



COMMUNITY
COLLEGE
of AURORA

GRADUATE

2026

REPORT



ABOUT CCA

Mission

Community College of Aurora (CCA) serves our diverse community by providing high-value instruction and support services to advance educational attainment, workforce readiness, and upward socio-economic mobility.

Vision

We aspire to be the college where every student succeeds.

Values

Be BRAVE – Belonging, Respect, Adaptability, Vision, Equity.



Accreditation

CCA is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The regional accrediting body is located at 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, Illinois 60604. The office may be contacted at 800-621-7440. CCA has been accredited by the HLC since 1988.

Campus Locations

Aurora - CentreTech Campus

16000 East CentreTech Parkway
Aurora, Colorado 80011

Centennial - Centennial Campus for Healthcare and First Responders

12650 E. Arapahoe Rd., Suite 100
Centennial, CO 80112

Denver – Lowry Studios

9075 E. Lowry Blvd.
Denver, CO 80230



PRESIDENT LETTER

To the CCA Community,

Each year, we pause to reflect on our impact and assess whether our mission to advance educational opportunity, economic mobility, and student success is being realized in meaningful ways. I am proud to share the results of the 2026 Graduate Follow-Up Survey, which once again demonstrates the transformative role the Community College of Aurora plays in the lives of our students and the communities we serve.

During the 2024–2025 academic year, more than 1,200 degrees and certificates were earned by CCA graduates. Among Career and Technical Education (CTE) graduates surveyed, 89.1% were either employed or continuing their education. Transfer graduates continued to demonstrate exceptional outcomes, with 94.8% either pursuing further education or securing employment. Most encouraging, both groups achieved five-year highs in key measures of post-graduation success.

These outcomes tell a powerful story: CCA continues to create pathways that help students achieve their aspirations and build brighter futures.

Just as importantly, our graduates affirmed the quality of their experience while enrolled at CCA:

- 96% agreed that CCA helped them meet their educational goals.
- 93% reported that CCA provided a welcoming and inclusive environment.
- 91% agreed that CCA helped them develop the critical soft skills needed for success in today's workforce.
- 87% felt CCA provided a clear and structured pathway to earning their degree or certificate.



Beyond the data are the stories of determination, resilience, and achievement that define our institution. Graduates consistently praised the support of faculty and staff, the strength of our inclusive community, and the opportunities they found to grow personally and professionally while pursuing their education. These results remind us that student success is not measured solely by credentials earned, but by lives transformed. Every graduate represents a story of perseverance, purpose, and possibility.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our faculty, instructors, staff, community partners, and supporters whose dedication makes these outcomes possible. Together, we are not only preparing students for what comes next, we are helping to build stronger families, a stronger workforce, and a stronger Colorado.

With gratitude,

Mordecai Ian Brownlee, Ed.D.
President, Community College of Aurora

CCA 2025 GRADUATES

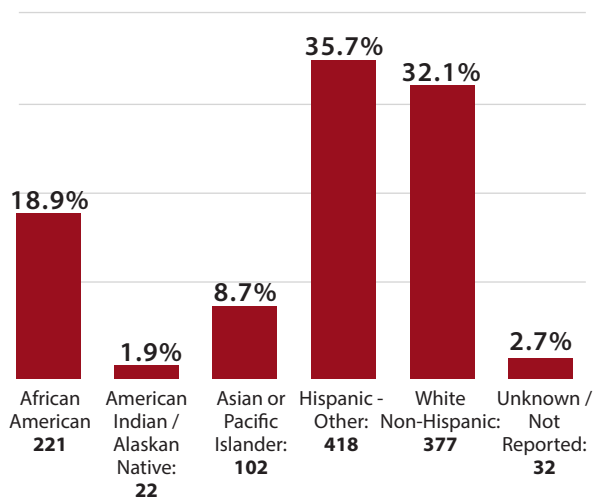
CCA's courses are based on real life and work situations so that graduates are more than ready when they start their careers. When students graduate from CCA's programs, they are prepared to transfer to a four-year institution or to begin their career.

