

# COLORADO COLLEGE

## Planning for Off-Campus Study: A Four Year Timeline

### **First-Year**

Begin to consider what your academic goals for off-campus study might be, in conversation with your academic advisor and the Assistant Director of Off-Campus Study.

Attend the off-campus study fairs, held twice a year, to explore all the options that are available to you. Currently semester and year-long programs are represented at a fair at the beginning of each semester, with a separate fair for all of the CC blocks taught off-campus in an upcoming year (before pre-registration).

Take a language class! Not all programs have language pre-requisites, but the more language study you have, the more choices that will be open to you when you do select a program.

Some limited CC blocks taught off-campus are open to first-year students; ask the professor teaching it. First year students are eligible to study off-campus during the summer following their first year. The wildcard\* can be used (one free unit of summer tuition) and additional financial aid is available to students who currently receive financial aid.

### **Sophomore Year**

Start narrowing down your program choices based on the academic goals you hope to fulfill abroad, in conversation with your academic advisor and the Assistant Director of Off-Campus Study.

Look into application deadlines: usually they are at the beginning of the semester prior to the semester you intend to be off-campus. All students complete the CC Internal Application for Off-Campus Study as an initial step towards being approved for study abroad. Students participating in third-party programs also need to complete the application for the program itself – early application is highly encouraged.

It is strongly recommended that you declare a major and meet with your academic advisor in your major before you study off-campus. If you have not yet officially declared a major, you can still get academic advice from your intended future department to make sure you are on-track.

For some students, spring semester of their sophomore year is a good time to study off-campus, rather than waiting until the traditional junior year. You might consider this as an option, as it allows you to focus more in-depth on your chosen major during your entire junior and senior years, as well as take on leadership positions at CC.

Consider the variety of CC blocks taught off-campus, both during the school year and in the summer. Summer blocks are usually determined and announced around Thanksgiving for the following summer (unused wildcards can apply to the tuition portion of these!), and a list of off-campus blocks for the upcoming academic year typically comes out right before pre-registration.

### **Junior Year**

This is the most common year for students to study off-campus, either for the entire year or for one of the semesters. “Which semester should I go?” is a question best answered depending on the academic goals you have set for your time away, in consideration with when your major and minor departments may be offering courses that you need to be on-campus to take. Check with your departments and your advisors to see when might be the right semester for you.

Look into application deadlines: usually they are at the beginning of the semester prior to the semester you intend to be off-campus. All students complete the CC Internal Application for Off-Campus Study as an initial step towards being approved for study abroad. Students participating in third-party programs also need to complete the application for the program itself – early application is highly encouraged.

Consider the variety of CC blocks off-campus, both during the school year and in the summer. Summer blocks are usually determined and announced around Thanksgiving for the following summer (unused wildcards can apply to the tuition portion of these!), and a list of off-campus blocks for the upcoming academic year typically comes out right before pre-registration.

### **Senior Year**

Students do occasionally study off-campus during their senior year for a variety of reasons; sometimes a program off-campus is an advanced research opportunity, more focused coursework, or internship which fits best after taking advanced courses during your junior year at CC.

If you have not yet had a chance to experience off-campus study and are looking to your senior year, make sure to talk with your academic advisor and come in to see the Assistant Director of Off-Campus Study as soon as possible. Special permission may also be needed from the Dean of the College, depending on the program you choose, but this is often a possibility for students with careful planning.

Consider the variety of CC blocks off-campus during your senior year. The list of off-campus blocks for the upcoming academic year typically comes out right before pre-registration during your junior year.

### **For ALL Students:**

Come by the Office of International Programs if you have questions that aren't answered here, an idea for an academic pursuit that you need advice on, or wish to set up an advising appointment.

The Assistant Director of Off-Campus Study, Heather Browne ([heather.browne@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:heather.browne@coloradocollege.edu)), would be happy to make an appointment to meet with you to advise you on your options and the timeline that might work best for you.

Also, there is a great deal of information about programs and policies on our website:

[www.coloradocollege.edu/international](http://www.coloradocollege.edu/international)

*\*The WILDCARD is one free unit of summer tuition (summer only) that every CC student receives one time. It can be used for an on-campus or off-campus summer course. Begin thinking about which summer you will use your wildcard to maximize your learning experiences. The wildcard is applied automatically to the first summer course you take.*