



COLORADO

Department of
Higher Education

1600 Broadway, Suite 2200
Denver, CO 80202

Meeting	General Education Council December 9, 2024 1:00 – 4:00 pm
Location	Virtual Only
Conference Room	
Call-In Information	Join Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 854 9917 9189 Passcode: 278422
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); Juliet Beckman (CCCS-ACC); Kelsey Bennett (WCU); Brad Bowers (CCCS-PCC); Morgan Bridge (CMU); Helen Caprioglio (CSUP); Charlie Couch (UNC); Liz Cox (CSM); Kristen Cusack (CCCS-CCA); Meghan Davis (CCCS-CNCC); Maureen Durkin (CU-SYS); Kelly Emick (CCCS-LCC); Theresa Groff (CCCS-ACC); Michael Gulliksen (CCCS-FRCC); Karla Hardesty (CMC); Sara Holzberlein (EGTC); Danen Jobe (CCCS); Paul Langston (CCCS-CCA); Mike Lightner (CU-SYS); Pete Lindstrom (CCCS-CCD); Nancy Matchett (UNC); Pete McCormick (FLC); Denise Mosher (CCCS-OC); Rick Miranda (CSU-SYS); Beth Myers (CU Denver); Christiane Olivo (CCCS-MCC); Tina Parscal (CCCS); Jessica Peters (CCCS-RRCC); Scott Reichel (Aims); Nick Saenz (ASU); Shaun Schaefer (MSU Denver); Michelle Stanley (CSU); Patrick Tally (CU Boulder); Susan Taylor (UCCS); Andrew Vidockler (PTC); Christina Carrillo (CDHE); Chris Rasmussen (CDHE)

II. Adoption of last meeting's notes

1. [See handout: 2024-11-18– GE Council - NOTES.pdf]
Notes approved

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Update on GT Pathways database restoration (10 minutes)
Christina informed Council members that after initially being informed by the Department's Data Analysis, Research, and Policy (DRP) team that the [GT Pathways data base](#) had been lost during last summer's data incident, she was informed last month that the database had been recovered. It has now been fully restored and reviewed by the Academic Affairs team. Council members engaged in a brief discussion and agreed that an audit of the database to ensure completeness and accuracy of content would be appropriate. Council members agreed to complete the audit by February 14, 2025. Christina will send out an email with details this week.
2. Review updated GT Pathways Course Submittal Form (10 minutes)
Christina reviewed the updated GT Pathways Course Submittal and Institutional Verification Form. She informed Council members that the form has been updated to reflect new digital accessibility requirements – once approved, the form will be converted and be a fillable PDF form, available [on the website](#) in January. Council members engaged in a brief discussion and provided feedback – it was suggested that a note be included on the revised GT-AH4 form that states “new course submissions must include a sample syllabus, demonstrating how the course meets content and competencies.” Council members briefly discussed forming a subcommittee to review sample syllabi for new GT-AH4 course submissions; however, no decision was made at this time.
3. Review first draft of mission/vision statement for GE Council
Chris provided an overview of the first draft of the mission/vision statement. Council members engaged in a brief discussion, providing feedback. Chris will provide the draft to the small group who previously volunteered at the October retreat to assist with this task.
4. Continued discussion on SB24-164 (45 minutes):
 - Plan for recommending “highest enrollment and transfer activity” courses
Chris led the continued discussion regarding strategies for identifying the “highest enrollment and transfer activity” courses. Possible strategies include

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using SURDS (Student Unit Records Data System) as well as transcript analysis from different institutions. Council members have identified courses in the following areas as potential areas for focus: math and world languages (differing credit values for similarly-or-same titled courses); natural and physical sciences (differences in treatment of labs); written communication (differing requirements at CU Boulder and CSU Fort Collins than other institutions); and introductory courses in social and natural sciences not apply toward major requirements. It was noted that CCCS will be hosting its biannual discipline faculty meetings on Friday, February 28. It was also noted that there has been increasing interest for a documented plan for each of major elements of the bill implementation – DHE staff informed Council members that a more comprehensive plan or one pager will be forthcoming.

- Plan for gathering data

DHE staff informed Council members that the cross-functional working group is continuing to work on defining and operationalizing key data and reporting elements as required for SB24-164.

- Plan for designing a student transfer credit appeal process and associated rulemaking authority

Based upon Council members' feedback, Christina revised the student appeal process: after the student and institution have provided the Department with all the required documentation after the student has filed a formal complaint with CDHE, Department staff will then review the documentation, engage in dialogue with both the institution and student, and decide if further review is warranted by an appeals subcommittee. If further review is needed, the process will continue as outlined.

Christina informed Council members that Department staff are continuing to investigate rulemaking authority and hope to have additional information next month.

5. STAA updates (Christina Carrillo, CDHE)

- Review STAAs

- Physics

The faculty met in October for their first five-year review – the group proposed and affirmed the following revisions to their agreement: changed the written communication requirement to be more flexible; reduced the arts and humanities requirements from 9 credit hours to 6 credit hours; increased the number of social and behavioral sciences

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requirements from 3 credit hours to 6 credit hours (these adjustments were made to come into alignment with CCHE policy and best practices); and adjustments were made to the third footnote advising students planning to transfer to a particular institution of higher education on which additional required course, Computer Science I or General College Chemistry II with laboratory, they should complete. The proposed changes do not result in any changes to the elective credit hours.

Council members expressed concerns regarding the third footnote – three institutions of higher education note that students planning to transfer to their institution must take *both* Computer Science I and General College Chemistry II with laboratory. Council members are concerned about the number of credit hours that would transfer to the receiving institution if both courses were required. Council members requested clarification from the three institutions about this requirement before approving the proposed changes. Christina noted that due to timing, she will reach out in January when faculty will be back and able to respond.

- **Political Science**

The faculty previously met in the fall of 2023 but was reconvened this past fall to allow for a more holistic review of the proposed revisions by all interested parties. Ultimately, the faculty proposed and affirmed the following revisions to their agreement: changed the written communication requirement to be more flexible; removed both Principles of Macroeconomics and Principles of Microeconomics as the two courses designated to meet the GT Pathways social and behavioral sciences requirements; removed Introduction to Political Science from the list of required courses and decided to make this course as one of the two GT Pathways social and behavioral sciences course requirements – students now have the option to choose from any GT-SS1, GT-SS2, or GT-SS3 for the second required course; the natural and physical sciences requirement was updated to include GT-SC2 (non-laboratory) courses as an option for students to fulfill this requirement, resulting in a 7-credit requirement; an update to the second footnote to reflect the number of required courses and credits (reduced from 4 to 3 and 12 credits to 9 credits); and a new footnote to the electives section, advising students to consult with an academic advisor at both the community college and the intended receiving institution regarding best choices for electives. The

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proposed changes result in a total of 20 elective credit hours compared to the 16 elective credit hours in the current agreement.

Council members approved the proposed revisions and recommended moving the revised agreement forward to begin the institutional approval process.

- 6. Open discussion about Senior Director of Academic Pathways and Innovation position
- 7. New and closed GT Pathways courses
 - New
 - None
 - Closed
 - None

ACTION ITEMS

Issue	Action / Next Step	Assigned To & Date Assigned
GT Pathways database audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutions (and Systems) will complete an audit of the database to ensure completeness and accuracy of content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assigned to all IHEs (and Systems) 12/09/24 • To be completed by 02/14/25
STAA (Physics)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach out to individual IHEs for clarification on additional required courses (Computer Science I and General College Chemistry II w/laboratory) requirement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assigned to DHE staff (Christina) • To be completed in January 2025



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