

**TOPIC: RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE GEOLOGY STATEWIDE
TRANSFER ARTICULATION AGREEMENT**

PREPARED BY: MAIA BLOM, ACADEMIC POLICY OFFICER

I. SUMMARY

This item recommends approval of the statewide transfer articulation agreement for a Bachelor's degree in Geology.

II. BACKGROUND

Statewide transfer articulation agreements are an important part of Colorado's completion agenda and support the Commission's Master Plan to increase the attainment of high-quality postsecondary credentials (Goal 1) and reduce average time to credential (Goal 2). These agreements lay out guided pathways for students with the guarantee that if the student follows the plan then he or she will achieve an associate's degree with designation in his or her chosen area of interest (such as an Associate of Science in Geology as opposed to a general AS degree) and the peace of mind in knowing that the receiving institution will transfer and apply all 60 credits towards a bachelor's degree in geology, thus allowing the student to complete the bachelor's in no more than an additional 60 credits for a total of 120 credits. This takes the guesswork out of knowing which courses to take and saves students time and money. If approved, this proposed agreement will be the nineteenth agreement approved by the Commission, which means the Commission has surpassed the statutory mandate of establishing at least fourteen statewide transfer articulation agreements by July 1, 2016. The agreements are available to students and advisors on the Department's website at <http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/Transfers/Students.html>.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Department staff have worked extensively with the GE Council and faculty from both the two-year and four-year institutions to come to consensus on this agreement. The agreement is aligned with gtPathways requirements. The Chief Academic Officer and campus President/Chancellor of each public institution in the state, that offers an associate's or bachelor's degree in the discipline of Geology, have signed this agreement. The signatures on this statewide transfer articulation agreement (on file with the Department) represent, at a minimum, a commitment by the institutions to accept these classes toward a bachelor's degree, assuming successful completion of the prescribed curriculum by the student.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission approve the proposed statewide transfer articulation agreement in Geology.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-1-108. Duties and powers of the commission with regard to system-wide planning.
(7) (a) The commission shall establish, after consultation with the governing boards of institutions, and enforce statewide degree transfer agreements between two-year and four-year state institutions of higher education and among four-year state institutions of higher education. Governing boards and state institutions of higher education shall implement the statewide degree transfer agreements and the commission policies relating to the statewide degree transfer agreements. The statewide degree transfer agreements shall include provisions under which state institutions of higher education shall accept all credit hours of acceptable course work for automatic transfer from an associate of arts or associate of science degree program in another state institution of higher education in Colorado. The commission shall have final authority in resolving transfer disputes...

APPENDICES:

Appendix A: Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreement for a Bachelor's Degree in Geology

APPENDIX A

STATEWIDE TRANSFER ARTICULATION AGREEMENT

For a Bachelor's Degree in

GEOLOGY

Between

COLORADO PUBLIC COMMUNITY/JUNIOR COLLEGES

Aims Community College
Arapahoe Community College
Colorado Mountain College¹
Colorado Northwestern Community College
Community College of Aurora
Community College of Denver
Front Range Community College
Lamar Community College
Morgan Community College
Northeastern Junior College
Otero Junior College
Pikes Peak Community College
Pueblo Community College
Red Rocks Community College
Trinidad State Junior College

and

COLORADO PUBLIC FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Adams State University*² [*B.A./B.S. Earth Sciences; emphasis in Geology*]
Colorado Mesa University* [*B.S. Geosciences; Geology concentration*]
Colorado State University-Ft Collins [*B.S. Geology; Geology concentration*]
Fort Lewis College [*B.S. Geology; Geology option*]
University of Colorado Boulder [*B.A. Geology*]
University of Northern Colorado [*B.S. Earth Sciences; emphasis in Geology*]
Western State Colorado University [*B.A. Geology; emphasis in Geology*]

¹ Colorado Mountain College also offers some four-year degrees; it is participating in this agreement as both a two-year and four-year degree-granting institution.

² *Adams State University and Colorado Mesa University also offer two-year degrees; they are participating in this agreement as both two-year and four-year degree-granting institutions.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of a statewide transfer articulation agreement is to identify the courses a student at a Colorado public community college must complete as part of an AA/AS degree to be guaranteed to be able to complete the designated baccalaureate degree program at any public four-year college and university (hereafter referred to as receiving institutions) that offers that program within the minimum number of credits designated by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education.

The guarantees and limitations below describe the minimum requirements to which all participating institutions have agreed.

A complaint related to denial of transfer credits will follow the Colorado Commission on Higher Education student complaint process. A complaint may be filed at <http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/Complaints/>.

PART ONE: GUARANTEES

Students who complete an AA/AS degree **and** the prescribed curriculum in this statewide transfer articulation agreement **and** are admitted (with no academic deficiencies that require additional coursework) to a receiving institution participating in this agreement are guaranteed the following:

-  Junior standing with no more than 60 remaining credits to meet the graduation requirements for a baccalaureate degree in the degree program covered by this articulation agreement.
-  Completion of the receiving institution's lower division general education requirements as defined by the gtPathways curriculum.
-  The same graduation requirements as students who begin and complete this degree program at the receiving institution.

