

Policy Change Recommendations:

Section: 5.03 Freshmen Standards

Current Wording:

The freshman standard applies to all in-state and out-of-state new freshmen applicants and to transfer applicants with 12 or fewer college credit hours, except freshmen and transfer applicants who meet one of the admissions standards index exemptions listed in section 5.02.

Non-degree students applying for formal admission at the same institution are also subject to the freshman standard if they are age 21 and under, regardless of college credit hours, or if they are age 22 and over with 12 or fewer college credit hours, except those applicants who meet one of the admission standards index exemptions listed in section 5.02.

Proposed Wording:

The freshman standard applies to all new freshmen applicants and to transfer applicants with fewer than 24 college level semester credit hours complete at the time of **transfer?**, except freshmen and transfer applicants who meet one of the admissions standards index exemptions listed in section 5.02.

Non-degree students applying for formal admission at the same institution are also subject to the freshman standard if they are **age 21 and under (why?)**, regardless of college credit hours, or if they are age 22 and over with fewer than 24 college level semester credit hours complete at the time of **transfer(?)**, except those applicants who meet one of the admission standards index exemptions listed in section 5.02.

Justification:

Aligns freshman standards and transfer standards. See changes below regarding justification for changing from 12 to 24 credit hours

Expected Impact: *More students with transfer credit (and a higher number of credits) will be admitted under the freshman standards or the freshman window.*

Section: 5.04 Transfer Standards

Current Wording:

The transfer standard applies to all degree-seeking undergraduate transfer applicants with more than 12 college credit hours who do not meet one of the exemptions listed in section 5.02 and are not covered by the freshmen standard.

No single scale comparable to that for the freshmen standard has been developed for transfer admission standards, but rather, the standards are based on grade point average from previous collegiate work, transfer hours, and high school record.

5.04.01 To meet the CCHE transfer admissions standards, students must meet one of the following conditions. A student must: 5.04.01.01 be enrolled in a CCHE-approved statewide guaranteed transfer agreement (business, engineering, education (early childhood or elementary), or nursing) and meet the minimum academic qualifications outlined therein; or

5.04.01.02 transferred from a different institution and earned more than 12 collegiate semester credit hours with a GPA at or above the minimum shown in Table 3.

5.04.01.03 be a non-degree student applying for formal admission at the same institution and be at least age 22 and earned more than 12 collegiate semester credit hours with a GPA at or above the minimum shown in Table 3.

Proposed Wording: 5.04 Transfer Student Admission Standards

Per CO statute [#?] A transfer student is defined as anyone who has completed college level coursework at another regionally accredited institution after completion of high school or after earning a GED. College level courses include credit bearing courses at or above the 100/1000 level and exclude remedial and college preparatory coursework.

The transfer standard applies to all degree-seeking undergraduate transfer applicants with 24 or more college level credit hours complete at the time of transfer (?) hours who do not meet one of the exemptions listed in section 5.02 or 5.03

The transfer student admission standards are based on cumulative grade point average from all previous college level coursework from regionally accredited institutions, transfer hours, and high school record (for transfer students with fewer than 24 college level semester credit hours complete at the time of transfer(?)).

As noted in section 4.04.09, only students who have completed 24 or more college level semester credit hours while still in high school are subject to transfer admissions standards. These students are still classified as freshmen.

Transfer students are encouraged to complete gtPathways or equivalent courses, especially college level math and English Composition before applying to transfer to another institution.

Justification:

Adding the word admission to the title of the section provides clarity and helps differentiate the admissions policy from the transfer policy (which addresses course transferability and articulation agreements).

Adding a reference to the policy that defines a transfer student helps to tie the admission policy to the transfer policy. It also helps to clarify when and how the transfer admissions standards are applied to applicants ensuring consistent application of the transfer admission policy by all four year institutions.

Adding language to help better define what type of credits count toward defining an applicant as a transfer student will.

Research shows that students who complete at least 24 credit hours in their first year of enrollment, or before transferring (?) are more likely to be successful and complete a degree (citation?).

- Research done by Adelman (1999, 2006, 2004) shows one important contributor to eventual success in attaining a bachelor's degree for all students high levels of academic intensity in the first year of higher education. Students who enter with and maintain a full, or close to full course load in their first year of higher education have degree completion rates that are nearly one third higher than their counterparts who do not (Adelman, 2006).

Twenty-four hours is representative of two full-time semesters at most colleges and universities and is in line with the federal definition of full-time as it relates to federal aid eligibility. *Also, we researched 5 other states and _____ # of schools to help guide us in making this decision. In fact, Illinois State University only looks at college work if the student has 24 or more transferable credits. (the rest of the committee may be able to add their research info here to help further support this).*

Provides a more substantial body of college coursework on which to make an admissions decision.

