

TOPIC: RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE IN GEOLOGY AT COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

PREPARED BY: IAN K. MACGILLIVRAY, DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

I. SUMMARY

This item recommends approval of an Associate of Science in Geology degree with designation, to go along with the Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreement in Geology approved by the Commission at its May 9, 2014 meeting.

II. BACKGROUND

COMMISSION AUTHORITY

The Commission establishes with the governing boards and enforces statewide degree transfer agreements. The agreements include provisions under which institutions accept all credit hours of course work for automatic transfer from an associate into a baccalaureate degree program, per C.R.S. §23-1-108.

The Colorado Community College System may offer an associate degree with designation, rather than just a general liberal arts & sciences degree, after it has been approved by the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education and the Commission, per §23-60-211, C.R.S.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

The Commission approved the Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreement in Geology at its May 9, 2014 meeting. The State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education approved the Associate of Science degree with designation in Geology at its June 11, 2014 meeting.

ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT

This degree supports Colorado Community College System's statutory role and mission, which states in part:

...The mission of the community colleges shall be to serve Colorado residents who reside in their service areas by offering a broad range of general, personal, vocational, and technical education programs. Each college shall be a two-year college. Each community college may offer two-year degree programs with or without academic designation. No

college shall impose admission requirements upon any student. The objects of the community and technical colleges shall be to provide educational programs to fill the occupational needs of youth and adults in technical and vocational fields, two-year transfer educational programs to qualify students for admission to the junior year at other colleges and universities, basic skills, workforce development, and a broad range of personal and vocational education for adults. (§23-60-201, C.R.S.)

Department staff worked extensively with the General Education (GE) Council and community college faculty in developing the Statewide Articulation Agreement in Geology, which includes the A.S. in Geology. The proposed degree fits the Colorado Community College System's statutory role and mission, meets Pathways requirements and was approved by the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approve Colorado Community College System's proposal to offer an Associate of Science 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...

C.R.S. §23-60-211. Degrees

(1) Before a community college offers a two-year degree program with academic designation, as authorized by section 23-60-201, the community college shall determine the program designation for the degree. A two-year degree program with academic designation shall only be for a degree program that has a valid student transfer agreement pursuant to section 23-1-108 (7); except that a community college may offer a two-year degree program with academic designation in dental hygiene without a valid student transfer agreement. The community college shall then submit the degree program designation to the board for its review and approval. The community college may offer the degree program only after it has been approved by the board and by the Colorado

commission on higher education. The community college shall exclusively use the degree program designation name in official publications, course catalogs, diplomas, and official transcripts.