

TOPIC: STATE GUARANTEED GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES

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I. SUMMARY

This agenda item recommends courses for inclusion in the general education guaranteed statewide transfer program, gtPathways.

II. BACKGROUND

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education (the Commission) has the authority to approve courses nominated for inclusion in gtPathways. gtPathways is a set of general education courses for which the state guarantees transferability among all public institutions in Colorado. Receiving institutions agree to apply guaranteed general education courses to a student's general education or major requirements. That is, any student, upon admission to an institution, may transfer up to 31 credits of previously and successfully completed gtPathways coursework. Courses approved for gtPathways meet state content and competency criteria, and are not necessarily equivalent.

Courses are reviewed and recommended for approval by the GE Council, which is comprised of faculty members and system governing board staff from the state's two- and four-year institutions. Since January 2003, the Commission has approved over 1,200 courses in over 20 disciplines (e.g., English, math, history, biology). Most recently, the Commission approved three courses in January 2011.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Pursuant to gtPathways policy, a discipline-specific faculty subcommittee reviewed the course nomination packet for AGY 240 (Introductory Soil Science) submitted by the Colorado Community College System (CCCS). The packet included a course nomination form, the course syllabus, content criteria for statewide transfer specific to the natural and physical sciences, and content criteria for critical thinking and mathematics. The subcommittee also received a GE Council-approved policy statement regarding the review of course nominations to gtPathways, HB 1263 (a bill concerning degree requirements for institutions of higher education; often referred to as the King Bill or the "Student Bill of Rights"), and HB 1298 (a bill concerning the creation of a statewide common course numbering system for the transfer of credits among state-supported institutions of higher education; often referred to as the Berry Bill). The subcommittee reviewed the nominated courses in light of these established guidelines.

One course is nominated for inclusion in the gtPathways curriculum: AGY 240 – Introductory Soil Science.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission approve AGY 240 – Introductory Soil Science (submitted by CCCS) for inclusion in the state’s guaranteed transfer program, effective fall 2011.

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.~