Expected Impact: *Some students considered now under transfer standards would be shifted to being considered under the freshman standards.*

Section: 5.04.01 Guaranteed Transfer Admissions

Current Wording: n/a; section does not exist

Proposed Wording:

Applicants who have completed an AA or AS degree from a regionally accredited public Colorado ~~two-year~~ institution will be guaranteed admission at ~~most~~* Colorado public four year institutions, ~~except Colorado School of Mines,~~ provided they meet the minimum cumulative GPA standard and have completed all courses with a grade of C- or better ~~(- Refer to table 3 in 5.03.03 Admission to a receiving institution does not guarantee enrollment in a specific degree program. Completion of a degree with designation or an articulated course does not guarantee admission. Institutions and students should refer to I.L.:Statewide Transfer Policy for Application of Transfer Credits.~~

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Admission standards differ at each college and university. Table 3, below, lists a minimum transfer GPA for each institution. Meeting the minimum does not guarantee admission except as noted in section 5.04.01. Refer to each institution's website for application requirements and admissions standards.

~~*Colorado School of Mines does not participate in the guaranteed transfer because of the specialized nature of academic programs and limited opportunities to begin in a liberal arts or other more general program of study.~~

Justification:

Given ~~statewide or institution course articulation~~ ~~course articulations~~ agreed upon by institutions ~~across the state~~, the completion of an associate's degree at an accredited institution in the state of Colorado ought to carry with it a benefit for students transferring from one institution to another within the state.

Meeting the transfer institution's minimum admissions requirements and completion of an associate's degree would suggest that an applicant is academically prepared for transfer.

The policy as it is stated provides a clear indication to applicants regarding what they need to complete to gain access to the four year institution of their choice.

- *Graduation rates were highest for the students who transferred after receiving an associate's degree. About 71 percent of these students earned their bachelor's degree within four years, and nearly 80 percent either graduated or persisted at a four-year institution (National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, 2012).*

- *Florida state law specifies that any student who earns an associate degree will be guaranteed admission into a public university degree program, and the units from core courses transfer as a block to any public institution. Thus students need not negotiate individual course-level transfers with the receiving institutions. They are not guaranteed admission into high-demand programs or into programs with special requirements, but the law requires that transfer students be treated the same way as native students with respect to admission to these programs. Students who believe they have been treated unfairly can bring their complaints before the Articulation Committee.*

Expected Impact:

It is possible that more students will choose to complete their associate's degree before transferring to a four year institution.

Admissions decisions at the transfer institution can be made more quickly because admission is guaranteed provided the requirements have been met. A quicker admissions decision gives students who are transferring more time to plan, meet with faculty and staff and attend orientation programs at the transfer institution. Earlier planning and attending orientation are tied to higher rates of success (citation?). *Related to this, at MSU Denver, the longer a student is in the admit pool, the higher their retention rates.*

Content Change Recommendations

Sections: 4.04.08 through 4.04.11 (Exemptions from HEAR)

Current Wording:

4.04.08 Students who are non-degree-seeking summer only.

4.04.09 Students participating in a formal national, international, or Colorado Consortium exchange program with a planned enrollment for one year or less.

4.04.10 Students who are non-degree-seeking without a baccalaureate degree and are age 20 or older.

4.04.11 Students who have not been formally admitted to an institution and who wish to enroll in any off-campus course not offered as part of a complete off-campus degree program may enroll through the Statewide Extended Studies Program. The sponsoring institution/campus may implement policies regarding enrollment of non-matriculated off-campus students.

Proposed Wording:

4.04.08 Anyone who is enrolled as a non-degree-seeking student. ~~This, which includes, but is not limited to, summer only enrollment; formal Colorado Consortium exchange programs with a planned enrollment for one year or less;~~ and those who have not been formally admitted to an institution and who wish to enroll in any off-campus course not offered as part of a complete off-campus degree program.

Justification:

4.04.08 through 4.04.11 listed a number of different non-degree seeking programs and enrollment options that could be condensed into one statement about non-degree status.

One general statement which includes, but is not limited to, the items in 4.04.04-4.04.11 allows for additions and changes in the future without needing to change the language.

Expected Impact:

Clarity *and brevity*.

Section: 5.02.01.02

Current Wording:

Applicants who have completed a baccalaureate degree.

Proposed Wording:

Applicants who have already completed a baccalaureate degree.

Justification:

Clearer language

Expected Impact:

Better understanding of who is subject to transfer admission standards and who is not.

Section: 5.03.01

Current Wording:

The specific minimum index score at each Colorado public four-year institution is summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: CCHE Index Scores for First-time Freshman Applicants

Institution	Freshman Admissions Index
Adams State University	80
Colorado School of Mines	110
Colorado State University	101
Colorado State University – Pueblo	86
Fort Lewis College	92
Colorado Mesa University	85
Metropolitan State University of Denver	76
University of Colorado at Boulder	103
University of Colorado at Colorado Springs	92
University of Colorado at DHSC Denver	93
University of Northern Colorado	94
Western State Colorado University	80

*Fort Lewis College's index score for 2006 and 2007 was 86; in 2008 it increased to 92 pursuant to SB 05-194 and CCHE action on October 6, 2005.

