

## **Admission Standards Policy Implementation Plan**

The implementation plan has four key elements: data gathering and analysis; the development of the minimum standards; the communication tool that will be used to communicate the new policy and the admissions standards to students, parents and counselors; and training.

*Data Gathering and Analysis:* Members of the Department's Data Advisory Group and members of the Admission and Transfer Policy Review Task Force have agreed to form a subcommittee to guide the collection and analysis of data needed for full implementation of this policy. This group will also model rigor for institutions. The group will answer many of the data questions the Department received during the review process. This subcommittee will also gather academic range data for each four-year state institution's "Window" to be reviewed by the CCHE during the fall of 2014. Staff expect that this data will help determine the value of continuing the "window" policy and references to "minimums".

*Development of minimum standards:* the subcommittee described above will guide the process of institutions developing minimum standards. The subcommittee will provide guidance in consultation with other institution representatives on whether institutions should work within their selectivity groups (e.g., selective institutions, moderately selective institutions) to develop minimum standards that align with one another.

*Communications Tool:* DHE staff have begun working with College In Colorado to develop the Admission Planning Assistant (formerly known as the index communication tool). This tool will be used to clearly communicate to students, parents and counselors each institution's minimum standards; the description of each institution's middle 50 percentile student body (using GPA and assessment scores); and what that institution is seeking from applicants in terms of rigor. It will also explain what students need to demonstrate to institutions to show they are prepared for college-level courses.

*Training:* This final component of the implementation plan will train institution representatives and counselors on how to use the new policy to assist students in college planning. Both high school counselors and college advisors will need to understand how the new policy is being implemented, what it is intended to achieve and how to explain it to students and others. Additionally, admission staff will need to be trained on how to use the new policy to admit students. College In Colorado staff will also need to be trained so they can continue to be the Department's outreach arm in ensuring access to students across the state.

As noted during the November Commission meeting, several other areas require further consideration after adoption of the new policy:

*Postsecondary Workforce Readiness (PWR) Endorsed Diploma:* Statute establishes that students graduating from high school with a PWR endorsed diploma will receive priority consideration from selective and highly selective institutions of higher education. Institutions have not yet come to agreement on what the term "priority consideration" means in the admissions process; staff continue to work with institutions to establish policy guidelines and clarity.

*Use of PARCC and Smarter Balanced scores as a college-ready indicator:* Using the Colorado Department of Education’s (CDE) implementation timeline, the Commission will need to determine when institutions will begin to accept of PARCC and Smarter Balanced scores as a college-ready indicator.

### **Tentative Timeline**

Date	Project	Group Responsible
January 2014 – February 2014	Subcommittee formed and meets to establish data needs	DAG and ADTR
March 2014 – May 2014	Committee gathers data; identifies further questions; compiles data from institutions	Committee
June 2014 – July 2014	DHE staff, subcommittee, other institution reps review progress, what data shows, what it means for policy	
July 2014	Committee reports to DHE staff	Committee
July 2014 – December 2014	DHE provides guidance for development of minimum standards	Institutions
July 2014	Admission Planning Assistant (Communications tool) previewed	
December 2014	Admission Planning Assistant (Communications tool) ready	
January 2015	DHE puts in place training program	
In collaboration with CDE	Establish PWR endorsed diploma policy guidelines	DHE
Fall 2016	Institutions use both standards	Institutions
Fall 2018	Institutions use new standards exclusively	Institutions
Date	Project	Group Responsible