

**TOPIC: STATE GUARANTEED GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES,  
REVIEW CYCLE VII, ROUND III**

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**I. SUMMARY**

In compliance with C.R.S. 23-1-125, the Student Bill of Rights, this agenda item contains recommendations for courses nominated by institutions, reviewed by faculty, and recommended for the general education guaranteed statewide transfer program, gtPathways, during Cycle VII, Round III (April 23, 2010). Guaranteed transfer means that a course is universally transferable among all Colorado public institutions of higher education and applicable to general education requirements within the Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Bachelor of Arts, and Bachelor of Science degree programs.

The recommendations contained in this agenda item represent the outcome of faculty consideration of 36 course nominations for the gtPathways program. The Commission has previously approved 1168 general education courses in over 20 disciplines (e.g., English, math, history, biology, etc.) during the first seven cycles (through Cycle VII, Round II) of gtPathways course nominations, which began in January 2003.

The following table summarizes courses nominated and reviewed for statewide transfer during Cycle VII, Round III, by content area and recommendation status.

<b>COURSE CONTENT AREA</b>	<b>TOTAL COURSES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COURSES RECOMMENDED</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COURSES DEFERRED</b>
Arts & Humanities	4	4	0
Communications	0	0	0
Math	2	1	1
Natural & Physical Science	12	9	3
Social/Behavioral Sciences	18	18	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>4</b>

## **II. BACKGROUND**

Following the passage of the Colorado Opportunity Fund (COF) legislation in 2004, the Commission began performance contract negotiations with the governing boards of all public institutions in the state. Included in performance contracts is a requirement that all institutions have lower division general education course requirements of between 30 and 40 credit hours and submit all the courses included in their required general education curricula for review and possible inclusion in the statewide transfer program. Colorado's public colleges and universities have established timelines for the submission of their general education courses to the Department of Higher Education (DHE). Beginning with the calendar year 2005 and continuing through June 2009, all of Colorado's public post-secondary institutions submitted their general education core courses to self-selected members of the state's public two and four year faculty for peer review and inclusion in the gtPathways curriculum for guaranteed transfer.

The April 23, 2010 review was the third round of gtPathways review Cycle VII. As necessary to accommodate future volume, the DHE will schedule and facilitate additional review cycles throughout fall 2010 and spring 2011.

The list of recommendations on nominated courses found herein is the result of deliberations among 18 faculty members representing various public two- and four-year institutions in the state who met in Denver at the offices of the Department of Higher Education on April 23, 2010.

## **III. STAFF ANALYSIS**

Initial policy (fall 2003), provided for the guarantee of up to 35-37 credit hours of successfully completed courses taken from the list of approved state guaranteed general education courses, which are published on the gtPathways page of the DHE website. In June 2005, the Commissioners approved changes to the statewide transfer policy that effectively reduced the guaranteed credit hours from 35-37 down to 31. Effective fall semester 2006 (August, 2006), gtPathways guarantees 31 credit hours of successfully completed courses taken from the approved state guaranteed general education list of courses. Additionally, the GE 25 Council, in agreement with Academic Council, revised the procedures and forms utilized in the gtPathways course review process. The courses recommended herein conform to the newly revised process, procedures, program rules and forms of the gtPathways program as well as the revised content and competency criteria.

Faculty review committees from four content areas participated in the April 23, 2010 review, (please note: no Communication nominations were considered for this review). Faculty from Arts and Humanities, Mathematics, Natural and Physical Sciences and Social and Behavioral Sciences reviewed the courses presented in Attachment A and took one of two actions:

- Recommended a course for inclusion in the statewide program; or
- Deferred a course for a later review

DHE staff have communicated all of the faculty recommendations to institutions, including justifications for those courses receiving the “deferred” designation by faculty review committees.

Institutions will have the opportunity in future cycles to make any necessary corrections and/or revisions to courses that have been deferred during this cycle and re-nominate a course(s) for consideration and placement into the gtPathways curriculum.

Adoption of the attached list of courses below will continue the implementation of Colorado’s guaranteed general education transfer program. Nomination and review of additional courses for consideration will continue during fall semester, 2010, and spring semester 2011, as necessary.

**Pursuant to performance contract requirements, institutions must clearly distinguish guaranteed transfer courses from those not approved for guaranteed transfer in course catalogs and related materials; courses nominated for guaranteed transfer, but not approved, must be easily distinguishable from courses carrying the guaranteed status. In addition, prominently placed, in the general education section of the college catalog, shall be explanations of the distinction between courses approved for guaranteed transfer and courses not approved for guaranteed transfer to other Colorado colleges and universities.**

#### **IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Commission approve the courses recommended by faculty reviewers for guaranteed statewide transfer status, effective August 2010 (fall semester 2010).**

#### **V. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

Copies of all materials included in course submissions as well as copies of faculty reviewers’ worksheets are on file in the Academic and Student Affairs Office of the Department of Higher Education.

#### **VI. STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

**23-1-125. Commission directive - student bill of rights – degree requirements - implementation of core courses - on-line catalogue - competency test.** (1) **Student bill of rights.** The general assembly hereby finds that students enrolled in public institutions of higher education shall have the following rights:

(c) Students have a right to clear and concise information concerning which courses must be completed successfully to complete their degrees;

(d) Students have a right to know which courses are transferable among the state public two-year and four-year institutions of higher education;

(e) Students, upon completion of core general education courses, regardless of the delivery method, should have those courses satisfy the core course requirements of all Colorado public institutions of higher education;

(f) Students have a right to know if courses from one or more public higher education institutions satisfy the students' degree requirements;

(g) A student's credit for the completion of the core requirements and core courses shall not expire for ten years from the date of initial enrollment and shall be transferable.

