is home to teams from all four major sports. Catch a Rockies game for under $10 and enjoy the views and the food at the same time.
Around Denver

• See a show at Red Rocks! Denver owns one of the most unique outdoor venues in the world. Outdoor movies and yoga during the summer are alternative options.

• Grab a beer! Denver is home to some incredible microbrews.
Odds and Ends

• Health insurance
  ○ Not offered by the university, but most students will qualify for Colorado’s expanded Medicaid program, which has great coverage for both physical and mental health

• Do I need to own a car?
  ○ It’s absolutely doable to be car-free in Denver, but try to live in a denser neighborhood close to downtown. Getting to the mountains will be challenging, but possible.

• Will my bike be safe on campus?
  ○ Buy a U-lock (large enough to thread through your wheel+frame) and always use it - you should be fine!

• Don’t burn bridges - the Denver planning community is tightly knit.
Questions about living in Denver?
Planning in Denver

Blueprint Denver
A BLUEPRINT FOR AN INCLUSIVE CITY
Career Positions

- City and Municipal Planning
- Community Development
- Environmental and natural resource planning
- Economic Development
- Open Space and Parks and Recreation
- Historic Preservation
- Urban Design
- Policy vs. Design Based
- Consulting
Internships

• Municipalities, counties, and private firms hire interns year-round, with a definite boost in spring for summer positions.

• YOU 👏 SHOULD 👏 ALWAYS 👏 GET 👏 PAID 👏 FOR 👏 AN 👏 INTERNSHIP 👏
  ○ At least $15/hr, often high teens to low 20s.
Internships (cont.)

- Build your network
- APAS organizes Job Shadowing 2x per year
- Juggling jobs/school/life is a challenge, but worth the extra effort
- If full-time, don’t work over 20 hours a week, and take fewer than 15 hours of classes.
- Volunteer with local nonprofits!
Networking

• Denver Streets Partnership (walk/bike/transit), Bicycle Colorado, Alliance Center, and many more!
• Volunteering with nonprofits, cities, etc.
• APA Colorado
  ○ Networking events throughout the year, including with Emerging Planning Professionals!
  ○ State Conference in the Fall
• Women in Transportation Seminar (WTS) has a student chapter that works on projects throughout the year.
Planning Topics

• Affordable housing
• Gentrification
• Bicycle and pedestrian planning
• Transit planning
• Economic growth
• Homelessness
• Hazard mitigation
  o Wildfires
  o Floods
• Water rights and scarcity
• Vision Zero (safe streets)
• Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)
• Parks and open spaces
Questions about planning in Denver?
Studying in Denver
Studying

- Commit to being busy, but build in breaks
  - You get out of it what you put into it
- Build relationships - your cohort and professors will be your peers in a few years.
- Life as a MURP student includes fun, interactive projects
- Participate in student life like APAS and WTS
Questions about studying in Denver?
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Graduating Year</th>
<th>Planning Interests</th>
<th>Outside of Planning Interests</th>
<th>Parks &amp; Rec Character are you?</th>
<th>Which Parks &amp; Rec Character are you?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dana Sparks</td>
<td><a href="mailto:emily.sparks@ucdenver.edu">emily.sparks@ucdenver.edu</a></td>
<td>APAS President</td>
<td>May 2020</td>
<td>Affordable housing, community development, long-range planning, all things equity</td>
<td>Live Music, Yoga, Hiking</td>
<td>April Ludgate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Max Morgan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:max.morgan@ucdenver.edu">max.morgan@ucdenver.edu</a></td>
<td>APA Colorado Student Rep</td>
<td>May 2021</td>
<td>Planning education &amp; food systems</td>
<td>Trivia, hockey, hot sauce</td>
<td>Literally, Chris Traeger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ben Gellman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:benjamin.gellman@ucdenver.edu">benjamin.gellman@ucdenver.edu</a></td>
<td>APAS Vice President</td>
<td>December 2020</td>
<td>Equitably building safe and comfortable pedestrian, bicycle, and transit networks.</td>
<td>Biking, basketball, beer</td>
<td>Ben Wyatt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julia Wcislo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:julia.wcislo@ucdenver.edu">julia.wcislo@ucdenver.edu</a></td>
<td>APAS Student Body Rep</td>
<td>May 2020</td>
<td>Affordable housing, transportation and equity</td>
<td>Running, hiking, travel, tennis</td>
<td>Ron from Eagleton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samantha Lasher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:samantha.lasher@ucdenver.edu">samantha.lasher@ucdenver.edu</a></td>
<td>APAS Secretary</td>
<td>May 2020</td>
<td>Environmental planning, sustainability, equitable food systems, land use</td>
<td>Reading, running, gardening</td>
<td>Ann Perkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alex Sterling</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alex.sterling@ucdenver.edu">alex.sterling@ucdenver.edu</a></td>
<td>APAS Treasurer</td>
<td>May 2020</td>
<td>Natural hazards and disaster mitigation, transportation, aviation</td>
<td>Tennis, live music, running</td>
<td>Figuratively, Chris Traeger</td>
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