CCA Students

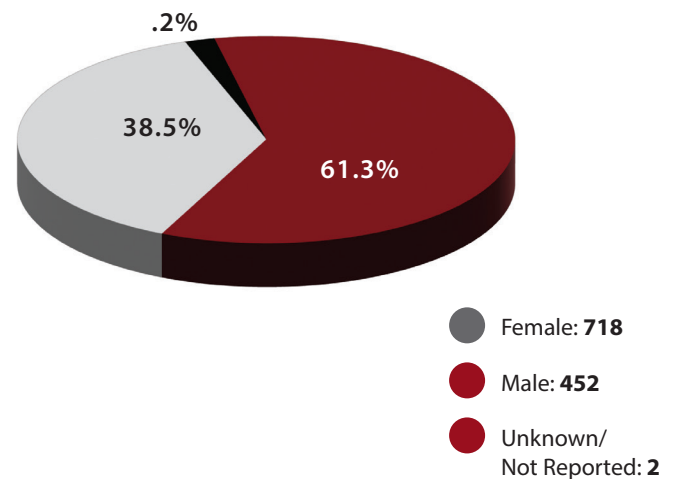
CCA is a global community with students from more than 60 countries. The diversity of the students and the community is one of the college's greatest strengths. CCA has an inclusive, equity-driven, multicultural environment; a reputation for excellence; and a culture that places a high value on positive experiences for all students, faculty, and staff.

96% of 2025 CCA graduate respondents said that CCA helped them meet their education goals.
93% of respondents said that CCA created a welcoming and inclusive environment.

