



COLORADO

Department of
Higher Education

1600 Broadway, Suite 2200

Denver, CO 80202

Meeting	General Education Council January 12, 2026 1:00 – 4:00 pm
Location	Virtual Only
Meeting Recording	View Zoom Recording Passcode: G\$%Vv0qy
Meeting Participants	The General Education Council (GE Council) is comprised of representatives from each of the 31 public institutions of higher education, including area technical colleges, local district colleges, and dual mission institutions.
Meeting Objectives	The GE Council is a statutorily created entity (CRS §23-1-108.5(3)(a)) with oversight responsibilities for various statewide transfer initiatives, most prominently GT Pathways and Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreements (STAAs). GE Council typically meets monthly, to carry out different statutory responsibilities assigned by the General Assembly.

AGENDA – NOTES

I. GREETINGS & INTRODUCTIONS

1. Welcome (Brad Griffith)
2. Attendance (Christina Carrillo)

In attendance: Wayne Artis (CCCS-PPSC); Lynette Bates (CCCS-TSC); Kelsey Bennett (WCU); Brad Bowers (CCCS-PCC); Helen Caprioglio (CSUP); Mary Cousson-Read (CCCS-PPSC); Liz Cox (CSM); Meghan Davis (CCCS-CNCC); Rachelle Davis (CCCS-NJC); Maureen Durkin (CU-SYS); Stephani Etheridge-Woodson (UNC); Michael Galchinsky (CSU); Theresa Groff (CCCS-ACC); Michael Gulliksen (CCCS-FRCC); Sara Holzberlein (EGTC); Danen Jobe (CCCS); Paul Langston (CCCS-CCA); Kyle Lasley (CCCS-OC); Todd Laugen (MSU Denver); Mike Lightner (CU-SYS); Pete McCormick (FLC); Kate Montieth (CCCS); Christiane Olivo (CCCS-MCC); Katherine Olson (CSUG); Tina Parscal (CCCS); Jessica Peters (CCCS-RRCC); Kathryn Regjo (CMC); Scott Reichel (Aims); Nick Saenz (ASU); Mary Jo Stanley (CMU); Patrick Tally (CU Boulder); Susan Taylor (UCCS); Andrew Vidockler (PTC); Kaylah Zelig (CCCS-CCD); Christina Carrillo (CDHE); Carl Einhaus (CDHE); Brad Griffith (CDHE)

II. Adoption of last meeting's notes

1. [See handout: 2026-12-08-GE Council-NOTES.pdf]
Notes approved

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Announcing JB Holston, CDHE Executive Director
Brad announced that JB Holston has been appointed as the Interim Executive Director of CDHE following Dr. Angie Paccione's departure. JB brings significant experience in higher education leadership and will serve through the remainder of the Governor's term.
2. Update on proposed removal of Front Range Community College (FRCC) from the STAA in Fermentation Sciences
The Council received an update on the Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreement (STAA) in Fermentation Sciences. As discussed last month, FRCC is unable to sustain the program, and the STAA is under consideration for sunseting. Christina noted that the required email to Academic Council was delayed over winter break and will be sent this week, with discussion resuming after the 30-day comment period, likely in March.
3. Status of November and December 2025 proposed new GT Pathways courses
Brad provided a status update on GT Pathways course proposals from November and December 2025. All courses were approved to move forward to CCHE for final approval except one which fell slightly below the required threshold. Department staff will communicate with institutional representatives regarding the course that was not approved regarding next steps. No new GT Pathways courses will be reviewed in January or February; the next batch is expected in March. Members expressed appreciation for updated guidelines and resources posted on the CDHE website.

IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Discussion and affirmation to accept proposed mathematics requirement update at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS) on the STAA in Psychology AA/BA
The Council discussed a proposed update to the math requirement for the Psychology AA/BA STAA for UCCS. The change would allow College Algebra instead of Statistics, prompting concerns about equity and the importance of statistical literacy in psychology. UCCS clarified that students may still take Statistics and that the change aims to streamline degree completion. **Institutions will vote on this proposal via the January voting form.** If approved, Department staff will update the STAA and inform Council members via email.
2. Discussion and consideration of new STAA in Statistics

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Brad introduced a request from a four-year institution to explore a new Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreement (STAA) in Statistics, noting potential workforce alignment. Members provided mixed feedback. Several representatives cautioned that the first two years of a Statistics major often mirror the Mathematics STAA (three semesters of calculus, an intro Computer Science course, and — at some institutions — no lower-division statistics course that counts toward the statistics major). Others highlighted “turf” considerations — statistics and data science coursework can live in applied math, math, computer science, engineering, economics, or information science — making statewide alignment complex. CCCS representatives noted limited two-year capacity for lower-division statistics/data-science beyond the standard statistics course. Members suggested first conducting an environmental scan (which four-year institutions offer Statistics/Data Science majors; what lower-division courses are common/feasible at two-year institutions) and testing whether a Statistics pathway is materially distinct from the existing Mathematics STAA before committing to a new STAA.

Multiple members expressed stronger interest in exploring an STAA in Health Sciences, citing far broader demand and clearer workforce needs. Colorado Mountain College (CMC) offered to share a pre-health AA model (tracks such as pre-nursing, pre-rad tech, pre-dental) at the February meeting as a possible template for a flexible, transfer-ready pathway.

