



# General Education Council Report for SB24-164

Submitted by the Colorado General Education Council

Date: September 4, 2025

## Summary

Pursuant to SB24-164 ((C.R.S. 23-1-108.5(3)(b.5)), the General Education (GE) Council presents its initial findings on Guaranteed Transfer (GT) Pathways course activity. This report identifies courses with:

* The highest enrollment and transfer activity,
* Courses commonly not applied toward program requirements despite full credit transfer,
* And courses exhibiting credit hour misalignment across institutions.

This report is submitted to the Commission for review and to inform future adjustments to academic policy and the GT Pathways matrix as appropriate.

## Background

SB24-164 mandates annual review of Colorado’s GT Pathways matrix beginning October 1, 2025. The GE Council must evaluate:

1. High enrollment and transfer volume GT Pathways courses.
2. GT Pathways courses that are accepted in transfer but not applied toward degree programs.
3. Credit-hour misalignment across institutions for GT Pathways courses.

Data for this report was collected by the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE).

## Analysis

### High Enrollment and Transfer Volume GT Pathways Courses

**CDHE collected data from the Colorado Community College System** of the highest enrollment and transfer activity courses among GT Pathways. The top seven courses for enrollment were also the seven highest for transfer volume.

The following table represents GT Pathways courses sorted in descending order of **highest enrollment** for **academic years 2023 and 2024 combined**.

| CCCS Highest Enrollment Courses | GTP Category | Total Enrollments |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. ENG 1021 English Composition I
 | CO1 | 48,143 |
| 1. MAT 1340 College Algebra
 | MA1 | 29,286 |
| 1. ENG 1022 English Composition II
 | CO2 | 27,864 |
| 1. PSY 1001 General Psychology I
 | SS3 | 18,749 |
| 1. BIO 1111 General College Biology I + Lab
 | SC1 | 11,675 |
| 1. MAT 1260 Intro to Statistics
 | MA1 | 11,020 |
| 1. COM 1250 Interpersonal Communication
 | SS3 | 9,580 |
| 1. BIO 2101 Human Anatomy & Physiology I + Lab
 | SC1 | 9,163 |
| 1. PSY 2440 Human Growth & Development
 | SS3 | 8,837 |
| 1. SOC 1001 Intro to Sociology
 | SS3 | 8,722 |

The following table represents GT Pathways courses sorted in descending order of the **highest transfer volume** for **academic years 2023 and 2024 combined**.

| CCCS Highest Transfer Volume Courses | GTP Category | Total Transfers |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. ENG 1021 English Composition I
 | CO1 | 17,586 |
| 1. MAT 1340 College Algebra
 | MA1 | 11,711 |
| 1. ENG 1022 English Composition II
 | CO2 | 11,462 |
| 1. PSY 1001 General Psychology I
 | SS3 | 7,601 |
| 1. BIO 1111 General College Biology I + Lab
 | SC1 | 5,394 |
| 1. MAT 1260 Intro to Statistics
 | MA1 | 4,108 |
| 1. COM 1250 Interpersonal Communication
 | SS3 | 4,046 |
| 1. ECO 2001 Principles of Macroeconomics
 | SS1 | 3,958 |
| 1. SOC 1001 Intro to Sociology
 | SS3 | 3,902 |
| 1. ECO 2002 Principles of Microeconomics
 | SS1 | 3,657 |

### GT Pathways Courses Accepted in Transfer but Not Applied to Degree Programs

Institutions will submit data to the Department by September 2025 to inform the Commission regarding the transfer acceptance versus application of GT Pathways courses. In the meantime, the General Education Council reviewed a selection of GT Pathways Courses that are **embedded within major requirements beyond the general education core** across multiple discipline areas. Findings confirm that a substantial number of GT Pathways courses are already integrated into degree program requirements for majors such as Biology, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, English, History, Political Science, Psychology, and Communications, among others.

