



COLORADO

Department of
Higher Education

1600 Broadway, Suite 2200
Denver, CO 80202

Meeting	General Education Council November 18, 2024 1:00 – 4:00 pm
Location	Virtual Only
Conference Room	
Call-In Information	Join Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 814 9420 4296 Passcode: 855301
Meeting Participants	
Meeting Objectives	The General Education Council (GE Council) is a statutory created entity (CRS §23-1-108.5(3)(a)) with oversight responsibilities for various statewide transfer initiatives, most prominently GT Pathways and Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreements (STAAs). GE Council typically meets monthly, to carry out different statutory responsibilities assigned by the General Assembly.

AGENDA

I. GREETINGS & INTRODUCTIONS

1. Welcome (Chris Rasmussen)
2. Attendance (Christina Carrillo)

In attendance: Wayne Artis (CCCS-PPSC); Lynette Bates (CCCS-TSC); Kelsey Bennett (WCU); Brad Bowers (CCCS-PCC); Morgan Bridge (CMU); Helen Caprioglio (CSUP); Liz Cox (CSM); Kristen Cusack (CCCS-CCA); Meghan Davis (CCCS-CNCC); Maureen Durkin (CU-SYS); Kelly Emick (CCCS-LCC); Camden Farmer (MSU Denver); Theresa Groff (CCCS-ACC); Michael Gulliksen (CCCS-FRCC); Chelsea Herasingh (CCCS-OC); Danen Jobe (CCCS); Paul Langston (CCCS-CCA); Mike Lightner (CU-SYS); Pete Lindstrom (CCCS-CCD); Nancy Matchett (UNC); Rick Miranda (CSU-SYS); Beth Myers (CU Denver); Christiane Olivo (CCCS-MCC); Katherine Olson (CSUG); Jessica Peters (CCCS-RRCC); Kathryn Regio (CMC); Scott Reichel (Aims); Nick Saenz (ASU); Shaun Schafer (MSU Denver); Michelle Stanley (CSU); Patrick Tally (CU Boulder); Susan Taylor (UCCS); Andrew Vidockler (PTC); Keith Wallace (EGTC); Christina Carrillo (CDHE); Peter Fritz (CDHE); Chris Rasmussen (CDHE)

II. Adoption of last meeting's notes

1. *[See handout: 2024-10-21– GE Council - NOTES.pdf]*
Notes approved

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Proposed meeting schedule for 2025 (5 minutes)

Date	Date
January 13	July 14
February 10	August 11 or August 18*
March 10	September 8 or September 15*
April 14	October 13
May 12	November 10
June 8	December 8

Christina informed Council members that the SHEEO Higher Education Policy conference is scheduled to be held the second week of August in Minneapolis, MN, and both Chris and Carl are likely to attend. Moving both the August and September meetings to the third Monday of the month allows the meetings to be evenly distributed.

No objections were made to this suggestion. Christina will send out calendar invites and update the website in the coming weeks.

2. Possible AAS to BS statewide transfer articulation agreement discussion (30 minutes)
Peter Fritz, Director of Student Transitions & Degree Completion Initiatives, gave a report on the Behavioral Health faculty convening that occurred on November 1, which involved both two-year and four-year faculty. Council members expressed concerns about how an AAS would transfer into a traditional BS in Social Work – most concerns centered around how general education would be affected since most AAS degrees do not include the full 31-credit GT Pathways curriculum. Members also expressed concerns about social work licensing requirements as well as the overall student experience. While a statewide transfer agreement with an AAS to a BS would be a new venture for the Council to undertake, it would also require members to think and act differently about general education while meeting both program and statutory requirements. There is interest amongst Council members in continuing exploring this conversation, whether or not a statewide agreement is the final outcome.
3. Proposed revisions to CCHE Policy I, Section L: Statewide Transfer and GT Pathways (revised GT-AH4 content and competencies)

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Christina shared proposed revisions to the policy document to reflect changes in statutory language; the revisions would be presented to CCHE for approval and their January meeting, with additional revisions brought to CCHE in mid/late spring reflecting new policy language related to the Student Bill of Rights.