PART TWO: LIMITATIONS

-  Completion of the curriculum prescribed within this statewide transfer articulation agreement does not guarantee admission to a participating receiving institution. Students must meet all admission and application requirements at the receiving institution including the submission of all required documentation by stated deadlines. Please note: students transferring to a University of Colorado institution (Boulder, Colorado Springs, Denver) must satisfy the CU System's MAPS (Minimum Academic Preparation Standards) requirement.
-  Only courses with grades of C- or higher are guaranteed to transfer.

- Admission to a receiving institution does not guarantee enrollment in a specific degree program. Some programs at receiving institutions have controlled entry due either to space limitations or academic requirements.
- The credit and course transfer guarantees described in this agreement apply to the specific degree program covered by this agreement. Receiving institutions will evaluate application of the courses designated in this agreement to other degree programs on a course-by-course basis.
- Students who wish to use credits awarded by exam, such as AP (Advanced Placement), or IB (International Baccalaureate), to fulfill specific course requirements are responsible for consulting with the institution to which they are transferring to determine whether the credits they have been awarded by exam meet the standards of the receiving institution for specific course equivalents.
- The receiving institution will accept all applicable credits earned within ten years of transfer to the receiving institution. Credits earned more than ten years earlier will be evaluated on a course-by-course basis.
- All the courses a student needs to take in the discipline covered by this statewide transfer articulation agreement are listed in the prescribed curriculum. **Any additional courses taken in the discipline covered by this agreement might not count toward the requirements of the major at the receiving institution.** Students can avoid this problem by either taking no more courses in the discipline than the ones identified in the prescribed curriculum or by consulting first with the receiving institution to assure that any additional courses they take in the discipline will count toward the major.

Because of the limitations above, students must consult with the Office of Admissions at the institution to which they are transferring.

PART THREE: PRESCRIBED CURRICULUM

PLEASE NOTE: The degree tracks in Geology for the Professions and Geology with Secondary Teaching Licensure have different requirements and are not included in this agreement. Please refer to this agreement's cover page for the name of the Bachelor's degree at the four-year institution to which this agreement applies.

Courses that Fulfill General Education Requirements				36
Content Area	Credit Hours	Community College Course No.	Course Title or Category	
(Written) Communication	6	ENG 121 and ENG 122 <u>or</u> ENG 122 and a gtPathways CO3 course	English Composition I (GT-CO1) and English Composition II (GT-CO2) <u>OR</u> English Composition II (GT-CO2) and a gtPathways CO3 course (GT-CO3)	
Mathematics	5	MAT 201	Calculus I (GT-MA1)	
Arts & Humanities	6		Two gtPathways Arts & Humanities courses (GT-AH1, GT-AH2, GT-AH3, GT-AH4)	
History	3		One gtPathways History course (GT-HI1)	
Social & Behavioral Sciences	6		Two gtPathways Social & Behavioral Sciences courses (GT-SS1, GT-SS2, GT-SS3)	
Natural & Physical Sciences	5 5	CHE 111 CHE 112	General College Chemistry I (GT-SC1) General College Chemistry II (GT-SC1)	
Additional Required Courses				23
<p><i>Please note:</i> if these credits are <i>not</i> required for the <i>major</i> at a receiving 4-year institution, they will be applied to the Bachelor's degree as <i>elective credit</i> towards <i>graduation</i>. Please check with the receiving institution to determine in which way these courses will be applied.</p>				
	Credit Hours	Community College Course No.	Course Title	
	4	GEY 111	Physical Geology (GT-SC1)	
	4	GEY 112	Historical Geology (GT-SC1)	
	5	MAT 202	Calculus II (GT-MA1)	
	5	PHY 211	Physics: Calculus-based I with lab (GT-SC1)	
	5	PHY 212	Physics: Calculus-based II with lab (GT-SC1)	
Electives				1
Total				60

PLEASE NOTE: In addition to meeting the requirements listed here, contact the department at the school to which you want to transfer for program-specific information.

Addendum to Agreement

Students who do not complete an AA/AS degree can use the prescribed curriculum within a statewide transfer articulation agreement as a common advising guide for transfer to all public institutions that offer the designated baccalaureate degree program. Please note the following:

1. Students are guaranteed application of completed gtPathways courses within the curriculum prescribed in this agreement up to the established maximum in each content area.
2. Except in special cases (e.g., the partial completion of a required sequence of courses or variation in the number of credit hours institutions award for course equivalents), students can expect that courses specified within the prescribed curriculum in this agreement, successfully completed with a C- or higher, will fulfill the relevant course requirements in the designated major.
3. Receiving institutions will evaluate all courses other than those specified in this agreement on a course-by-course basis.

Students transferring without a completed AA/AS degree must consult with the Office of Admissions at the institution to which they are transferring to review the issues identified above and to make sure they meet all admission and application requirements at the receiving institution, including the submission of all required documentation by stated deadlines.

This agreement will remain in force until such time as it is formally modified or terminated.