These courses are not taken as free electives, but rather as required or optional major courses, ensuring that transfer students receive full credit toward their academic programs when completing a Degree with Designation. For example:

* STEM majors complete GT Pathways prerequisite science and math courses (e.g. students following the Biology Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreement (STAA) must complete General Biology I/II (GT-SC1) and General Chemistry I/II (GT-SC1) for a total of 20 credit hours in the same GTP category.
* English majors complete five literature courses [AH2] from a series of options to fulfill additional required major coursework.

It’s important to note that in cases where students are asked to complete multiple courses aligned with a single GT Pathways category due to major election (e.g., five AH2 courses completed for English majors), the student is best served by securing the additional guarantees for course transfer through earning a Degree with Designation (DwD) under a Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreement. In cases where a student might not complete the initial two-year degree before transfer, or changes majors entirely, they may be asked to complete additional coursework and encounter a risk of exhausting all available free electives through such circumstances.

### Credit Hour Misalignment Across Institutions for GT Pathways Courses

Department staff provided the Council with a report of the courses across the GT Pathways categories with differing credit hour designations among institutions. Examples included:

* **World Languages Beginning Languages (5 credit hours)** – Prior to this report, there was variation among world language courses between Colorado community colleges and four-year institutions. Faculty from this discipline willingly coordinated in 2025 to align the credit hours for Spanish, French, and German world language course sequences among Colorado institutions, adhering to the following designation.

| Course | Credit Hours |
| --- | --- |
| Beginning French/German/Spanish Semester I | 4 |
| Beginning French/German/Spanish Semester II | 4 |
| Intermediate French/German/Spanish Semester I | 3 |
| Intermediate French/German/Spanish Semester II | 3 |

As of this writing, Chinese, Japanese, and Russian will remain at five credit hours. The new four credit sequences will be available Fall 2026.

* **Mathematics**

The Council notes in cases where a course is accepted as equivalent, but differs in credit hours, the learner’s earned credit hours from the sending institution are honored by the receiving institution. With the passage of HB19-1206 to move away from traditional, standalone developmental education (remedial) courses, there may be issues with efforts to standardize credit hours among mathematics courses across institutions due to varying supplemental academic instruction models. This flexibility is a core component of the bill's design to improve student success. This results in variations across certain gateway math courses such as:

* + **Math for the Liberal Arts (3-4 credit hours)** – This course is assigned four credit hours among Colorado community colleges but is assigned three credit hours at the offering four-year institutions.
	+ **College Algebra (1-4 credit hours)** – This course is traditionally assigned three credit hours, but variations included Colorado State University’s offering of one credit, stackable courses which students can take in sequence (e.g. College Algebra in Context I, II at Colorado State University). Courses which were assigned four credit hours included supplemental or enhanced instructional components (e.g. Algebra for Calculus with SAI at Ft. Lewis College). Many institutions offer multiple versions of the course to meet specific student needs.
	+ **Pre-Calculus (3-5 credit hours)** – This course is most commonly assigned four credit hours, but variations included Colorado Mesa University’s offering students the option to complete the course in one or two sequences (i.e., Precalculus Mathematics [5 hours] or College Algebra for Calculus and Trigonometry for Calculus , focusing either simultaneously in five credit hours or separately in 8 credit hours on algebra and trigonometry) as best suits their needs.

## Recommendations to the Commission

For More Information **Colorado Department of Higher Education** [https://cdhe.colorado.gov/](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcdhe.colorado.gov%2F&data=05%7C01%7CBeth.Hunter%40dhe.state.co.us%7C2c4aa75b2a5e4d075f8508db151ab97e%7C472b2de6094648849c95a8326b5e99f5%7C0%7C0%7C638126976751380694%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=KKZmbl%2B08yJDEP4Jzo5FTvcYZu01qC6DFghr9xQ0jcc%3D&reserved=0)

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### Recommendation 1: Credit Hour Differentials Across Key Gateway Courses

Request Department staff to conduct a review and, where feasible, work through GE Council members to convene faculty stakeholders to consider an outcomes-based model to define and seek opportunities to align on common learning outcomes for courses in GT Pathways with credit variability:

* Math for Liberal Arts
* Pre-Calculus
* Calculus I and II

### Recommendation 2: Strategic Communication for GT Pathways and Transfer Degrees

Request Department staff to leverage public dashboards and information pages to communicate about GTP categories and courses’ transferability (including among STAAs). These resources could also guide students to identify courses which apply to both GT Pathways and major course requirements beyond general education.

