

The two-year degree, decided this week.

An accredited Associate of Science in Computer Science. Which campus, and how fast — settled together before classes start Monday, August 17.

THE DEGREE

60 credits, identical at four campuses

THE EVIDENCE

Every claim linked, verified Aug 12–13

THE ASK

Two open questions, settled tonight

Three questions. Two are actually open.

Q1

Go back to school at all?

SETTLED

The pivot to tech is decided — freight is behind us, two self-built systems are live, and the skills are already moving. What's left is execution, and execution needs specifics, not encouragement.

Q2

Which campus?

OPEN

FRCC, CCD, RRCC, or Arapahoe. The degree itself is identical at all four — a statewide 60-credit curriculum — so this is purely a fit question. Page 6 scores it; page 7 answers it.

Q3

One course or two this fall?

OPEN

Not a judgment call — a rule. The placement test sets the starting rung, and the starting rung sets the fall load. The rule itself is on page 11.

The fixed constraints: a newborn at home · a 24-hour weekly cap · classes start Monday, August 17

Every shortcut fails a requirement the degree meets.

THE FOUR REQUIREMENTS

R1 **An accredited credential** employers recognize

R2 **Math rebuilt for credit** — algebra through calculus

R3 **Structure and humans** — deadlines, tutoring, advisors

R4 **Survives newborn life** — online, evenings, resizable

THE SHORTCUT

Self-study + certificates

Bootcamp (Turing et al.)

WGU / SNHU-style online

Emily Griffith (certificates)

AS in Computer Science

WHY IT'S OUT

No accredited credential; the math never gets rebuilt

Not accredited, no degree — a certificate isn't the goal

Competency-based, no campus, no local network

Not a degree school — certificates, daytime, in-person

Meets R1–R4. That's the whole argument.

Nothing faster is accredited. Nothing cheaper rebuilds the math. **Both matter.**

Math is the bottleneck — so math is the plan.

THE LADDER UP — STATEWIDE COURSE NUMBERS

MAT 2420 — Calculus II

MAT 2410 — Calculus I

MAT 1420 — College Trigonometry

MAT 1340 — College Algebra

Two rules from the catalog: 280+ on the AAF skips the first rung; math runs in consecutive semesters — no gaps.

RUNNING ALONGSIDE — THE CS CORE

C1 **CSC 1060** — Computer Science I

C2 **CSC 1061** — Computer Science II

C3 **CSC 2025** — Architecture & Assembly

One math course and one CS course most semesters — the weekly load stays flat even when the math gets hard.

Every rung is credit toward the 60 — nothing remedial, nothing wasted.

One degree. Four campuses. Identical.

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- 01 **Statewide "Degree with Designation."** Same 60 credits, same course numbers at every Colorado community college — signed agreement, August 2020.
 - 02 **Online sections are pooled.** The CO Online consortium means a student at any of the four can take online sections taught at the others.
 - 03 **Regionally accredited, all four.** Public colleges, HLC-accredited. Nothing for-profit, nothing competency-based.

05 **Quality and access are off the table. The campus question is fit — nothing else.**

Same degree — so score the fit.

CAMPUS	THE CASE	THE CATCH
FRCC	Three campuses plus online; the only published 8-semester part-time map — the pacing proof this plan is built on	No specialty designation
CCD	Deepest online/hybrid catalog — 24–73% of the program available online; Auraria campus downtown	The commute is downtown
RRCC	The networking lane — Linux, cloud, and Network+ run alongside the degree	Lakewood
ACC	NSA-designated cyber program; a Lockheed Martin pipeline that hires ACC two-year grads	Littleton; placement test carries a fee and a 24-hour retake wait

Remember page 5: online sections are pooled systemwide, so no campus choice locks us out of online courses. This table is about lanes and logistics — nothing else distinguishes them.

Default to FRCC. Switch only if a lane matters more.

