

# Engineering + Innovation Camps @ CU Denver

## Design Hackathon: App Development + Computer Science Innovation

### FAQs

#### What is the Design Hackathon Camp?

The Design Hackathon Camp is a 5-day summer camp offered by the College of Engineering, Design and Computing where participants will learn how to develop apps using Swift, Apple's proprietary development language, with a human-centric design approach. Participants will go through the entire product-service-system development process to gain an understanding of how design and engineering interface to solve real, pressing problems in the world and to create radical, innovative technological solutions with effective business plans.

#### Where is Design Hackathon Camp?

All aspects of the Design Innovation Camp will take place at the CU Denver Auraria Campus, primarily in the Lawrence Street Center, located at 1380 Lawrence Street, Denver 80204, and in the Tivoli Student Union, located at 900 Auraria Pkwy, Denver 80204.

#### How can I register for Design Hackathon Camp?

Design Hackathon Camp registration information can be found on the College of Engineering, Design and Computing Summer Camps website ([engineering.ucdenver.edu/summercamps](http://engineering.ucdenver.edu/summercamps)). Registration opens in February and remains open until May 1, or when the camp is at capacity, whichever comes first. Registration and payment is all done electronically and is linked from the website.

#### What can I expect for the five days of Design Hackathon Camp?

Participants will learn the fundamentals of app development in the Apple Swift computer programming language. Participants will leverage design methodologies to understand user needs, do rapid ideation, build quick prototypes and test prototypes with users. By gathering quick feedback, participants will iterate and improve their solutions. This will come full circle with business plan development and pitching techniques, enabling participants to communicate their ideas convincingly to an audience. [Here is a sample itinerary.](#)

#### What is the profile of students who would enjoy Design Hackathon Camp?

Design Hackathon Camp is a program designed to expose high schoolers to computing technology and design thinking. Students do not need to have any previous programming experience. A good candidate for Design Hackathon Camp is a student who is interested in computers, passionate about solving problems to improve the well-being of people and society, and enjoys working in teams and being creative. Design Hackathon Camp students don't have to want to be engineers – as long as a student shows up eager to learn, experience new things, and have fun, they are a great Design Hackathon Camp candidate!



### **What is the average age/intended audience of Design Hackathon campers?**

Design Hackathon Camp is designed for all high school students, including students who have completed 8th grade by the start of the camp.

### **What skills will students gain by attending Design Hackathon Camp?**

Design Hackathon Camp students will learn the foundational principles of Design Thinking and how to build Apple iOS applications using the Swift programming language and the Xcode IDE. They will learn the build-test-iterate (agile) approach to software development.

### **What is the cost of Design Hackathon Camp?**

Design Innovation Camp registration is \$700. A \$350 deposit is required to secure a spot in camp, and the remainder of the camp cost is due by May 1.

### **Are there scholarships available?**

Yes, there are a limited number of need-based scholarships available. Scholarship applicants must:

- write an essay on why they believe they should receive a scholarship for Design Hackathon Camp
- have a teacher/counselor write a recommendation letter on their behalf and submit directly from the recommender to the College of Engineering, Design and Computing via email ([engineeringcamps@ucdenver.edu](mailto:engineeringcamps@ucdenver.edu)). All letters must be submitted directly from the recommender; any letters sent in by a student or parent/guardian will be disregarded. The scholarship deadline is April 1, and all applicants will hear back no later than April 8.

### **Is lunch provided?**

No, all students will eat lunch at the Tivoli Student Union; available food options are listed [here](#). Students may also bring their lunch. We will provide snacks throughout the day and will strive to have options for everyone. However, we may not be able to accommodate a student with severe food allergies. Students are also welcome to bring their own snacks.

NOTE: Students with peanut allergies are required to carry an EpiPen with them at all times.

### **What should I wear?**

Please plan to wear close-toed comfortable walking shoes every day of camp.

### **What do I need to bring?**

All activity materials will be provided including computers, software, hardware, and prototyping supplies. Please bring a notebook and writing utensil for notes and activities. Water and beverages will not be allowed inside computer laboratories, but will be allowed in the hallway so feel free to bring a water bottle.



**Do I have to attend every day?**

Yes - though camp staff understand there are sometimes extenuating circumstances. We group students to work on a design project throughout camp, so it can be detrimental for the teams if students do not show up each day.

All camp scholarship recipients must be able to attend all of camp as a condition of the award. More information on scholarships can be found on the CAD + 3D Printing Camp website.

**What if I realize last-minute I am unable to attend?**

The deadline to cancel is April 1, in order to receive a refund. And cancellations after this point will not receive a refund.

**Is transportation or lodging provided?**

No. You are responsible for your own transportation and lodging. Pick-up and drop-off each day will be at the North Classroom building.

**Is there parking available?**

Yes. The Design Hackathon Camp will be held in the Lawrence Street Center and Tivoli Student Union building, located near the Tivoli parking garage, with visitor parking available. There are several other lots on the Auraria Campus for visitors as well – see parking map [here](#). However, it is important to note that there is no free parking on campus.

**What public transportation is available near the CU Denver Downtown Campus?**

There are two RTD Light Rail stops on the Auraria Campus. The Auraria West Station stop is serviced by the RTD Light Rail “E”, “C” and “W” line. The Colfax at Auraria Station stop is serviced by the RTD Light Rail “H”, “F” and “D” lines. Walking is safe and easy, with sidewalks from the RTD stations to buildings throughout campus. Other options to get to campus are ride sharing services (Lyft and Uber) and cabs.

**I can't commute from home each day. Where should I stay?**

Our recommended hotel is the [Springhill Suites Denver](#) Downtown.

Still have questions? Contact the College of Engineering, Design and Computing at [engineering@ucdenvr.edu](mailto:engineering@ucdenvr.edu) or 303-315-7170.