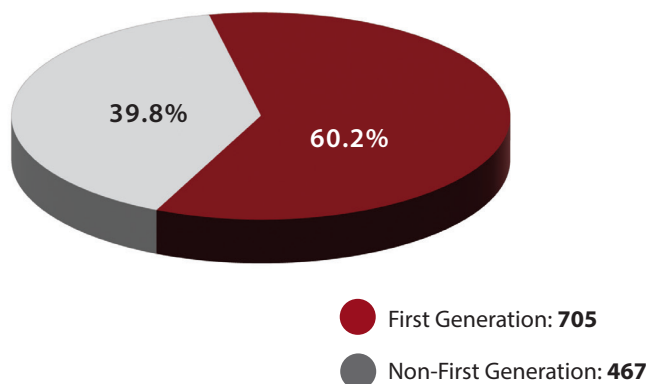
GRADUATES BY ETHNICITY



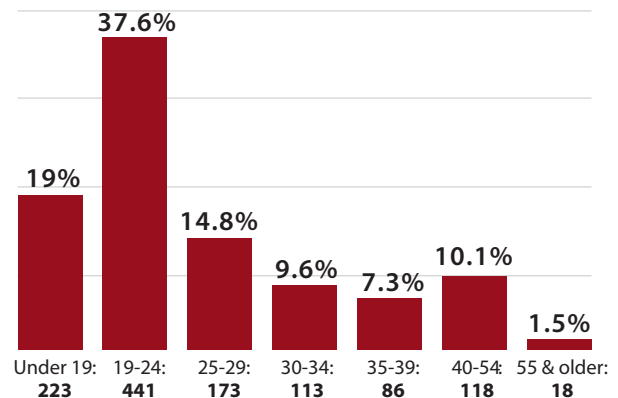
GRADUATES BY GENDER



FIRST GENERATION



GRADUATES BY AGE



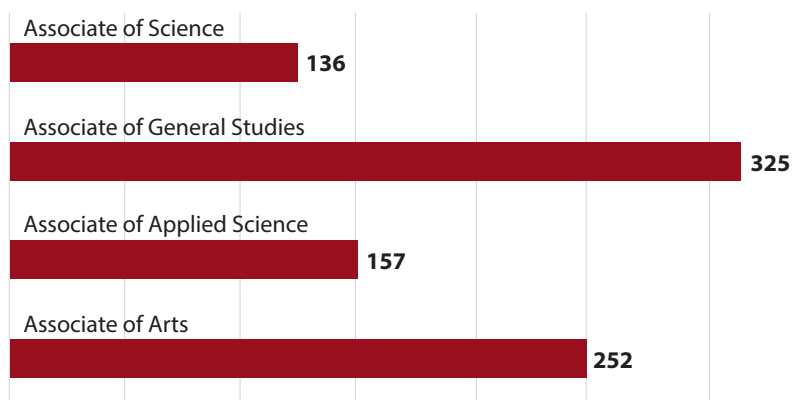
The median age of graduates is 23, with the youngest student being 15 and the oldest 79.



In the 2025 academic year, 1172 students graduated from CCA, earning a total of 1289 associate degrees and certificates. CCA conducted a follow-up survey with these graduates in the spring of 2026. This report highlights the survey's findings. CCA prepares both transfer graduates and career/technical education (CTE) graduates. Transfer graduates earn an associate degree that allows them to transfer as juniors to a four-year college or university. CTE graduates earn either a certificate or associate degree that allows them to enter the workforce.

92% of respondents indicated that they are employed or continuing their education.

CCA AWARDED 870 ASSOCIATE DEGREES IN 2025.



“I’m most proud of how much I’ve grown during my time at CCA, both academically and personally. The supportive environment and diverse community helped me build confidence, stay motivated, and prepare for my future in nursing.”

– CCA 2025 GRADUATE

2025 TRANSFER GRADUATES

Transfer graduates received degrees in programs that prepared them to transfer as juniors into four-year colleges and universities.

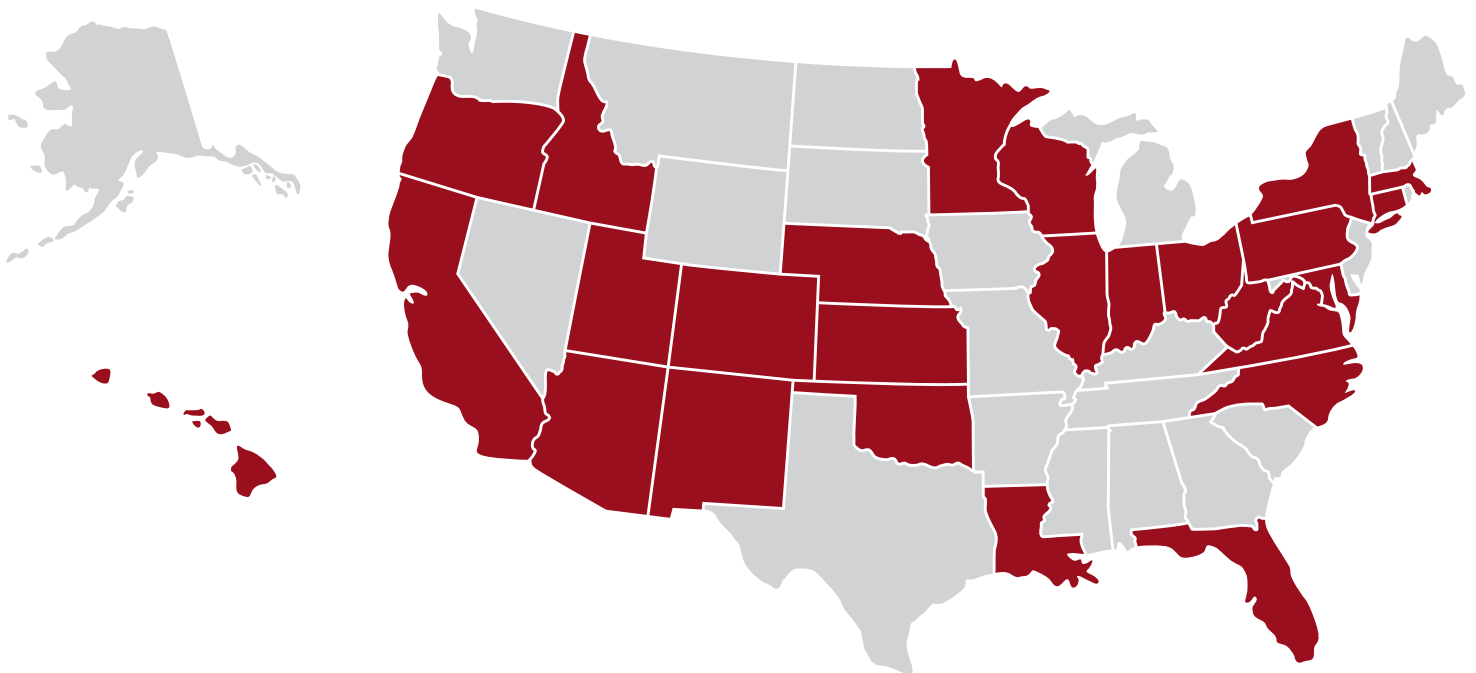
Over half of the students who enroll at CCA are interested in transferring in order to complete their bachelor's degree. CCA degrees are designed to make transferring easy. Students start by meeting with an academic advisor to determine a degree plan; they then use Career Services to explore majors and possible career tracks. CCA offers support every step of the way.

