



CODE OF THE COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES
Ratified by the Departments of the College December 16, 2021

I. Mission Statement

Harnessing the power of the foundational sciences, the College of Natural Sciences leads transformative research, education, and community engagement; removes barriers to access; and fosters a spirit of inquiry.

II. College Vision and Values

The College of Natural Sciences will be a nationally and internationally recognized leader in scholarship, education, and discovery in the sciences. Through cutting-edge foundational and vital interdisciplinary research, the College will educate and inspire the next generation of scholars, researchers, and professional leaders to thrive and contribute to an ever-changing global society.

The College is an inclusive community of Faculty, Administrative Professionals, State Classified employees and students and is guided by shared values of academic and research excellence, diversity, equity and inclusion, collaboration and partnership, integrity and collegiality, social responsibility and accountability.

III. College Objectives

The College of Natural Sciences is responsible for education, research, and engagement in biochemistry and molecular biology, biology, chemistry, computer science, data science, mathematics, neuroscience, physics, psychology, and statistics at Colorado State University. The college is committed to:

- *Excellence in undergraduate education in biological, physical, mathematical, and behavioral sciences*

Students learn about their disciplines through classwork, laboratory and research experiences, and field placements. Students are encouraged to integrate their knowledge from courses with laboratory, research, external placement and other experiences to form a well-rounded educational experience. They are taught to master the fundamentals of the sciences, learn laboratory and computational techniques, and discover knowledge through research. The college prepares broadly-educated students who can think critically and who upon graduation are ready to move into the workforce as effective contributors to society. The college is also responsible for providing courses within the University Core Curriculum and other upper division courses that are critical to the education of students in every college at CSU.



- *World-class programs of research and graduate education*

The college aims for its faculty to produce high quality scientific knowledge recognized by peers around the world. Doctoral programs in each of its departments shall be at least equal or exceed in quality to their university peers and similar programs in the top ranked land grant institutions. The college recruits and selects high quality graduate students from the nation and the world, acknowledging the advantages of diversity in the student population. The faculty model good professional practices, provide students with rigorous up-to-date training in research, and mentor their students in the art of teaching. Students graduate as competent and marketable professionals in their disciplines.

- *Outreach and engagement*

The college recognizes its critical role in providing knowledge, consultation, and other services to the local community and its schools, the state of Colorado, the nation, and the world. The college aids in the development of future scientists and educators through the Education and Outreach Center as well as through individual faculty initiatives. The college supports research and programs aimed at fostering improvements and innovations in science, mathematics, and technology instruction and curricula. The needs of businesses and other organizations are recognized and acted upon. Major societal problems requiring scientific expertise receive serious attention.

- *Fostering inter-collegial and interdisciplinary programs*

The college encourages collaborative research and teaching efforts, resource sharing, interdisciplinary programs, and other strategies that will produce a general good for the university, its students, and its external constituents.

- *Enhancement of diversity*

The College recognizes the important role that it must play in enhancing diversity and promoting equity, inclusion, and social justice. The College aims to foster a diverse and inclusive environment for all the members of its community. This includes but is not limited to creating and upholding inclusive and equitable processes and policies, promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in compensation, recruitment, and retention decisions, and supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion across advising, mentoring, and the curriculum so that students from all backgrounds and abilities can succeed.

- *Communication and support from external constituencies*

The college communicates its activities in education, research, and engagement to alumni, students and parents, the community, and private sector stakeholders. The college seeks to involve alumni and industry experts in college and department advisory groups, programs, and activities. The college seeks to increase private funding to support academic priorities and for student scholarships and fellowships.



IV. Administrative Organization of the College

- *Office of the Dean*

The Dean of the College is responsible for the general administration of the College and for fostering the growth and success of its educational, research, and engagement programs. The Dean is the principal administrative and academic officer whose duties and responsibilities are outlined in the Academic Faculty and Administrative Professionals Manual.

The College administration is also comprised of a number of associate and/or assistant deans and other administrative personnel with responsibilities assigned by the Dean.

