



SECTION I

PART W SUPPLEMENTAL ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION

1.00 Introduction

Pursuant to §23-1-113(1.5), C.R.S., the Commission may authorize a state institution of higher education to provide Supplemental Academic Instruction (SAI) to students with limited academic deficiencies and to receive Colorado Opportunity Fund (COF) stipend payments even though the institution is not authorized to provide basic skills courses. Institutions use the cut scores on national assessments, agreed to in Commission Policy I, E: Statewide Remedial Education Policy, to determine if a student is ready for college-level, credit-bearing coursework in English and mathematics. Prior to HB12-1155 being enacted into law, a student admitted into a four-year institution who scored below these cut scores was typically required to enroll in a community college for non-credit-bearing remedial (basic skills) coursework. SAI, however, allows many of these students to stay at their home institution and enroll directly into credit-bearing English and mathematics general education coursework offered co-requisitely with SAI, thus enabling them to finish college faster and with fewer obstacles. Furthermore, the credit-bearing English and mathematics courses taught co-requisitely with SAI are required to be Pathways approved, thus ensuring transferability. Authorized SAI offered for credit is eligible to receive Colorado Opportunity Fund (COF) stipend payments, pursuant to. §23-1-113(1.5)(a)(II), C.R.S.

2.00 Policy Goals

The goals of the Commission's Supplemental Academic Instruction policy include:

- 2.01 Establishing clear guidelines for institutions to gain authorization to provide SAI;
- 2.02 Aligning SAI procedures with the Commission's Admission Standards and Remedial Education Policies and the Graduation Guidelines established by the State Board of Education;
- 2.03 Requiring outcomes-based data and analysis of SAI effectiveness at each authorized institution; and
- 2.04 Developing awareness and establishing best practices for SAI.

3.00 Definitions

3.01 "**Basic skills courses** means courses that are prerequisites to the level of work expected at a postsecondary institution and include academic skills courses and preparatory courses" [§23-1-113(11)(b), C.R.S.]. Historically, these courses were referred to as "remedial courses" and are now commonly referred to as "developmental education courses." These courses are also numbered lower than 100 or 1000 (e.g., 092 or 094).

3.02 **Limited academic deficiency** refers to the English and/or mathematics skills levels of a



student who has been admitted to an institution, but has failed to meet the minimum threshold placement score for college-level coursework as determined by Commission Policy I, E: Statewide Remedial Education Policy. The range of placement scores that define limited academic deficiency may differ according to each institution's statutory role and mission.

3.03 “**National assessment test scores** include, but are not limited to, ACT and SAT test scores” [§23-1-113.2(11)(c), C.R.S.]. For the purpose of this SAI policy, institutions shall choose a primary assessment from the list of national assessment tests in Commission Policy I, E: Statewide Remedial Education Policy.

3.04 “**Supplemental Academic Instruction** means co-requisite instruction in writing [English] or mathematics for students with limited academic deficiencies who are placed into college-level course work [numbered 100 or 1000 or higher] that is approved for statewide transfer [i.e., gtPathways] pursuant to section 23-1-125(3). ‘Supplemental academic instruction’ does not include prerequisite basic skills courses” [§23-1-113(11)(e), C.R.S.]. SAI courses may be credit-bearing and eligible to receive Colorado Opportunity Fund (COF) stipend payments, pursuant to §23-1-113(1.5)(a)(II), C.R.S., or noncredit-bearing, in which case, shall not be eligible for COF stipend payments, pursuant to §23-18-102(11) and §23-18-201(1), C.R.S. Institutions shall determine if SAI credits will be applied to degree requirements.

3.06 **Supplemental Academic Instruction Evaluation** means an institution-specific secondary evaluation used to ensure accurate placement of students into SAI, following the national/primary assessment.

