

TOPIC: RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF ASSOCIATE DEGREE WITH DESIGNATION IN COMMUNICATION AT COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

PREPARED BY: MAIA BLOM, ACADEMIC POLICY OFFICER

I. SUMMARY

This item recommends approval of the Colorado Community College System's associate degree with designation in Communication, to go along with the Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreement in Communication approved by the Commission at its November 6, 2014 meeting.

II. BACKGROUND

Pursuant to the Colorado Community College System's statutory role and mission (§23-60-201, C.R.S.), community colleges may offer two-year degree programs with or without academic designation. Also, §23-60-211, C.R.S., states, in part:

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.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Department staff worked extensively with 2- and 4-year faculty and the General Education (GE) Council in developing the Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreement in Communication, which includes the associate degree in Communication. The proposed associate degree with academic designation in Communication fits the Colorado Community College System's statutory role and mission, meets gtPathways requirements, and was approved by the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education at its November 12, 2014 meeting.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the associate degree with academic designation in Communication at the Colorado Community College System.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-60-201. State system of community and technical colleges established - local district colleges - role and mission

There is hereby established a state system of community and technical colleges which shall be under the management and jurisdiction of the state board for community colleges and occupational education. The mission of the community colleges shall be to serve Colorado residents who reside in their service areas by offering a broad range of general, personal, career, and technical education programs. Except as provided in section 23-60-211, each college shall be a two-year college. Each community college may offer two-year degree programs with or without academic designation, and, upon approval of the board pursuant to section 23-60-211, may offer technical, career, and workforce development bachelor of applied science degree programs. No college shall impose admission requirements upon any student. The objects of the community and technical colleges shall be to provide educational programs to fill the occupational needs of youth and adults in career and technical fields, two-year transfer educational programs to qualify students for admission to the junior year at other colleges and universities, basic skills, workforce development, and a broad range of personal and career education for adults, and technical, career, and workforce development bachelor of applied science degree programs established pursuant to section 23-60-211, that address the needs of the community within each community college service area.