

# Adams State University

The academic journey at Adams State takes place in an attentive, caring atmosphere.

No matter who you are, you will find a home at Adams State University.

# What Students Say About **Adams State**

"Being a nursing student allows you to make connections around the community and really establish yourself professionally. I feel that I am **completely ready to enter my career and be successful** in the future." **WHITNEY FIELDS, NURSING STUDENT**

"I made **connections with a wide array of people**. Many of these came from working locally, but through presenting research at regional conferences and attending national scientific conferences where I was able to make nationwide connections." **JOSE MIX, BIOLOGY AND PRE-VETERINARY MAJOR**

"The biggest benefit of coming to Adams State was the **small class sizes** for me, personally. I feel that if I had gone to a school with a bigger student population I would have been lost in the mix. It really helped me excel as a student." **SYDNEY GIDABUDAY, 12X NCAA DII NATIONAL RUNNING CHAMPION**



# Affordability and **Cost Containment**

FY19-20 is Adams State's **fourth year with no tuition increases** for resident undergraduate students. In addition, the university **has made substantial budget reductions** as required by ASU Board of Trustees who, in response to audit concerns, took formal action in 2018 to impact the bottom line by **almost \$5 million over the course of two years**. Trustees also set in place budget priorities, such as cost of living adjustments for faculty and staff which had not kept pace in previous years. To meet the Board's directive and still cover the other priorities, Adams State embarked on a "Financial Action Plan" and went through a thorough and comprehensive review of every department on campus (academic, administrative, other).

## The outcomes from ASU Financial Action Plan:

- Budget reductions of **\$2.7 million** in year one (fiscal year starting July 1, 2018) and **\$2.1 million** in year two (fiscal year starting July 1, 2019).
- Reductions included faculty, exempt, and classified **positions eliminated**.
- Certain full-time staff took a **reduction in their FTE**.
- Reduction in percentage ASU covers of exempt employees' health insurance from 78% to 75%.

## Other ways Adams State has addressed affordability:

- Full-time students (12 credit hours per semester) can take up to 20 credit hours each semester for no additional cost. It's our **"take 20 credit semester credit hours and pay for 12"** strategy.
- **Guaranteed FLAT Tuition**, where there is a guarantee of no tuition increases through four consecutive years for undergraduates enrolled on campus. Students lock in their tuition rate upon acceptance.

*Fortunately, the 12.9% state increase for FY20 prevented Adams State from going even deeper with reductions, which would have had negative impacts on the student support we are able to provide.*

# Affordability



# Adams State University on **Affordability**

- **SLV Promise:** We guarantee **tuition and fees will be covered 100%** for full-Pell eligible San Luis Valley students
- **Cost Containment:** Adams State is in its **fourth year without tuition increases** for resident students
- **Decrease Time to Completion:** Can finish degree in three years
- **Our Generous Tuition Window:** saves students thousands of \$\$\$! Students pay the **same tuition for 12 to 20 credit** hours. Take up to 20 semester credits at the full-time price of 12 credits
- **Scholarship Support:** **over \$5 million** in foundation and institutional scholarships awarded annually

*We are the most affordable residential four year campus in the state.*

# Adams State Values Student Success

Adams State has the largest percentage of students of color of any 4-year institution in Colorado, according to fall 2018 data. **Student demographics:**

- 38% percent Hispanic
- 51% students of color
- 40% low-income backgrounds
- 40% first in family to graduate from college
- 69% Pell eligible COF students
- 66% of all students have financial need
- 80% first-time, full-time freshmen are awarded aid

Adams State is making these gains through dedicated **student support strategies** including:

- First Year Advising Center
- One Stop Financial Aid Service Desk in the University's Student Union Center
- Unique student programs like Model U.N. and Student Scholar Days
- Co-Curricular Recreation and Engagement activities increasing student involvement
- STEM Center
- Dedicated Writing Studio
- Student Counseling Center

*Adams State is proud to report it is **closing equity gaps**; the 6-year graduation rate for Hispanic students at Adams State has increased to 39% from 25%.*

# Innovative Practices

At Adams State, a student's educational journey isn't bound by classroom walls. It spills over and blends with extracurricular interests, student life activities, and the San Luis Valley community at large.