(3) **Core courses.** The commission, in consultation with each Colorado public institution of higher education, is directed to outline a plan to implement a core course concept, which defines the general education course guidelines for all public institutions of higher education. The core of courses shall be designed to ensure that students demonstrate competency in reading, critical thinking, written communication, mathematics, and technology. The core of courses shall consist of at least thirty credit hours, but shall not exceed forty credit hours. Individual institutions of higher education shall conform their own core course requirements with the guidelines developed by the commission and shall identify the specific courses that meet the general education course guidelines. If a statewide matrix of core courses is adopted by the commission, the courses identified by the individual institutions as meeting the general education course guidelines shall be included in the matrix. The commission shall adopt such policies to ensure that institutions develop the most effective way to implement the transferability of core course credits.

## Attachment A

**gtPathways**  
**Review Cycle VII, Round III**  
**April 23, 2010**

<b>Inst</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Course Prefix</b>	<b>Course #</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Action</b>
WSC	Arts & Humanities (GT-AH2)	ENG	230	Environmental Literature	Recommended
FLC	Arts & Humanities (GT-AH3)	PEAC	101	Introduction to Peace and War	Recommended
UCCS	Arts & Humanities (GT-AH3)	PHIL	105	Philosophy and Religion	Recommended
FLC	Arts & Humanities (GT-AH3)	PHIL	172	World Religions	Recommended
FLC	<i>Mathematics (GT-MA1)</i>	<i>MATH</i>	<i>113</i>	<i>Algebra for Calculus</i>	<i>Deferred</i>

WSC	Mathematics (GT-MA1) <i>Natural &amp; Physical</i>	MATH	151	Calculus I	Recommended
CCCS	Science (GT-SC1) <i>Natural &amp; Physical</i>	AGY	240	<i>Introductory Soil Science</i>	<i>Deferred</i>
CSU-P	Science (GT-SC1) <i>Natural &amp; Physical</i>	BIOL	201/L	Botany and Lab	Recommended
CSU-P	Science (GT-SC1) <i>Natural &amp; Physical</i>	BIOL	202/L	<i>Zoology and Lab</i>	<i>Deferred</i>
UCCS	Science (GT-SC2) <i>Natural &amp; Physical</i>	CHEM	100	Chemistry in the Modern World	Recommended
UCCS	Science (GT-SC1) <i>Natural &amp; Physical</i>	CHEM	131	Forensic Chemistry I Lab	Recommended
UCCS	Science (GT-SC2) <i>Natural &amp; Physical</i>	CHEM	130	Forensic Chemistry I	Recommended
UCCS	Science (GT-SC1) <i>Natural &amp; Physical</i>	CHEM	151	Environmental Science	Recommended
UCCS	Science (GT-SC2) <i>Natural &amp; Physical</i>	CHEM	153	Environmental Science Lab	Recommended
CCCS	Science (GT-SC1) <i>Natural &amp; Physical</i>	GEO	112	Physical Geography: Weather and Climate	Recommended
ASC	Science (GT-SC1) <i>Natural &amp; Physical</i>	GEOG	101/L	<i>Introduction to Physical Geography</i>	<i>Deferred</i>
CSU	Science (GT-SC2) <i>Natural &amp; Physical</i>	NR	130	Global Environmental Systems	Recommended
CSU	Science (GT-SC2) <i>Social &amp; Behavioral</i>	NR	150	Oceanography	Recommended
CCCS	Science (GT-SS1) <i>Social &amp; Behavioral</i>	AGE	102	Agriculture Economics	Recommended
CCCS	Science (GT-SS3) <i>Social &amp; Behavioral</i>	ANT	108	Archaeology of World Rock Artifacts	Recommended
CCCS	Science (GT-SS3) <i>Social &amp; Behavioral</i>	ANT	201	Introduction to Forensic Anthropology	Recommended
FLC	Science (GT-SS1) <i>Social &amp; Behavioral</i>	ECON	201	Personal Finance	Recommended
CCCS	Science (GT-HI1) <i>Social &amp; Behavioral</i>	HIS	215	Women in U.S. History	Recommended
CCCS	Science (GT-HI1) <i>Social &amp; Behavioral</i>	HIS	243	History of Modern China	Recommended
CCCS	Science (GT-HI1) <i>Social &amp; Behavioral</i>	HIS	245	US in the World	Recommended
MSCD	Science (GT-HI1) <i>Social &amp; Behavioral</i>	HIS	3090	Native Americans in American History	Recommended
MSCD	Science (GT-HI1) <i>Social &amp; Behavioral</i>	HIS	3120	Medieval History	Recommended
MSCD	Science (GT-HI1)	HIS	3590	American Immigration History	Recommended

MSCD	Social & Behavioral Science (GT-HI1)	HIS	3700	Modern China	Recommended
MSCD	Social & Behavioral Science (GT-HI1)	HIS	3770	World of Islam	Recommended
CCCS	Social & Behavioral Science (GT-SS3)	SOC	207	Environmental Sociology	Recommended
CCCS	Social & Behavioral Science (GT-SS3)	SOC	218	Sociology of Diversity	Recommended
UCCS	Social & Behavioral Science (GT-SS3)	SOC	225	Images of Women	Recommended
CCCS	Social & Behavioral Science (GT-SS3)	SOC	237	Sociology of Death and Dying	Recommended
CCCS	Social & Behavioral Science (GT-SS3)	WST	225	Perspectives on Women and Social Change	Recommended
CCCS	Social & Behavioral Science (GT-SS3)	WST	240	Goddesses and Women of the Ancient World	Recommended