

TOPIC: COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM TWO-YEAR DEGREES WITH ACADEMIC DESIGNATIONS IN SOCIOLOGY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

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I. SUMMARY

This consent item recommends approval for The Colorado Community College System (CCCS) to offer two-year degree programs with academic designations in Sociology and Political Science to go along with the Statewide Articulation Agreements in Sociology and Political Science approved at the CCHE's March 2012 meeting.

II. BACKGROUND

Senate Bill 10-088 (Two-Year College Degree Designations) authorized Colorado community colleges to offer two-year degree programs with academic designations. CCCS agreed to restrict two-year degree designations to only those programs for which valid statewide articulation agreements exist. On March 2, 2012, the Commission approved statewide agreements in sociology and political science. In accordance with statute, the Colorado Community College System seeks Commission approval for degrees with designation in political science and sociology. The degree plans for these "designated degrees" are attached.

In collaboration with the four-year public institutions and the Department, the Colorado Community College System has designed and implemented seven associate degrees with designations, thus allowing seamless transfer within the majors identified by the designations to any Colorado public four-year institution that offers a comparable baccalaureate degree program in the major field. The CCCS offers degrees with designations in the following areas: business, economics, history, mathematics, psychology (Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science), and Spanish.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

CCCS has submitted the following two-year degrees with academic designation for approval:

- Associate of Arts in Sociology
- Associate of Arts in Political Science

Pursuant to C.R.S. §23-60-211, Department staff finds that the plans for degrees with designation submitted by CCCS fit the institution's statutory role and mission to create two year

transfer educational programs that qualify students for admission with junior standing at public colleges and universities in the state of Colorado.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Commission approves CCCS's proposal to offer Associate of Arts in Sociology and Associate of Arts in Political Science degrees.

V. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Copies of all relevant materials are on file in the Academic Affairs office and are available upon request.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-60-211

(1) Before a community college offers a two-year degree program with academic designation, as authorized by section 23-60-201, the community college shall determine the program designation for the degree. A two-year degree program with academic designation shall only be for a degree program that has a valid student transfer agreement pursuant to section 23-1-108(7). The community college shall then submit the degree program designation to the board for its review and approval. The community college may offer the degree program only after it has been approved by the board and by the Colorado commission on higher education. The community college shall exclusively use the degree program designation name in official publications, course catalogs, diplomas, and official transcripts. (2) Successful completion of an associate of arts or associate of science degree with academic designation does not guarantee the degree holder admission to a four-year state-supported institution of higher education; nor does it guarantee the degree holder automatic transfer of credits unless the degree holder has fulfilled the requirements of an existing statewide transfer agreement.