### Recommendation 3: Statewide Support for Transfer Student Success

Expand and enhance statewide professional development for faculty, academic advisors, registrars, admissions staff, and other student services professionals. These roles are pivotal in advancing transfer student success. Target training should address strategies for improving associate degree completion prior to transfer and for resolving common transfer barriers to ensure smoother and more equitable pathways for students across Colorado institutions.

## Appendix A: Highest Enrollment GT Pathways Courses Academic Years 2023-2024 Combined – Colorado Community College System

| Order | Course | Title: GT Pathways Category | Total Enrollments AY 2023-2024 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | ENG 1021 | English Composition I:CO1 | 48,143 |
| 2 | MAT 1340 | College Algebra: MA1 | 29,286 |
| 3 | ENG 1022 | English Composition II:CO2 | 27,864 |
| 4 | PSY 1001 | General Psychology I: SS3 | 18,749 |
| 5 | BIO 1111 | Gen College Biology I/Lab: SC1 | 11,675 |
| 6 | MAT 1260 | Intro to Statistics: MA1 | 11,020 |
| 7 | COM 1250 | Interpersonal Comm: SS3 | 9,580 |
| 8 | PSY 2440 | Human Growth & Development: SS3 | 8,837 |
| 9 | BIO 2101 | Human Anatomy&Phys I w/Lab:SC1 | 9,163 |
| 10 | LIT 1015 | Intro to Literature I: AH2 | 8,485 |
| 11 | SOC 1001 | Intro to Sociology I : GT-SS3 | 8,722 |
| 12 | HIS 1220 | US History since Civil War:HI1 | 7,150 |
| 13 | ART 1110 | Art Appreciation: AH1 | 6,978 |
| 14 | MAT 1240 | Math for Liberal Arts: MA1 | 6,769 |
| 15 | HUM 1015 | World Mythology: AH2 | 6,781 |
| 16 | ECO 2001 | Prin of Macroeconomics: SS1 | 6,424 |
| 17 | HIS 1210 | US History to Reconst: HI1 | 6,385 |
| 18 | MAT 1420 | College Trigonometry: MA1 | 6,416 |
| 19 | ECO 2002 | Prin of Microeconomics: SS1 | 5,846 |
| 20 | MAT 2410 | Calculus I: MA1 | 5,349 |
| 21 | BIO 2102 | Human Anatomy&Phys IIw/Lab:SC1 | 5,520 |
| 22 | PHI 1011 | Intro to Philosophy: AH3 | 5,384 |
| 23 | CRJ 1010 | Intro to Criminal Justice: SS3 | 5,044 |
| 24 | PSY 1002 | General Psychology II : SS3 | 5,074 |
| 25 | BIO 2104 | Microbiology w/Lab: SC1 | 4,932 |
| 26 | MAT 1440 | Pre-Calculus: MA1 | 4,514 |
| 27 | ENG 2021 | Creative Writing I: AH1 | 4,672 |
| 28 | CHE 1011 | Intro to Chemistry I/Lab: SC1 | 4,885 |
| 29 | POS 1011 | American Government: SS1 | 2,494 |
| 29 | PSC 1011 | American Government: SS1 | 2,468 |
| 30 | PHI 1012 | Ethics:AH3 | 4,180 |
| 31 | CHE 1111 | Gen College Chem I/Lab: SC1 | 3,538 |
| 32 | MUS 1020 | Music Appreciation: AH1 | 3,477 |
| 33 | HIS 2015 | 20th Century World History:HI1 | 3,125 |
| 34 | MAT 2420 | Calculus II : MA1 | 2,990 |
| 35 | ENG 1031 | Technical Writing I: CO1 | 2,774 |
| 36 | HIS 2135 | Colorado History: HI1 | 3,057 |
| 37 | AST 1110 | Planetary Astronomy w/Lab: SC1 | 2,969 |
| 38 | ENV 1111 | Environmental Sci w/Lab: SC1 | 2,883 |
| 39 | BIO 1005 | Science of Biology w/Lab: SC1 | 2,762 |
| 40 | GEO 1005 | World Regional Geography: SS2 | 2,808 |
| 41 | HIS 1120 | The World: 1500-Present: HI1 | 2,473 |
| 42 | PHI 2005 | Business Ethics: AH3 | 2,024 |
| 43 | ANT 1001 | Cultural Anthropology: SS3 | 2,405 |
| 44 | HUM 1003 | Intro to Film Art: AH2 | 2,320 |
| 45 | HIS 1110 | The World: Antiquity-1500: HI1 | 2,086 |
| 46 | PSY 2552 | Abnormal Psychology: SS3 | 2,158 |