4.00 Statutory Authority

C.R.S. §23-1-113(1.5) grants the Commission the authority to authorize a state supported institution of higher education to provide Supplemental Academic Instruction even though the institution is not authorized to provide basic skills courses pursuant to C.R.S. §23-1-113.3. Pursuant to §23-18-102, C.R.S., an authorized institution may receive Colorado Opportunity Fund (COF) stipend payments on behalf of an eligible undergraduate student, who is enrolled in credit-bearing SAI.

5.00 Roles and Responsibilities

5.01 Institutions of Higher Education shall:

5.01.01 Utilize approved national/primary assessments test scores authorized by the Commission to determine if a student is college ready (as defined by Commission Policy I, E: Statewide Remedial Education Policy);

5.01.02 Select a secondary SAI evaluation of basic skills assessment and/or a course placement review in English and/or mathematics to place students in SAI;



- 5.01.03 Inform students about the learning outcomes associated with SAI completion and advise the student about appropriate options based on her/his SAI evaluation, prior to first semester registration;
- 5.01.04 Require that students placed into SAI complete their SAI requirements “by the time the student completes thirty college-level credit hours” [§23-1-113(1.5)(c), C.R.S.];
- 5.01.05 Flag and report each SAI course and student enrolled in SAI courses/options in the Student Course Enrollment File submitted to the SURDS database; and
- 5.01.06 Submit a request for SAI authorization proposal to the Department for Commission approval prior to offering or piloting SAI. The request for authorization shall include (but is not limited to) detailed information about:
- a) Secondary SAI evaluation of basic skills assessment and/or course placement reviews in English and/or mathematics, including definition of limited academic deficiency, cut scores and other benchmarks/measurements of student preparation level for placement into SAI;
 - b) Process for advising students about appropriate SAI based on their SAI evaluations prior to first semester registration, and the requirement that students placed into SAI complete their credit bearing English and mathematics courses by the time the student completes 30 college-level credit hours;
 - c) Communication plan between SAI and co-requisite course faculty for shared understanding of student outcomes and success;
 - d) SAI staffing and support, including accountability for curricular oversight;
 - e) Demonstration of how SAI and co-requisite course learning outcomes are aligned with the corresponding gtPathways course learning outcomes; and
 - f) SAI assessment plan with benchmarks/measurements of student success.

5.02 Governing Boards of institutions that have been authorized by the Commission to offer SAI, shall:

5.02.01 Adopt policies and procedures that ensure that each matriculated undergraduate student that enters the institution with a primary assessment score below the state defined college entry level (as defined in Commission Policy I, E: Statewide Remedial Education Policy) completes or has completed basic skills assessment and/or course placement reviews in English and/or mathematics; and

5.02.02 Adopt policies and procedures regarding the implementation of SAI.

5.03 The Commission shall:

5.03.01 Adopt a policy whereby Colorado state institutions of higher education may offer SAI [§23-1-113(1.5)(a)(I)];



- 5.03.02 Review and determine authorization of state institutions of higher education to provide SAI and receive COF stipend payments;
- 5.03.03 Monitor the effectiveness of SAI on student academic performance and related outcomes. The Commission may require an institution to revise its SAI plan if three consecutive years of data shows the institution is unsuccessful at improving student outcomes in English and mathematics.

5.04 The Department shall:

- 5.04.01 In its “Legislative Report on Remedial Education,” transmit annually to the education committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives, or any successor committees, the Joint Budget Committee, the Commission, the Department of Education [§23-1-113.3(4)(a), C.R.S.] and to each school district and to public high schools within each district [§23-1-113.3(4)(b), C.R.S.] an analysis of the data regarding SAI;
- 5.04.02 Publish institutions’ SAI program information and ensure that each student identified as needing SAI receives written notification identifying which state institutions offer SAI, the approximate cost, and relative availability of SAI, including any on-line courses [§23-1-113(1.5)(c), C.R.S.]; and
- 5.04.03 Share SAI best practices with institutions and provide a forum for inter-institutional assistance and collaboration.

HISTORY: CCHE Agenda Item III, A – November 6, 2014; CCHE Agenda Item III, A – December 4, 2014

