



UNIVERSITY OF
**NORTHERN
COLORADO**

Fiscal Year 2026-27 Preliminary Budget Review

May 8, 2026

Executive Summary

Revenue factors and assumptions:

- Undergraduate Net Tuition and Fee Revenue higher by 4.8% from the FY26 forecast
 - Enrollment assumptions:
 - Flat enrollment with Fall 2025
 - Rate increases:
 - 4% resident tuition, 4% non-resident, 0% WUE
 - 5% increase for mandatory student fees (Services, Capital, Technology)
- Graduate Net Tuition and Fee Revenue is higher by 6.8% compared to the FY26 forecast
 - Enrollment assumptions:
 - Flat enrollment with Fall 2025
 - Rate increases:
 - 4% tuition increase
 - 5% increase for mandatory student fees (Services, Capital, Technology)
 - Waiver decrease:
 - 8.6% decrease in waivers associated with a 7.2% decrease in Graduate stipends
- Room and Board Net Revenue is up 0.8% compared to the FY26 forecast
 - Occupancy assumptions:
 - 60.5% opening occupancy compared to 64.0% for FY26
 - Rate increases:
 - 5.8% for residence halls
 - 10% for Arlington Park apartments
 - 4.9% to 5.5% for meal plans (3.2% to 4.2% increase from Sodexo)
- State funding increase of \$0.6 million or 0.8% to restore FY26 Long Bill appropriations

Expense factors and assumptions:

- Personnel expenses decreased by 1.0% from the FY26 forecast
 - Faculty: Promotional increases, plus a 3% mid-year (Jan 2027) compensation pool
 - Professional Administrative Staff: 3% mid-year (Jan 2027) compensation increase
 - Classified Staff: 1% minimum/maximum range adjustment for salary bands, plus incremental “Step” increases effective July 2026. No across-the-board increase, per COWINS and State of Colorado agreement.
 - Equal Pay for Equal Work adjustments, as needed, plus related compression
 - Vacancy savings based on recent turnover trends
 - Fringe benefits: cumulative increases of medical benefit premiums and employer share of retirement contributions, offset by the impact of FY26 mid-year staffing reductions
- Non-Personnel, Debt Service, and Multiyear projects:
 - Increases in costs such as property insurance premiums, computer software, supplies, and Cost of Sales
 - Debt service based on current payment schedules

Preliminary Operating Budget

Table 1: FY27 Preliminary Operating Budget Excluding Capital Fees and Donor Support

(In Millions)	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Actual	FY26 Forecast	FY27 Prelim Budget	Variance % Inc/(Dec)
OPERATING REVENUES						
Undergraduate Tuition and Fees	72.8	74.1	75.4	76.5	79.0	3.4%
Undergraduate Institutional Grants and Scholarships	(18.0)	(21.5)	(22.7)	(22.9)	(23.0)	0.1%
Undergraduate Net Tuition and Fee Revenue	54.9	52.6	52.7	53.5	56.1	4.8%
Graduate Tuition and Fees	29.5	29.3	30.2	30.0	31.2	4.0%
Graduate Institutional Scholarships and Waivers	(4.7)	(5.3)	(5.4)	(5.5)	(5.0)	-8.6%
Graduate Net Tuition and Fee Revenue	24.9	24.0	24.8	24.5	26.2	6.8%
Room and Board	24.5	26.9	29.4	30.8	31.2	1.3%
Room and Board Waivers	(0.9)	(1.0)	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.3)	17.0%
Net Room and Board Revenue	23.6	25.9	28.3	29.7	29.9	0.8%
NET STUDENT REVENUES	103.4	102.5	105.8	107.8	112.2	4.1%
State Funding	56.9	63.1	69.0	70.0	70.6	0.8%
Subtotal State and Federal Funding	56.9	63.1	69.0	70.0	70.6	0.8%
Foundation Unrestricted (designated for scholarships)	1.6	1.6	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0%
Subtotal Foundation	1.6	1.6	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0%
Other Auxiliary Services (Athletics, food service, senior meals)	9.4	8.1	8.3	8.4	8.5	1.8%
Other Revenue (Orientation, service charges, misc.)	4.5	4.6	5.1	3.9	4.2	8.6%
Net Non-Operating Rev. (Interest, rebates, broadband lease)	3.6	6.4	2.9	2.4	2.2	-6.7%
Subtotal Other Revenue	17.5	19.1	16.2	14.6	14.9	2.2%
NET OPERATING REVENUES	179.3	186.3	193.0	194.4	199.7	2.8%
OPERATING EXPENSES						
Faculty Salaries	38.3	39.5	40.0	40.4	41.4	2.5%
Professional Admin Salaries	35.4	39.4	40.8	39.4	38.9	-1.3%
Classified Salaries	13.4	14.2	15.0	14.2	13.2	-7.1%
Graduate Stipends	4.8	4.8	4.5	4.4	4.1	-7.2%
Student and Other Wages	3.3	3.4	4.2	3.6	3.3	-9.1%
Fringe Benefits	25.6	27.5	30.5	30.7	30.5	-0.7%
Subtotal Personnel Expenses	120.8	128.9	135.0	132.6	131.2	-1.0%
Cost of Sales	10.5	13.0	14.8	13.8	13.3	-3.7%
Utilities	7.0	6.3	6.4	6.7	6.9	2.3%
Travel	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.7	3.6	-1.9%
Other Current Expenses	10.4	10.1	12.1	13.1	15.2	15.9%
Purchased Services	10.9	11.3	12.1	11.3	10.8	-4.8%
Supplies	3.7	1.9	3.1	2.5	3.0	24.0%
Cost Allocation and Recoveries	(0.4)	(0.2)	(0.4)	(0.3)	(0.7)	133.8%
Capital (Library Materials, misc.)	2.1	2.0	2.2	1.8	1.6	-8.9%
Subtotal Non-personnel Expenses	47.6	47.8	53.9	52.6	53.8	2.2%
Debt Service on Bonds and Notes Payable	10.9	11.5	12.6	12.6	12.6	0.1%
Multiyear Projects	1.9	2.8	3.7	3.2	2.4	-24.4%
Subtotal Debt & Notes Payable, Multiyear	12.8	14.3	16.4	15.8	15.0	-4.9%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	181.1	191.0	205.3	201.0	200.0	-0.5%
NET OPERATING INFLOW / (OUTFLOW)	(1.8)	(4.7)	(12.3)	(6.7)	(0.3)	95.0%