Members will sound out their statistics/data-science and math faculty regarding interest and feasibility and will report back in February. Department staff will pull degree program inventory and offerings (statistics, data science, analytics, decision sciences) and share back to inform whether to convene a faculty-to-faculty meeting — or pivot effort toward a Health Sciences STAA.

3. Discussion regarding institutional implementation of [General Education Foundational Skills Credential](#) framework

Brad led Council members in a robust discussion on the General Education Foundational Skills Credential. Institutions reported diverse implementation approaches for the Gen Ed credential (often re-branded as “Foundational Skills” or “Essential Skills” to resonate with employers and students):

- Certificate on transcript with local business rules (e.g., Adams State; Aims’ Board approved in December; Arapahoe Community College has it approved but not yet awarding due to staffing).
- Transcript “statement/award” (e.g., CSU Pueblo; UNC mapping the award atop the LAC in Banner, to begin after the move to Banner).

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- Digital badging solutions under consideration (e.g., Credly/Canvas Badges) where transcript notation is impractical.

Common challenges include no auto-award, heavy manual review and capacity constraints in Registrar/IR offices, and terminology (several members prefer “Foundational/Essential Skills” over “General Education Credential” for external audiences). CMC demonstrated a strategic use case for concurrent enrollment mapping — aligning high-school course menus to ensure students complete a compact, GT-aligned essential-skills core (they use a 15-credit core for stackability across AA/AS/AAS), preventing “random acts of CE” and over-accumulation in a single discipline.

CDHE will collect campus artifacts (catalog language, check-sheets, audit logic, sample transcript screenshots, badging criteria) to assemble a practical implementation handbook (options: certificate, transcript award, or digital badge), including workflows (how to identify eligible students, who verifies, when to confer) and communications (student/employer-facing language). **Members will email Brad/Christina with materials and tips;** CDHE will explore funding/automation opportunities tied to workforce-aligned short-term credentials.

4. Discussion and review of GT Pathways Handbook (Brad Griffith, CDHE)

Brad compiled an updated GT Pathways Handbook by reviewing and consolidating all existing web resources (presentations, PDFs, policy excerpts) and applying tracked updates (some resources dated back to 2016–2020). The intent is to replace scattered web artifacts with a single, living reference. Members were asked to review for accuracy, gaps, and clarity and suggest structural improvements (e.g., one-pagers). The discussion also surfaced process clarifications worth capturing in the notes because they inform the handbook:

- Voting/thresholds: Under the new process, GT courses move forward with a two-thirds approval provided a quorum is reached; December results showed one proposal narrowly missed (63.6%).
- Category changes & dating: When a course changes GT category, it should be end-dated in the old category and re-opened in the new one with a start term; institutions should apply catalog-year logic, so students keep the category that applied when they took the course.
- Upper-division exception: GT upper-division is not permitted except GT-CO3 (technical/professional writing), which may be offered at the 300-level at some institutions.

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- Syllabus exemplars & consistency: Members asked for exemplar syllabi that fully align outcomes, assignments, and rubrics, to complement the checklist and avoid confusion from older sample docs that do not show current expectations.

Members will review the draft before the February meeting and submit edits.

Department staff will incorporate feedback and once finalized, publish the consolidated handbook and retire outdated materials. **Members are also invited to share approved syllabus exemplars (with faculty consent) to add to the resource suite.**

5. Transfer initiatives updates

- Higher Education Transfer Audit
- CCHE Transfer Subcommittee

Brad informed Council members that moving forward, this item will remain as a standing agenda item. He reported that CDHE will be launching a 5-year rolling policy review cycle and will pilot the process with changes arising from the State Auditor’s Higher Education Transfer Audit through the CCHE Transfer Subcommittee. Members were encouraged to [monitor the noticed meetings](#) (next session noted as Wednesday, January 14, 10:30 a.m.) and the new CDHE [transfer-initiatives webpage](#) tracking progress under SB 24-164, HB 25-1038 (postsecondary credit transfer website), and the OSA audit recommendations. To aid institutional operations, CDHE will add a post-CCHE “approved courses” notification to GE Council and, as appropriate, Registrars/Admissions so campuses can time system updates and manage begin/end term coding when GT categories change.

Members should bookmark [CCHE policy pages](#) and the transfer-initiatives hub, be ready to comment on Policy L (Statewide Transfer and GT Pathways) and other academic affairs sections as they open, and share any campus-level policy pain points that merit inclusion in the review docket.

6. Consider action to recommend Colorado Commission on Higher Education approval of new and closed GT Pathways courses (*Note: **Bold yellow** indicates courses which may require further evaluation of alignment with proposed category.*)

- New
 - None
- Closed (Withdrawn from GTP but may still be offered at IHE)
 - None
- Closed (No longer offered at IHE)
 - GT-SC2: CHEM 100 Contemporary Chemistry (3) – Western Colorado University

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ACTION ITEMS

Issue	Action / Next Step	Assigned To & Date Assigned
Vote on Proposed Items	1. Complete January 2026 GE Council Voting Form (voting representatives only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be completed by Monday, January 19, 2026
STAA (Physics)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reach out to individual IHEs for clarification on additional required courses (Computer Science I and General College Chemistry II w/laboratory) requirement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assigned to DHE staff (Christina) To be completed in January 2025