## Appendix B: Highest Transfers of GT Pathways Courses Academic Years 2023 and 2024 Combined – Colorado Community College System

| Order | Course | Title: GT Pathways Category | Total Transfers AY2023-2024 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | ENG 1021 | English Composition I:CO1 | 8,675 |
| 2 | MAT 1340 | College Algebra: MA1 | 5,875 |
| 3 | ENG 1022 | English Composition II:CO2 | 5,704 |
| 4 | PSY 1001 | General Psychology I: SS3 | 3,729 |
| 5 | BIO 1111 | Gen College Biology I/Lab: SC1 | 2,653 |
| 6 | COM 1250 | Interpersonal Comm: SS3 | 2,161 |
| 7 | MAT 1260 | Intro to Statistics: MA1 | 2,114 |
| 8 | ECO 2001 | Prin of Macroeconomics: SS1 | 2,111 |
| 9 | ECO 2002 | Prin of Microeconomics: SS1 | 1,920 |
| 10 | SOC 1001 | Intro to Sociology I : GT-SS3 | 1,905 |
| 11 | PSY 2440 | Human Growth & Development: SS3 | 1,715 |
| 12 | ART 1110 | Art Appreciation: AH1 | 1,687 |
| 13 | HUM 1015 | World Mythology: AH2 | 1,664 |
| 14 | BIO 2101 | Human Anatomy&Phys I w/Lab:SC1 | 1,597 |
| 15 | PHI 1011 | Intro to Philosophy: AH3 | 1,509 |
| 16 | MAT 2410 | Calculus I: MA1 | 1,475 |
| 17 | MAT 1240 | Math for Liberal Arts: MA1 | 1,426 |
| 18 | CHE 1011 | Intro to Chemistry I/Lab: SC1 | 1,369 |
| 19 | MAT 1440 | Pre-Calculus: MA1 | 1,350 |
| 20 | CHE 1111 | Gen College Chem I/Lab: SC1 | 1,191 |
| 21 | PHI 1012 | Ethics:AH3 | 1,166 |
| 22 | LIT 1015 | Intro to Literature I: AH2 | 1,134 |
| 23 | HIS 2015 | 20th Century World History:HI1 | 1,107 |
| 24 | PSY 1002 | General Psychology II : SS3 | 1,069 |
| 25 | MAT 2420 | Calculus II : MA1 | 1,067 |

## Appendix C: GT Pathways Course Credit Hour Differentials

The following tables include GT Pathways courses within mathematics which have observed differential credit hour assignments.