Comparative Tuition and Fee Rates

Table 2: Comparative Tuition and Fee Rates for Colorado’s 4-Year Public Institutions

Resident UG Tuition & Fees	Fiscal Year 2025-26			Fiscal Year 2026-27 Estimate**			% Increase FY26-FY27
	Tuition	Fees	Total Tuition & Fees	Tuition	Fees	Total Tuition & Fees	
Colorado School of Mines	\$19,500	\$3,158	\$22,658	\$20,183	\$3,269	\$23,451	3.5%
University of Colorado-Boulder	\$13,566	\$1,040	\$14,606	\$14,041	\$1,076	\$15,117	3.5%
Colorado State University	\$10,980	\$2,823	\$13,803	\$11,364	\$2,922	\$14,286	3.5%
University of Colorado-Denver	\$12,090	\$1,163	\$13,253	\$12,513	\$1,204	\$13,717	3.5%
University of Colorado-Colorado Springs	\$10,678	\$1,934	\$12,612	\$11,052	\$2,002	\$13,053	3.5%
Colorado State University-Pueblo	\$9,155	\$3,305	\$12,460	\$9,475	\$3,421	\$12,896	3.5%
University of Northern Colorado*	\$9,365	\$2,967	\$12,332	\$9,740	\$3,115	\$12,855	4.2%
Western Colorado University	\$7,476	\$4,485	\$11,961	\$7,738	\$4,642	\$12,380	3.5%
Metropolitan State University of Denver	\$9,456	\$2,084	\$11,540	\$9,787	\$2,157	\$11,944	3.5%
Colorado Mesa University	\$9,766	\$1,224	\$10,990	\$10,108	\$1,267	\$11,375	3.5%
Fort Lewis College	\$8,040	\$2,547	\$10,587	\$8,321	\$2,636	\$10,958	3.5%
Adams State University	\$6,264	\$3,703	\$9,967	\$6,483	\$3,833	\$10,316	3.5%

* Assumes proposed increases of 4% for Tuition and 5% for Fees for UNC in FY27, which equates to an increase of \$523 per full-year FTE, or \$17 per credit.

** Estimate for all other institutions is 3.5% for Tuition, per the state legislative cap for UG, resident increases, and 3.5% for Fees for FY27.

Table 2 indicates comparative tuition and fee rates for UNC and other Colorado 4-year public institutions for undergraduate, resident, full-time students before any financial aid is applied. Given the assumptions applied, with UNC’s tuition increase at 4% and mandatory fees at 5% and all other institutions using the state cap of 3.5% for both tuition and fee increases, UNC’s relative position for total tuition and fees would not change in fiscal 2026-27.