**Colorado Mesa University's index increased to 85 in summer 2007 pursuant to CCHE action on March 2, 2006.

Proposed Wording:

The specific minimum index score at each Colorado public four-year institution is summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: CCHE Index Scores for First-time Freshman Applicants

Institution	Freshman Admissions Index
Adams State University	80

Colorado Mesa University*	85
Colorado School of Mines	110
Colorado State University- Fort Collins	101
Colorado State University- Global Campus†	n/a
Colorado State University – Pueblo	86
Fort Lewis College**	92
Metropolitan State University of Denver	76
University of Colorado at -Boulder	103
University of Colorado at -Colorado Springs	92
University of Colorado at - <u>DHSC</u> Denver	93
University of Northern Colorado	94
Western State Colorado University	80

†Colorado State University- Global Campus admits only transfer students seeking to complete a degree. Therefore, the Freshman Index standard is not applicable.

*Colorado Mesa University's index increased to 85 in summer 2007 pursuant to CCHE action on March 2, 2006.

**Fort Lewis College's index score for 2006 and 2007 was 86; in 2008 it increased to 92 pursuant to SB 05-194 and CCHE action on October 6, 2005.

Justification:

Reordered Schools to reflect new names in alphabetical order and added a note regarding why CSU-Global is not included with the freshman standards.

Expected Impact

Clarity

Section: 5.04.02

Current Wording:

Students may be admitted at Adams State University or Colorado Mesa University in either a two-year or a four-year program. Students admitted into the two-year programs must meet the Commission's transfer admission standards in order to pass from the two-year programs to the four-year programs.

Proposed Wording:

Students may be admitted at Adams State University, Colorado Mountain College, or Colorado Mesa University in either a two-year or a four-year program. Students admitted into the two-year programs must meet the Commission's transfer admission standards in order to pass from the two-year programs to the four-year programs.

Justification:

Addition of Colorado Mountain College, which has started to offer four year degrees. *May need to add more school if bills passes, allowing other CCs to start offering bachelor's degrees.*

Expected Impact:

n/a

Section: 5.05.03

Current Wording:

The specific institution grade point average required to meet the CCHE Transfer Standards at each public institution is summarized in Table 3.

Table 3: Minimum Grade Point Average Requirement for Students Transferring from Another Institution with More Than Twelve Collegiate Semester Hours

Receiving Institution	GPA *	Transfer Window Size
Colorado School of Mines	2.70	20%
University of Colorado at Boulder	2.70	20%
Colorado State University- Ft Collins	2.50	20%
Fort Lewis College	2.40	20%
University of Colorado at Colorado Springs	2.40	20%
University of Colorado at DHSC	2.40	20%
University of Northern Colorado	2.40	20%
Adams State University	2.30	20%
Colorado State University – Global Campus	2.30	20%
Colorado State University – Pueblo	2.30	20%
Colorado Mesa University	2.30	20%
Western State Colorado University	2.30	20%
Metropolitan State University of Denver	2.30	20%

Proposed Wording:

The specific institution grade point average required to meet the CCHE Transfer Standards at each public institution is summarized in Table 3. The transfer window size for all institutions is 20%

Table 3: Minimum Grade Point Average Requirement for Students Transferring from Another Institution with More Than Twenty-Four College Level Semester Credit Hours

Receiving Institution	GPA*
Adams State University	2.30
Colorado Mesa University	2.30
Colorado School of Mines	TBD
Colorado State University- Ft Collins	2.50
Colorado State University- Global Campus	2.30
Colorado State University- Pueblo	2.30
Fort Lewis College	2.40

Metropolitan State University of Denver	2.30
University of Colorado at Boulder	2.70
University of Colorado at Colorado Springs	2.40
University of Colorado at DHSC	2.40
University of Northern Colorado	2.40
Western State Colorado University	2.30

* Meeting the CDHE minimum transfer grade point averages stated above does not guarantee admission (except as stated in section 5.04.01), as institutions consider a broad range of factors in making admissions decisions.

Justification:

Changing the label of the table brings it in line with the rest of the suggested changes in the Transfer Admissions Policy

Including the window size in the introductory statement makes the table cleaner

Listing colleges and universities in alphabetical order allows the prospective transfer students to find the school they are looking for rather than looking for an institution based on a particular earned GPA.

Including a statement indicating that admission is not guaranteed (other than as outlined in section 5.04.01) allows the institution flexibility in making admissions decisions

Expected Impact:

Clarity and consistency with changes in the other sections.

Section 5.04.04

Current Wording:

Higher Education Admission Requirements (HEAR)Transfer applicants with under 30 college-level semester credit hours, must also demonstrate...

Proposed Wording:

Higher Education Admission Requirements (HEAR)Transfer applicants with under 24 college-level semester credit hours, must also demonstrate...

Justification:

24 hours represents two full-time semesters of enrollment

Aligns credit limit for when HEAR requirements must be applied to credit limit for when transfer standard must be applied.

Provides clearer delineation of when freshmen and transfer policies are applied.

Expected impact:

Clarity for applicants

Flexibility for institutions to focus more on college level work once 24 hours of college level semester credits have been completed

Encourages students who need additional preparation between graduation high school and beginning study at a four year institution to complete at least 24 hours of college level work before seeking to transfer; completion of 24 hours of college level work is tied to higher likelihood of academic success (citation?)

Aligns all transfer admission policies so they require a minimum of 24 credits.