COLORADO
CDHE
Colorado Commission on
Higher Education
Department of Higher Education

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Page 1 of 3

gtPATHWAYS CONTENT: SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

- GT-HI1: HISTORY
- GT-SS1: ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL SYSTEMS
- GT-SS2: GEOGRAPHY
- GT-SS3: HUMAN BEHAVIOR, CULTURE, OR SOCIAL FRAMEWORKS

State-level Goal:

Collectively, the general education requirements in social and behavioral sciences are designed to help students acquire a broad foundation in social science knowledge and ability to apply this understanding to contemporary problems and issues. Specifically the social and behavioral sciences requirement helps students:

- To gain insight into the methods of social sciences.
- To understand historical and social frameworks.
- To understand how individuals relate to the social world, past and present.

Content Criteria for Designating a Social or Behavioral Science Course as gtPathways:

The content of a gtPathways social or behavioral science course shall be designed to provide content knowledge in one of the following areas:

1. **History (GT-HI1)**, including historical frameworks exploring important aspects of U.S. culture, society, politics, economics or its position in the world; **or** historical frameworks that explore and compare achievements, issues, and characteristics of the world and its cultures. The objective of the requirement that students take a course that provides content knowledge in history is to engage students in an analytical, chronological study of significant human experiences. Students should be able to:
   a. Develop knowledge of a chronological structured analysis of significant human experiences;
   b. Understand the interpretive and analytical methods that are necessary to build accounts of the past;
   c. Understand that alternative analytical perspectives can create different narratives of the past;
   d. Use the social sciences to analyze and interpret issues; and
   e. Understand diverse perspectives and groups.

   OR

2. **Economic or Political Systems (GT-SS1)**. Students should be able to:
   a. Understand economic **or** political systems;

b. Use the social sciences to analyze and interpret issues; and
c. Understand diverse perspectives and groups.

OR

3. **Geography (GT-SS2)**. Students should be able to:
    a. Understand how geography creates a sense of identity, shapes a culture, and influences the economics of a region;
    b. Use the social sciences to analyze and interpret issues; and
    c. Understand diverse perspectives and groups.

OR

4. **Human Behavior, Culture, or Social Frameworks (GT-SS3).** Students should be able to:
    a. Develop knowledge of human behavior, including learning, cognition, and human development; **or** cultural or social frameworks that explore and compare achievements, issues, and characteristics of the world and its different cultures;
    b. Use the social sciences to analyze and interpret issues; and
    c. Understand diverse perspectives and groups.

Competency Criteria for Designating a Social or Behavioral Science Course as gtPathways:

All GTHI1 and GT-SS1, 2 & 3 courses shall include:

- gtPathways competency in critical thinking.
- gtPathways competency in written communication or technology.

Additional Requirements for Designating a Social or Behavioral Science Course as gtPathways:

In addition to the requirements of the Written Communication Competency, writing in a course in the social and behavioral sciences must also meet the following requirements:

a. It must be graded work.
b. Short answer questions do not fulfill the requirement. In-class assignments need to be of a scale at least as large as one has in an essay exam.
c. Writing assignments have to include writing done outside the classroom. In-class assignment are not enough; a piece of polished writing prepared by students out of class has to be included.
d. Twenty to twenty-five percent of the final grade must be based on writing assignments.

Comment [IKM1]: Written Communication appears not to be required. Competency bullet above states Written Communication **OR** technology.

Comment [IKM2]: This cannot be used to prevent awarding credit for prior learning, such as when a student passes the AP History exam or took a course with an ACE recommended score and amount of credit.

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<u>Maximum number of credits in social sciences that will be guaranteed to transfer:</u>

At least 6 credit hours, including one **<u>REQUIRED</u>** History course (1a) and one course addressing a different knowledge area (1 b-d), will be guaranteed to transfer in the gtPathways curriculum. An additional 3 credits from any course in categories 1 a-d can be guaranteed to transfer *IF* the student is requesting no more than 6 credits of guaranteed transfer courses in the Arts and Humanities category of the gtPathways curriculum (a maximum of 15 credits is guaranteed to transfer from the combined categories of Arts and Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences).

11/8/06