### Math for Liberal Arts

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Institution | GT Pathways Course | Credit Hours | Credit Difference |
| Two-year | MAT 1240 Math for the Liberal Arts | 4 | 0 |
| Four-year | MATH 120 Mathematics and Liberal Arts | 3 | -1 |
| Four-year | MATH 105 Mathematics for the Liberal Arts | 3 | -1 |
| Four-year | MATH 1010 Mathematics for the Liberal Arts | 3 | -1 |

### College Algebra

| Institution | GT Pathways Course | Credit Hours | Credit Difference |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Two-year | MAT 1340 College Algebra | 4 | 0 |
| Four-year | MATH 106 College Algebra | 3 | -1 |
| Four-year | MATH 113 College Algebra | 4 | 0 |
| Four-year | MATH 113R College Algebra with Review | 5 | 1 |
| Four-year\* | MATH 117 College Algebra in Context I | 1 | 0 |
| MATH 118 College Algebra in Context II | 1 | 0 |
| MATH 124 Logarithmic and Exponential Functions | 1 | 0 |
| MATH 125 Numerical Trigonometry | 1 | 0 |
| Four-year | MATH 126 Analytic Trigonometry | 1 |  |
| Four-year | MTH 122 College Algebra | 3 | -1 |
| Four-year | MATH 120 College Algebra | 3 | -1 |
| Four-year | MATH 112 Algebra for Calculus | 3 | -1 |
| Four-year | MATH 113 Algebra for Calculus | 4 | 0 |
| Four-year | MTH 1109 College Algebra Stretch, Part II | 4 | 0 |
| Four-year | MTH 1110 College Algebra for Calculus | 4 | 0 |
| Four-year | MTH 1111 College Algebra for Calculus w/Laboratory | 4 | 0 |
| Four-year | MTH 1112 College Algebra for Calculus through Modeling | 4 | 0 |
| Four-year | MTH 1115 College Algebra for Calculus through Modeling with Laboratory | 4 | 0 |
| Four-year | APPM 1350 Calculus I for Engineers | 4 | 0 |
| Four-year | MATH 1040 College Algebra | 3 | -1 |
| Four-year | MATH 1110 College Algebra | 4 | 0 |
| Four-year | MATH 124 College Algebra | 4 | 0 |
| Four-year | MATH 140 College Algebra | 3 | -1 |

### \*Institution’s course sequence is sectioned into one credit hour for a total of four credit hours.

### Pre-Calculus

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Institution | GT Pathways Course | Credit Hours | Credit Difference |
| Two-year | MAT 1440 Pre-Calculus | 5 | 0 |
| Four-year | MAT 119 Pre-Calculus | 5 | 0 |
| Four-year | MATH 124 Pre-Calculus Math | 5 | 0 |
| Four-year | MATH 121 Pre-Calculus | 4 | -1 |
| Four-year | MTH 1400 Precalculus Mathematics | 4 | -1 |
| Four-year | MATH 1150 Precalculus Mathematics | 3 | -2 |
| Four-year | MATH 1130 Precalculus Mathematics | 4 | -1 |
| Four-year | MATH 141 Precalculus | 4 | -1 |

### Calculus I

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Institution | GT Pathways Course | Credit Hours | Credit Difference |
| Four-year | MAT 120 Single Variable Calculus I | 5 | 0 |
| Four-year | MAT 151 Calculus I | 5 | 0 |
| Four-year | MATH 160 Calculus For Physical Scientists I | 4 | -1 |
| Four-year | MATH 126 Calculus and Analytic Geometry I | 5 | 0 |
| Four-year | MATH 221 Calculus I | 4 | -1 |
| Four-year | MTH 1410 Calculus I | 4 | -1 |
| Four-year | MATH 1300 Calculus I | 5 | 0 |
| Four-year | MATH 1310 Calculus, Systems, and Modeling | 5 | 0 |
| Four-year | MATH 1401 Calculus I | 4 | -1 |
| Four-year | MATH 131 Calculus I | 4 | -1 |
| Four-year | MATH 151 Calculus I | 4 | -1 |