76.1% of CCA's 2025 transfer graduates who responded stated that they were continuing their education at another four-year college or university.

Top Five Transfer Schools in Colorado

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY	NUMBER OF TRANSFERS
University of Colorado Denver	60
Metropolitan State University of Denver	34
University of Northern Colorado	6
University of Denver	6
Colorado State University	5

Other states/district where transfer students are attending include Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, North Carolina, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin, and West Virginia.



2025 CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) GRADUATES

CCA's Career and Technical Education

The Community College of Aurora (CCA) offers more than 40 career and technical education (CTE) degree and certificate programs that prepare students for in-demand careers through hands-on learning, industry credentials, and real-world experience. CCA commits to preparing students for high skills, high-wage and in-demand industries and to respond to the workforce needs of the state and service area.

CTE Graduates in the Workforce

82.2% of CTE graduates reported that they were employed. The average wage of CTE graduates is \$24.18 per hour.

CCA Career Services

CCA Career Services is a full-service career development center and resource that is free for students and alumni. The office of Student Leadership and Development provides student-centered programming and services that promote career readiness and employer networking opportunities, while also engaging with alumni to foster continued professional growth and connection.

Career Coaching and Readiness Services assists with:

- Building a strong resume
- Applying for jobs
- Interview preparation and practice
- Planning long-term career goals
- Building connections in the student's field
- Job/internship search
- Highlighting skills and education to become job-ready

Students and Alumni can access these resources

- Career Readiness Assessment — free assessment available up to three times with instant results to support your career journey
- Career Launch Program — a free skill-building program to create professional relationships, explore career fields, and improve self-confidence; offered every semester
- Handshake — the number one job and internship site for college students; lists all Career Services events as well as outside opportunities
- The Forage — free, self-paced job simulations with top companies to build real-life skills and gain hands-on experience
- LinkedIn Learning — thousands of expert-led courses accessible through your D2L account to develop skills and earn certifications

Employers connect with students through:

- Career fairs — fairs provide a great opportunity for employers to meet students and for students to explore possibilities
- Industry-specific career events — career events highlight in-demand industries such as healthcare, IT, and others
- Handshake lists all Career Services Events as well as other outside events.

EMPLOYER INFORMATION

Career Coaching and Readiness Services connects employers with CCA's diverse and skilled students and alumni. Connect with our team to encounter a high level of customer service catered to meet your hiring needs. Contact us by email at careercoaching.readiness@ccaaurora.edu



Connect With Our Community!
CCAURORA.EDU/CONNECT



For more information about the 2025 VE-135 Graduate Follow-Up Survey and other data contained in the report, contact the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, at cca.ir@ccaurora.edu or call 303-360-4737.