COLORADO
CDHE
CO
Department of
Higher Education

John Hickenlooper
Governor

Lieutenant Governor Joseph A. Garcia
Executive Director

2015 Revision of gtPathways Competencies

Statutory justification: §23-1-125(3), Colorado Revised Statutes:

…The [gtPathways] core of courses shall be designed to ensure that students demonstrate competency in reading, critical thinking, written communication, mathematics, and technology… Individual institutions of higher education shall conform their own core course requirements with the guidelines developed by the department and shall identify the specific courses that meet the general education course guidelines. Any such guidelines developed by the department shall be submitted to the commission for its approval…

CDHE Interpretation:

1. Statute does not limit the gtPathways competencies to those referenced above so we can add others as long as the ones referenced in statute are included, no matter if the name of the competency is modified.
2. gtPathways competency guidelines are developed by CDHE in collaboration with the institutions of higher education and approved by the Commission.

Timeline:

- November 2005 – gtPathways competencies were last revised.

- April 2014 – Written Communication and Mathematics faculty convened to begin revising gtPathways content for CO1, CO2 & CO3, as well as MA1, into measurable learning outcomes. A little more work was done over summer 2014 and then was put on hold. This work is preserved on CDHE's server.

- September 2014 – Broad group of Directors of Assessment, many of whom are members of the Colorado Regional Assessment Consortium (CORAC), met with CDHE and it was decided that the competencies would be a better place to start with revisions, rather than the content, because the competencies span all gtPathways categories and can more easily be written as measurable learning outcomes and, thus, assessed. Rationale: HLC is asking institutions to document their gen ed assessment processes. Also, having more rigorous, up-to-date competencies that are already being used at many institutions nationally and in Colorado will assist institutions in their assessment programs and with HLC accreditation and also provide a resource to faculty. Thus, the Fall 2014 Fac2Fac was cancelled and the content revisions put on hold.

- November 2014 – April 2015 – Select team of Directors of Assessment revised gtPathways competencies, aligned with AAC&U's LEAP VALUE rubrics as well as Passport Initiative Student Learning Outcomes. Draft, revised competencies were vetted with GE Council February 2015 and with Directors of Assessment [date?].

- Draft, revised competencies will now be vetted with faculty at the April 24, 2015 Fac2Fac and online.

Proposed gtPathways Competencies by gtPathways Content Area Category

Content Area Category	Current Competency	Revised Competencies
WRITTEN COMMUNICATION		
CO1 Introductory Writing	Critical Thinking Written Communication Reading	Written Communication – Required Critical Thinking – Required Information Literacy – Required Creative Thinking - Optional
CO2 Intermediate		Written Communication – Required Critical Thinking – Required Information Literacy – Required Oral Communication – Required Creative Thinking - Optional
CO3 Advanced Writing		Written Communication – Required Critical Thinking – Required Information Literacy – Required Oral Communication – Required Creative Thinking - Optional
MATHEMATICS		
MA1 Mathematics	Mathematics Critical Thinking	Quantitative Literacy – Required Problem Solving – Required Information Literacy - Optional (but required in statistics courses)
NATURAL & PHYSICAL SCIENCES		
SC1 Science course with lab	Mathematics Critical Thinking	Quantitative Literacy – Required Information Literacy – Required Problem Solving or Critical Thinking – (choose one) Required Written Communication - Optional Oral Communication - Optional Creative Thinking - Optional
SC2 Lecture course w/out lab		Quantitative Literacy – Required Problem Solving or Critical Thinking – (choose one) Required Information Literacy - Optional

Content Area Category	Current Competency	Revised Competencies
HISTORY & SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES		
HI1 History	Critical Thinking Written Communication or Technology	Written Communication – Required Critical Thinking – Required Civic Engagement – Required Information Literacy – Required Oral Communication –Optional
SS-1 Economic or Political Systems		Written Communication – Required Critical Thinking – Required Civic Engagement – Required Information Literacy – Required Global Learning – Optional
SS-2 Geography		Written Communication – Required Critical Thinking – Required Information Literacy – Required Global Learning – Required Civic Engagement - Optional
SS-3 Human Behavior, Culture or Social Frameworks		Written Communication – Required Critical Thinking – Required Information Literacy – Required Civic Engagement – Required Global Learning - Optional
ARTS & HUMANITIES		
AH-1￼Arts and Expression	Critical Thinking Written Communication Reading or Technology	Written Communication – Required Oral Communication – Required Creative Thinking – Required Critical Thinking - Optional Global Learning - Optional
AH-2￼Literature and Humanities		Written Communication – Required Oral Communication – Required Critical Thinking – Required Information Literacy - Optional Global Learning - Optional
AH-3￼Ways of Thinking		Written Communication – Required Oral Communication – Required Critical Thinking – Required Creative Thinking – Optional Information Literacy - Optional
AH-4￼World Languages		Written Communication – Required Oral Communication – Required Global Learning – Required Civic Engagement – Optional Information Literacy - Optional