We call it **The Adams Experience**, a transformation of the undergraduate experience incorporating evidence-based High Impact Practices synthesizing what students learn, how they learn, and how student learning is assessed.

## High Impact Practices

- **First-Year Seminar:** Students select from a variety of courses centered around specific academic topics. Through focused exploration of the topic students **develop academic curiosity and critical thinking** applying to student's entire academic experience.
- **Writing-Intensive Course:** Writings emphasized at **all levels** of instruction and **across the curriculum**. Students are encouraged to **produce and revise** various forms of writing for different audiences in different disciplines.
- **ePortfolio:** Students create a **digital platform to integrate and showcase all their learning experiences** both in and out of the classroom as well as on and off campus.
- **Senior Capstone Projects:** Seniors create a project that **integrates and applies** what they've learned.
- **Theme-based General Education Options:** Students are given the opportunity to explore new interests or focus on existing interest carrying forward through later coursework. Current optional general education themes: Crime & Forensics; Health, Sport & Wellness; Latinx Studies.



# Degrees that Matter

Adams State is responsive to regional needs and works

to ensure the degrees we award matter and are relevant to the market.

## New Programs:

- **Outdoor Education & Stewardship** to provide a niche outdoor oriented degree taking advantage of the vast array of outdoor recreational opportunities in the San Luis Valley.
- **Food Studies** developed in collaboration with members of the local foods industry.
- **Cultural Resources Management**, a graduate degree program that draws on the natural resources of the San Luis Valley.
- **Public Administration** graduate degree developed in collaboration with the Colorado Municipal League.

## Other Key Programs:

Teacher Education - Nursing - Geosciences & GIS - 3D Materials - Communication & Media Studies - Prison Correspondence Program

## Key Data:

- More than **70% of all teachers and administrators** working in the K-12 system in the San Luis Valley school districts **have degrees from Adams State.**
- More than **30% of employees** in the San Luis Valley health/hospital systems **are alumni of Adams State.**
- **All three major local bank presidents** in Alamosa are **graduates of Adams State.**



## Social Mobility

Adams State is also **gaining attention for the social mobility** its degrees are creating for students. U.S. News & World Report placed Adams State at No. 36 on its social mobility index for Tier 2 regional universities across the western half of the United States in its new, expanded U.S. News Best Colleges 2020 rankings released Monday. It is the **first time Adams State has appeared** in the closely watched rankings of U.S. News Best Colleges.



# Student Barriers

## Average High School GPA

- Admitted: 3.27
- Enrolled: 3.21

## Average SAT Composite Score

- Admitted: 1000
- Enrolled: 980

## Additional Placement Testing Required for New Students

- Need English Testing: 34%
- Need Math Testing: 58%

## Percentage of full-time Students who are Pell Eligible

- Over  $\frac{1}{3}$  of **ALL** admitted students qualify for a Pell grant
- Of those admitted students, we are a good fit:  
**59%** of our incoming enrolled students receive Pell
- **Overall, 69% of our Colorado residents receive Pell**

## Barriers in Applying

38% of first-time students who applied did not submit test scores and/or official transcripts to complete their application.

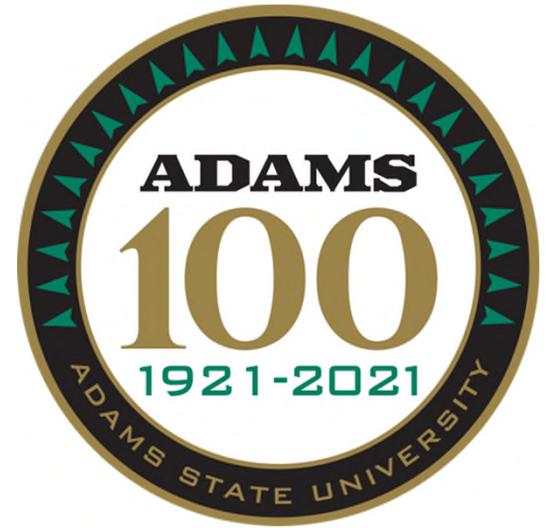


# Access - Student Support

Few examples of how we work to overcome barriers to achieve adequate admissions prep:

- In-person application workshops
- In-person FAFSA workshops
- High School Concurrent
- Participate in Colorado Free App Day





**Thank You**