

**TOPIC: RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN
COMPUTER SCIENCE AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
– GLOBAL CAMPUS**

PREPARED BY: IAN MACGILLIVRAY, DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

I. SUMMARY

This item recommends approval for Colorado State University – Global Campus (CSU-Global) to offer a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science.

II. BACKGROUND

COMMISSION AUTHORITY

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education’s role and responsibility in the review and approval of new academic programs at institutions operating under a performance contract is defined in §23-5-129(6)(b), which states that new and modified program proposals shall be reviewed and approved only on the basis of fit with the institution’s statutory role and mission.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED PROGRAM

The following is summarized from CSU-Global’s proposal:

The degree is designed to provide students with a working knowledge of the various elements of Computer Science including computing technology and mathematics. Students learn to develop technical solutions for complex organizational problems with a strong emphasis on system analysis and design. Students will be prepared for fields such as computer programming, software engineering, and computers systems analysis. The goal of the CSU-Global’s B.S. in Computer Science is to provide adult, non-traditional students with access to an Association for Computing Machinery and IEEE Computer Society (ACM/IEEE) aligned curriculum. The program ties these industry-accepted standards to hands-on learning to provide a more robust experience at a lower cost than for-profit and private providers of computer science programs.

Additional information on this proposed degree, unrelated to fit with statutory role and mission, is in Appendix A.

ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT

This degree supports CSU-Globals's statutory role and mission, which states:

There is hereby established an on-line university to be known as Colorado state university - global campus, referred to in this article as "CSU global campus". CSU global campus is a baccalaureate and graduate on-line university with the mission in Colorado of offering upper division baccalaureate degree completion programs for nontraditional students in partnership with the Colorado community college system and selected master-level graduate programs. CSU global campus shall comply with all applicable statutes and rules. (23-31.3-101, C.R.S.)

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 23-5-129(6)(b), department staff finds that the proposed degree is consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission. CSU-Global's Board of Trustees approved the program at its August 7, 2014 meeting.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approve Colorado State University –Global Campus's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-5-129 Governing boards - performance contract - authorization – operations

(6) While operating pursuant to a performance contract negotiated pursuant to this section, the governing board of a state institution of higher education:

(b) Need not consult with nor obtain approval from the Colorado commission on higher education to create, modify, or eliminate academic and vocational programs offered by the institution, so long as such creations, modifications, and eliminations are consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission. Institutions shall submit information to the department demonstrating that the creation or modification of an academic or career and technical education program is consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission. The Colorado commission on higher education shall have the authority to override the creation or modification of an academic or vocational program if the change made by the governing board is inconsistent with the institution's statutory role and mission.

APPENDIX:

Appendix A: Supplemental Information

APPENDIX A: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

This supplemental information is unrelated to the proposed degree's fit with the institution's statutory role and mission. The following is summarized from the institution's proposal:

EVIDENCE OF NEED

Employer Demand: The demand for Software Developers and Programmers will increase by more than 22% from 2012 to 2020 with over 222,600 new jobs (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2014). The demand for Computer Systems Analysts will grow by 25% during the same timeframe with 127,700 new jobs created. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Software Developers typically have a bachelor's degree in computer science with strong programming skills.

Student Demand: Student demand for the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science degree can in part be demonstrated through the 1,165 undergraduate students currently enrolled in the Information Technology program at CSU-Global. Though the IT program has a different scope, it demonstrates the demand for skills that will help students get jobs in the technology sector. Also, over eleven percent of students who take ITS320 Basic Programming do so for elective credit as knowledge in computer programming is deemed as valuable.

DUPLICATION

CSU – Global affirms there is currently not another fully online B.S. in Computer Science degree offered by a public institution in Colorado. Additionally, the B.S. in Computer Science program at CSU-Global Campus will address an area currently being fulfilled by out-of-state or proprietary online institutions at a substantially higher cost.