- *Academic Departments and Programs*

The College of Natural Sciences consists of eight academic departments:

- Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Psychology
- Statistics

The college currently shares administrative oversight of the degree programs in Data Science and Neuroscience and three interdisciplinary programs: Cellular and Molecular Biology Graduate Program, Molecular and Cellular Integrative Neurosciences Program, and the Graduate Degree Program in Ecology. The college also oversees the Education and Outreach Center, the Little Shop of Physics, and a residential learning community.

- *College Executive Council*

The College Executive Council is composed of the Dean and Associate/Assistant Deans of the college and the Chairs of the Departments. The Executive Council meets at least once per month August – June and provides advice to the Dean regarding formulation and implementation of policies and procedures. The Council serves as the College Promotion and Tenure committee and makes recommendations on tenure and promotion applications to the Dean. The Council is also charged with facilitating communication to the faculty, staff, and students concerning College and University policies and actions. The Council makes recommendations to the Dean for certain college-level awards, such as CNS Professor Laureate, and also advises on faculty nominations to forward for some university level awards, such as the Monfort Award, University Distinguished Professor, and University Distinguished Teaching Scholar.



- *College of Natural Sciences Dean's Leadership Council*

A College of Natural Sciences Dean's Leadership Council may be formed at the discretion of the Dean. Members of the Leadership Council, who are selected and appointed by the Dean, shall be individuals who are interested in and committed to furthering the goals and objectives of the College. The Council provides support and advice to the Dean to advance the College's mission, ensuring it realizes its research, education, engagement, and fundraising goals. The Council assists the Dean in implementation of both short-range and long-range goals, community outreach and partnership development, and garnering financial support for the College.

V. College Standing Committees

Unless otherwise noted below, membership on the standing committees includes a representative from each department and an Associate or Assistant Dean. Membership is determined by the Dean of the College in consultation with the Chairs of the Departments and consistent with departmental policies and procedures. Ad hoc committees may be formed as needed at the discretion of the Dean.

- *College Curriculum Committee*

The College Curriculum Committee consists of one faculty member selected by each department and an associate dean selected by the Dean. The chair of the Curriculum Committee is one of the departmental representatives and is elected by the committee membership. The Chair serves as the college representative on the University Curriculum Committee. The duties of the College Curriculum Committee include: Receiving or initiating recommendations concerning courses and curricula; evaluating all proposals for new courses and programs and changes to courses and programs including majors, minors and certificates; and interacting with committees from other colleges or units to ensure that any proposed curricular alterations meet the needs and goals of all parties. After such consideration and approval, these items will be forwarded to the associate dean on the committee and then to the University Curriculum Committee.

- *Graduate Education Committee*

The Graduate Education Committee is appointed by the Dean and chaired by an associate/assistant dean. The duties of this committee include advising the dean on matters related to: graduate programs of study in the college including interdisciplinary programs, degree programs, specializations and certificate programs; graduate recruitment, retention, advising, and career counseling; instructional affairs, especially at the graduate level; graduate curricular matters not under the purview of the College Curriculum Committee; and any other specific issues related to graduate education of interest to the dean.



- *Undergraduate Education Committee*

The Undergraduate Education Committee is appointed by the dean and chaired by an associate/assistant dean. The duties of this committee include advising the dean on matters related to: undergraduate programs of study in the college (majors, minors, certificate programs, etc.); undergraduate recruitment, retention, advising, and career counseling; instructional affairs at the undergraduate level; undergraduate curricular matters not under the purview of the College Curriculum Committee; technology fee issues, undergraduate research and internships; and any other specific issues related to undergraduate education of interest to the Dean.

- *Sabbatical Leave Committee*

The College Sabbatical Leave Committee consists of four faculty members appointed by the Dean who are selected from those faculty who have taken sabbatical leave. The four members must be from different academic departments. Each committee member is appointed for a four-year term and serves as chairperson of the committee during their fourth and final year of service. The duties of the College Sabbatical Leave Committee include receiving sabbatical applications, assuring compliance with university and college requirements, evaluating the applications, and making recommendations to the Dean.

