

TOPIC: RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE REVISIONS TO CCHE POLICY I, PART U: POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR COUNTING AND ACCEPTING AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CREDITS IN PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN COLORADO

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I. SUMMARY

This item is a discussion in preparation for next month's meeting in regard to the attached proposed revisions to CCHE Policy I, Part U: Policy and Procedures for Counting and Accepting American Sign Language Credits in Public Higher Education Institutions in Colorado. See Appendix A. This is for discussion only; no action is required at this time.

II. BACKGROUND

The current Policy I, U was passed in November of 2004. The policy requires that;

“public higher education institutions in the State treat American Sign Language as a foreign language for the purposes of granting and receiving academic credit. This policy is designed to ensure that:

- *Higher Education institutions treat American Sign Language as a foreign language;*
- *Students are able to count the completion of American Sign Language courses or demonstrated proficiency in ASL toward all college or university foreign language requirements, except specific requirements related to an academic major.”*

The policy also specifically addresses how an American Sign Language (ASL) course can satisfy the foreign/world language Higher Education Admission Requirements (HEAR).

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Institutions of higher education in Colorado identified areas of this policy which were inconsistent and/or needed clarification. As part of DHE's ongoing effort to update and maintain policy, recommendations for changes were identified and are tracked on Appendix A. The most significant of these changes include:

- Substituting all mention of “foreign” language with “world” language. Most academic advisors in K-12 and higher education currently use the term “world” language. “World” language is more inclusive in the case of Spanish and other language speakers who live in the U.S., as well as including categories such as ASL which is not a foreign language.
- The number of world language years required to satisfy HEAR needed correcting. The current policy states that two years are required, when only one year is required. The HEAR requirements can be seen at this site: <http://higher.ed.colorado.gov/Academics/Admissions/coursecompletion.html>

DHE staff proposed changes and solicited feedback from Colorado public institutions of higher education during the month of January. The Admission Council, Academic Council, and GE Council were all included in the request for feedback. Only minor suggestions were recommended through this process with no objections.

V. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This item is a discussion item only; no formal action is required by the Commission.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-1-113.

ATTACHMENT: Appendix A – Revisions to CCHE Policy I, Part U