THE DEFAULT

FRCC

Why: the only school with a published 8-semester part-time map for this exact degree — the pacing in this packet isn't our guess, it's theirs. Three campuses means the commute survives any move. Strong math tutoring for the ladder.

THE SWITCH RULES

If **cyber security becomes the point** — pick ACC: the federal NSA designation and the Lockheed pipeline are real credentials, not marketing.

If **networking becomes the point** — pick RRCC: Linux, cloud, and Network+ electives alongside the same degree.

If **online depth becomes the point** — pick CCD: the system's deepest online/hybrid catalog, downtown.

And because enrollment follows the student, not the campus — a switch later costs paperwork, not credits.

THE REST OF THE LIST, CHECKED

Colorado Mountain College — mountain campuses, thin program detail. • CMU Tech — a genuinely good Cisco program in Grand Junction; the geography fails the newborn test. • Emily Griffith — certificates, not a degree.

School fits inside a 24-hour week — capped, tracked.

THE WEEKLY BUDGET — TWO COURSES



The schedule: online sections, evenings after bedtime, weekend mornings — interruptible work, five steps from the crib. A campus section only when coverage exists.

The coverage: nobody is alone with the baby because of a class. Sections get chosen around the family calendar, not the other way around.

The cap: 24 hours, logged honestly. A brutal baby week doesn't break anything — next semester simply runs one course instead of two, and the finish line moves with it, out loud.

Eight semesters. Six checkpoints. One finish line.



Eight semesters isn't our optimism — it's the college's own part-time map.

One summer course a year and a placement score that skips College Algebra pull the finish toward 2029.

Three ways this could wobble — each with an answer.

THE RISK

THE RESPONSE — DECIDED IN ADVANCE

01

The placement test starts me lower than hoped.

Fall runs one course, and the timeline is rebuilt with the advisor before we enroll. The test sets the starting rung — it isn't a verdict.

02

A newborn month breaks the rhythm.

That semester runs one course instead of two. The finish moves, visibly, and we reset it together when December grades post. The plan resizes; it doesn't break.

03

It takes longer than "two years."

Eight semesters is the honest name at this pace — summers and the placement skip pull it toward 2029. Either way, a finished credential every 16 weeks.

Two questions tonight. Three errands this week.

QUESTION 01 – THE CAMPUS

Default is **FRCC** – the pacing proof and the commute insurance. Switch to **ACC** for cyber, **RRCC** for networking, **CCD** for online depth. Page 7.

QUESTION 02 – THE FALL LOAD

The test answers this one. **280+ on the AAF** means two courses, College Algebra skipped. Below that: one course, timeline rebuilt before we enroll.

THIS WEEK, IN ORDER

01

Apply online – today. Fifteen minutes, but the student login takes 3–5 business days to arrive.

02

Book the Accuplacer by phone – Westminster 303-404-5301. Don't wait for the login.

03

Meet the advisor – Wolf Central 303-404-5000 expedites. Then register.

Classes start Monday, August 17 • drop-with-refund deadline September 2 • grades December 10

THE NEXT STEP IS A PHONE CALL

Four schools. Four numbers. Fifteen minutes each.

CAMPUS	ADMISSIONS LINE	WHY YOU'D CALL
FRCC — Westminster	303-404-5000 · Wolf Central	The default pick — expedites admissions so the S# doesn't eat the week
FRCC — Boulder County	303-678-3722	Longmont campus admissions
FRCC — Larimer	970-226-2500	Fort Collins campus admissions
CCD	303-556-2600 · call or text	Switch pick for online depth — Auraria, downtown
RRCC	303-914-6600	Switch pick for networking — walk-ins at Lakewood and Arvada
ACC	303-797-4222	Switch pick for cyber — Welcome Center, Littleton

Accuplacer booking — Westminster Testing Center 303-404-5301. Call the same day you apply. Login trouble at any of the four, any hour: 1-888-800-9198, the 24/7 system helpline.



The homework is done. The decision is ours.

Ask the hard questions — every number in this packet links back to the colleges' own pages, verified August 12–13, 2026.