- *Scholarship Committee*

The College Scholarship Committee is appointed by the Dean and consists of at least one faculty member from each department and is chaired by an associate/assistant dean. The duties of the College Scholarship Committee include: informing students in the college of the procedures and deadlines involved in applying for all scholarship funds; reviewing the applications for such scholarships; assuring criteria are met by those recommended for scholarships; recommending to the Dean which applicants should be awarded scholarships from the available funds. The committee also reviews policies and procedures for making awards and makes recommendations to the Dean should changes be warranted.

- *College Awards Committee*

The College Awards Committee consists of at least eight faculty members, a graduate student who has served as a teaching assistant, and the current president of the College of Natural Sciences College Council; it is chaired by an associate/assistant dean. The faculty members are appointed by the Dean for three-year, renewable terms. The graduate student and president of the College of Natural Sciences College Council are appointed for one-year terms. Appointments to the committee are staggered so that approximately 1/3 of the committee membership will be newly appointed each year. The duties of the College Awards Committee are to: inform faculty, staff, and students in the college of the procedures and deadlines involved in nominating persons for all awards controlled by the college; review the applications for such awards; and recommend award recipients to the Dean.



- *College Contract, Continuing, and Adjunct (CCA) Faculty Advisory Committee*

This committee serves as an advisory committee to the Dean on issues and concerns related to the CCA faculty in the College. The committee is chaired by an associate/assistant Dean and is comprised of one CCA faculty member from each department and the College elected representative to the Faculty Council committee on non-tenure-track (CCA) faculty. The duties of the CCA Faculty Advisory Committee include: fostering a community of CCA faculty in the College; promoting an understanding of CCA faculty positions; advising the Dean on issues regarding CCA faculty in the College; and encouraging nominations to the Faculty Council Committee on Non-Tenure-Track Faculty.

- *Dean's Advisory Committee for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion*

The Dean's Advisory Committee for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion is an advisory board whose primary mission is to advance the diversity, equity, and inclusion goals of the college. The committee is selected by the Dean and is comprised of the College Director of Inclusion and at least one faculty or staff member from each department, an undergraduate student, and a graduate student from the college. The committee is co-chaired by the College Director of Inclusion and a faculty or staff member selected by the committee. The role of the committee includes advising and recommending priorities for strategic diversity engagement at all levels and in all areas of the college, providing feedback and insight to the Dean on issues of culture, climate, equity, inclusion, and diversity, and identifying opportunities for the college to engage with broader communities to promote diversity, equity, social justice, and inclusion.

VI. Evaluation of College Operations

Evaluation of operations of the college, including its departments, associated interdisciplinary programs, centers, and institutes, shall be conducted periodically following a schedule set by the university. The scope of the evaluations shall include undergraduate and graduate education, research and scholarship, outreach and engagement, and other programs that are recognized objectives of the college such as enhancement of diversity in the student body, faculty, and staff. The evaluation of college operations will follow the Academic Program Review process mandated by the University.

VII. Procedures for Evaluating Performance of College Administrative Officers

- *Annual Evaluation of College Dean's Administrative Staff and Department Chairs*

The Dean will solicit and utilize feedback from the College faculty and staff in the review of the Dean's administrative staff including associate and assistant deans and department chairs. The review will be conducted annually in accordance with the *Academic Faculty and Administrative Professional Manual*.



- *Annual Evaluation of the Dean*

The performance of the Dean is conducted annually by the Provost in accordance with the *Academic Faculty and Administrative Professional Manual*.

VIII. Procedures for Calling and Convening College Faculty Meetings

A general meeting of the faculty of the College of Natural Sciences may be called at the request of the Dean. In the event of convening such a meeting, at least two weeks' notice of the time, location, and agenda of the meeting will be provided to all members of the faculty of the college via written memorandum or e-mail. The quorum needed to transact business shall be a simple majority of faculty present at the college meeting.

IX. Procedures for Amending the College Code

The Dean will appoint a committee every five years to review the code which will then be submitted to the Provost for review, regardless of whether changes have been made. Revisions to the code may be considered at any time at the request of the Dean.

X. Ratification of the College Code

Ratification of this code requires consent from at least six of the eight academic departments. Department consent should be sought via a vote at a departmental faculty meeting where a quorum is attained. Consent requires a simple majority of those present.