Preliminary Operating Budget

Table 3: Summary of Personnel Expense Changes (\$ in millions)

Faculty Salaries	
FY26 Forecast	40.4
Promotions	0.2
Equal Pay Equal Work (EPEW)	0.1
Midyear - 3% compensation pool	0.6
Net vacancy savings	1.1
FY27 net staffing plan changes	(0.3)
Net changes adjunct, overload, PSA's, summer/interim	(0.6)
FY27 Preliminary Budget	41.4
Professional Administrative Staff Salaries	
FY26 Forecast	39.4
Equal Pay Equal Work (EPEW)	0.1
Midyear - 3% compensation pool	0.7
Net vacancy savings	1.8
FY27 net staffing plan changes	(2.9)
Net changes VP pool elimination, PSA, other wages, etc.	(0.2)
FY27 Preliminary Budget	38.9
Classified Staff Salaries	
FY26 Forecast	14.2
Step increases (COWINS agreement) and min/max range adj.	0.1
Sodexo reimbursement	0.3
Net vacancy savings	0.3
FY27 net staffing plan changes	(1.8)
FY27 Preliminary Budget	13.2
Fringe	
FY26 Forecast	30.7
FY26 leave payouts (one-time)	(0.5)
Health, life, & dental insurance Increase	0.9
Fringe for compensation adjustments	0.5
Change in fringe for Sodexo reimbursement	0.1
Net vacancy savings change	0.6
FY27 net staffing plan changes	(1.9)
FY27 Preliminary Budget	30.5
Other	
Graduate Stipends	4.1
Student and Other Wages	3.3
FY27 Preliminary Personnel Total	131.2

Preliminary Operating Budget

Table 4: Multiyear Projects (\$ in thousands)

	FY25 Actual	FY26 Budget	FY26 Forecast	FY27 New Initiatives	FY27 To Be Expended
Core Projects					
Integrated Student Support Plans					
Student Success Collaborative	120.5	126.2	126.2	132.1	132.1
LEAP	36.3	40.0	43.4	50.0	50.0
Subtotal Integrated Student Support Plans	156.8	166.2	169.6	182.1	182.1
Academic Portfolio					
Accreditation	182.5	175.0	160.0	218.9	200.0
Program Review & Assessment	26.4	20.0	12.0	40.0	40.0
Subtotal Academic Portfolio	208.9	195.0	172.0	258.9	240.0
Research Scholarship and Creative Works					
Grant Match Funds	222.9	253.3	228.5	330.2	336.0
Match for Federal Work Study	125.3	130.0	134.0	138.5	138.5
Faculty Start-Up Packages	83.4	195.6	109.1	175.0	155.5
Faculty Awards & Development	173.9	201.0	103.6	150.0	144.0
Center for Inclusion in STEM	27.6	30.0	6.0	25.0	25.0
Academic Revitalization & Innovation	172.6	174.0	100.1	-	-
El Oso Center	13.1	45.0	25.0	-	-
ORSP & Animal Care Facility	369.8	414.4	405.7	479.3	479.3
Unrestricted Research Incentive	378.9	355.0	464.4	632.2	722.1
Subtotal Res. Scholarship and Creative Works	1,567.5	1,798.3	1,576.5	1,930.3	2,000.4
Total Core Projects	1,933.2	2,159.4	1,918.1	2,371.3	2,422.5
Support Plan Investments					
Ellucian Banner SaaS	1,313.0	1,180.8	1,195.8	-	-
Website Rebuild and Marketing Strategy	354.6	61.2	37.1	-	-
All Other Information Management Plan	93.5	110.4	31.6	-	-
Total Support Projects	1,761.1	1,352.4	1,264.5	-	-
Other Multiyear Projects					
Emergency Management	1.1	-	-	-	-
Athletics NCAA Distribution	35.7	15.0	25.0	-	4.0
Total Other Multiyear Projects	36.7	15.0	25.0	-	4.0
Grand Total	3,731.1	3,526.8	3,207.6	2,371.3	2,426.5

Preliminary Operating Budget

Table 5: College of Osteopathic Medicine (\$ in millions)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Forecast	Outlook
OPERATING REVENUE					
Tuition and Fees	-	-	-	-	4.6
Institutional Aid / Scholarships / Waivers	-	-	-	-	(0.4)
Net Student Revenue	-	-	-	-	4.2
Donor Funds	0.7	1.5	2.3	6.8	13.8
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	0.7	1.5	2.3	6.8	13.8
OPERATING EXPENSES	-	-	-	-	-
Faculty Salaries	-	-	0.0	1.4	4.2
Professional Administrative Salaries	0.4	0.5	1.0	1.6	2.7
Fringe	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.9	2.2
Student and Other Wages	-	0.0	-	-	0.1
Subtotal Personnel Expenses	0.6	0.7	1.4	4.0	9.2
Recruiting, Consulting, Accreditation, GME and Other	0.2	0.6	1.0	2.7	4.6
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	0.7	1.3	2.3	6.7	13.8
TOTAL OPERATING INFLOW/(OUTFLOW)	-	0.2	-	0.1	-
Transfers to Capital	-	0.2	-	0.1	-
NET OPERATING RESULTS AFTER TRANSFERS	-	-	-	-	-