4. Review first draft of mission/vision statement for GE Council (15 minutes)
A draft was not available at the time of the meeting.
5. Continued discussion on SB24-164 action plan for gathering data (30 minutes)
DHE staff informed Council members that a cross-functional working group – comprised of members from the Admissions and Registrars Councils as well as the Data Advisory Group (DAG) – has been established to assist the Department with defining and operationalizing the key data and reporting elements as required for SB24-164. The group will have its first meeting later this week.
6. Continued discussion on SB24-164 action plan for designing a student transfer credit appeal process (30 minutes)
Christina informed Council members that the Colorado Office of the Attorney General (COAG) advised the Department that while it already possesses limited statutory authority for resolving student complaints about transfer at the institutional level, the provision to create a separate student appeals process for transfer decisions related to courses in the guaranteed transfer pathway matrix was a separate but overlapping process. She provided an overview of a draft of the appeals process based on the conversation that was started last month.

The proposed process includes six steps, beginning with the student exhausting all appeals with the institution. The student then files a formal complaint with the Department – the student and institution provide all required and requested documentation to the Department. The Department then convenes a student appeals subcommittee – comprised of GE Council members – to review and make a recommendation to the larger GE Council and Department staff. DHE staff ultimately makes the final decision.

After a brief discussion, Council members recommended that prior to convening a student appeals subcommittee that DHE staff engage in a process by which it reviews all documentation provided by both the student and institution to determine if further review by an appeals subcommittee is warranted. If a further review is warranted, then the process should move forward to the next step. Christina agreed with Council members' recommendation – adjustments will be made accordingly.

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Christina informed Council members that she is still researching the details regarding “associated rulemaking authority” and will have more information next month.

7. STAA updates (Christina Carrillo, CDHE)

- Review STAAs

- Spanish

In September, Christina informed the Spanish faculty that Council members reviewed their proposed revisions at the April 8 meeting – Council members expressed concern regarding the language of the History requirement, inquiring about the implementation from both the sending and receiving institutions, as well as how students and advisors were expected to interpret the language that was being proposed. Council members recommended changing the language from “HIS 244/2200 History of Latin America **OR** another GT Pathways History course focusing on Spanish-speaking communities in or outside the U.S.” to “any GT Pathways-approved HIS course, prefer HIS 2200 History of Latin America **OR** HIS 2210 History of Mexico.” The faculty affirmed Council members’ proposed language in late October.

Council members suggested placing a hold on moving this agreement forward for institutional approval – with the revision of GT-AH4, Council members suggested allowing additional revisions to this agreement.

- Studio Art

The faculty previously proposed and affirmed the following revisions to their agreement: changed the written communication requirement to be more flexible; updated the arts and humanities requirement by adding “No GT-AH1” courses; removed the Drawing II **OR** Figure Drawing I requirement from the Additional Required Courses; and added “Any three-credit Studio Art course” with a footnote that reads “Students planning on transferring to [insert specific institution] should take one of the following courses to fulfill this requirement [insert specific courses.]”

Council members expressed concern that stakeholders (students and academic advisors) would not know which courses would be eligible for the “Any three-credit Studio Art course”. Christina stated she would reach back out to the discipline to request additional information from the receiving institutions and bring this agreement back for review at a later date.

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- Progress report on specific STAAs

- Geology

Christina informed Council members that during the review meeting the faculty members engaged in a robust discussion about the mathematics and natural & physical sciences requirements for the agreement, noting that these are often barriers for degree completion for community college students. During this discussion, the idea of a separate agreement with less mathematics and natural & physical sciences requirements was considered; however, concerns were expressed that this option would not be attractive to students, nor would it adequately prepare students for graduate-level work.

After consulting with both CCCS and DHE leadership, it was determined that pursuing a second agreement in Geology (AA) would not serve students well. As such, it was strongly recommended that the faculty move forward with the proposed revisions – it is currently undergoing faculty review.

- Theatre

Christina informed Council members that in an effort to ensure all involved in the revision process the time and opportunity to review and provide feedback on all proposed changes to the agreement, it was decided to pause the current process and reconvene this group in February. The discipline group was informed in early November to be on the lookout for an email and a calendar invite for the new date in January.

- End-of-cycle reflections on the STAA review/revision process

The Council shared generally positive feedback on the process that has evolved for reviewing STAAs. Only a few STAA remain for review in the spring, after which it will be time to review the newest agreements created in 2020 (dance, public health, journalism, and computer science).

- Update on institutional approval process

Christina thanked Council members who have already provided their institutional approval updates. She will be reaching out to those who have not yet provided their updates in the coming weeks.

8. New and closed GT Pathways courses

- New

- None

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- Closed
 - None

ACTION ITEMS

Issue	Action / Next Step	Assigned To & Date Assigned

