



COLORADO

Department of
Higher Education

1600 Broadway, Suite 2200
Denver, CO 80202

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| Meeting | General Education Council February 9, 2026 1:00 – 4:00 pm |
| Location | Virtual Only |
| Call-In Information | View Zoom Recording |
| 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); Hamilton Bean (CU Denver); Kelsey Bennett (WCU); Rachel Borum (UNC); Brad Bowers (CCCS-PCC); Helen Caprioglio (CSUP); Liz Cox (CSM); Meghan Davis (CCCS-CNCC); Rachelle Davis (CCCS-NJC); Maureen Durkin (CU-SYS); Stephani Etheridge-Woodson (UNC); Michael Galchinsky (CSU); Brian Gauck (CCCS-LCC); Theresa Groff (CCCS-ACC); Michael Gulliksen (CCCS-FRCC); Sara Holzberlein (EGTC); Danen Jobe (CCCS); Paul Langston (CCCS-CCA); 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); Shaun Schafer (MSU Denver); Jenny Sherman (CCCS-PCC); Mary Jo Stanley (CMU); Patrick Tally (CU Boulder); Susan Taylor (UCCS); Andrew Vidockler (PTC); Kaylah Zelig (CCCS-CCD); Eric Tucker (CCHE); Christina Carrillo (CDHE); Brad Griffith (CDHE)

II. Adoption of last meeting's notes

1. [See handout: 2026-01-12–GE Council-NOTES.pdf]
Notes approved

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. The Transfer Trap: How Colleges are Tackling America's Credit-Loss Crisis [webinar](#)
Brad and Christina attended a webinar last week related to transfer and encouraged members to review the recording and resources, emphasizing its relevance to current discussions in the CCHE Transfer Subcommittee around credit loss, AI-supported mobility tools, and institutional transfer practices.
2. Ad hoc committee updates
Brad provided an update on the ad hoc workgroup reviewing transfer policies for dual-mission and sending/receiving institutions. A draft with tracked changes is circulating, and more formal recommendations will ultimately flow to the CCHE Transfer Subcommittee.
3. Update to student complaint communication method
Christina informed Council members that student complaint communications from CDHE must now be sent via secure link under the new personally identifiable information (PII) policy — members should expect and respond to those secure emails. Council members were cautioned that complaint notification emails may end up in users' spam folders. Brad clarified CDHE's limited statutory authority around student complaints (except for GT Pathways complaints), emphasizing the department's advocacy role.
4. Date for potential two- and four-year Business faculty meeting
Christina reminded Council members that they had recommended two- and four-year Business faculty to be convened so that they can review AP Business Foundations and Finance course for equivalence to BUS 1015, which is a required course in the Business STAA. CDHE will convene this group this spring, likely on February 27 or March 13. Members were asked to watch for the invitation.

IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Consider action on GT Pathways requirements waiver request for Bachelor of Applied Sciences (BAS) degree in Integrated Media for Colorado Mountain College (CMC)
Brad introduced the item early in the meeting but noted that Kathryn Regjo (CMC) was not yet present. He invited initial questions from Council members; none were raised at

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that time. When Kathryn later joined the meeting, Brad returned to the waiver request and offered her the chance to provide additional context. She emphasized that CMC does not take waivers lightly and that the BAS degree builds on highly technical AAS pathways (Multi-Graphic Design, Photography, and Digital Media), which makes meeting full GT Pathways requirements difficult. She explained that the waiver supports transfer — especially for students starting at CMC who may complete elsewhere — and noted current pathway alignment work with Pikes Peak State College. No objections or concerns were voiced by Council members, and the item will proceed to the standard post-meeting vote.

2. Consider action on GT Pathways requirements waiver request for BAS degree in Technical Education at Pueblo Community College (PCC)

Brad introduced the proposal and recognized PCC’s representative, Jenny Sherman, who joined specifically to speak to the request. Jenny explained that the degree closely mirrors a similar BAS already approved for other community colleges and highlighted that PCC is partnering with Morgan Community College through the Rural College Consortium. Students will enroll at PCC but take 3000–4000-level coursework through Morgan. She noted the program is intended for students with technical backgrounds who later choose to pursue K–12 educator pathways, which is why some incoming credits are not GT Pathways.

She addressed questions about the curriculum map PCC provided and emphasized that the design aligns with past approved BAS waivers. Brad reminded the group that the item was for discussion only and that formal voting would occur within five business days. Members did not raise concerns, and Brad complimented PCC’s thoughtful program design and their innovation in educator pathways. Jenny thanked the Council and acknowledged that results would be available after the voting window closed.

3. Transfer initiatives updates

- Higher Education Transfer Audit
- CCHE Transfer Subcommittee
 - Colorado Transfer Explore Activity and [survey](#)

Brad provided updates on statewide transfer initiatives, including completion of all remaining student case resolutions from the transfer audit, implementation of CCHE’s new five-year policy review cycle, and ongoing education for the CCHE Transfer Subcommittee on GT Pathways, PLA, and STAAs. Members were invited to attend the next subcommittee meeting. He also previewed upcoming work to re-envision Colorado Transfer (the state portal), sharing a survey to gather feedback on whether the next iteration should incorporate AI tools or integrate directly with institutional systems.

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4. Review of revised Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreements (STAAs)

- Journalism

Christina provided an overview of the faculty-proposed revisions for the Journalism STAA. The discipline broadened written communication requirements to allow any CO1/CO2/CO3 combination. They retained Math for Liberal Arts (MAT 1240) as the preferred math option, while still allowing Statistics or College Algebra. No changes were proposed for Arts & Humanities, Social & Behavioral Sciences, History, or Natural & Physical Sciences. They retained the existing additional required courses (Introduction to Mass Media, Media News & Reporting, New Media), while adding flexibility for a fourth course from a small list of options. Faculty also noted that JOU 2025 (New Media) will be updated to emphasize media literacy but will retain its competencies. A prior elective restriction was removed so students may take up to 9 credits of Journalism electives, with a new footnote advising them to consult with an advisor.

- Music

Christina explained that the discipline made several targeted changes. Written communication was broadened for flexibility, similar to the other STAAs. In Arts & Humanities, faculty kept MUS 1021 (Music History I) as a required call-out and specified that the second course must be another GT-AH1 Music course, excluding Music Appreciation. This was intended to allow options such as Jazz History or World Music. Social & Behavioral Sciences, History, and Natural & Physical Sciences remained unchanged.

Music faculty revised the required music coursework by adding more private instruction options (1–2 credits each) and clarifying how those variable-credit courses apply. They expanded the recommended elective list and strengthened the advising footnote to emphasize consulting both sending and receiving institutions.

During the Council’s review, a question was asked how the variable credit (1–2 credit private lessons) impacts the 18–22 credit range and whether a footnote explains how the totals shift. Christina clarified this and reviewed an existing note stating that any non-applicable credits will transfer as electives. No objections were raised.

- Political Science

Christina reviewed proposed changes: written communication was broadened as in other STAAs; the discipline removed Macro and Microeconomics as the Social & Behavioral Science requirements and instead moved Introduction to Political

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Science up into that category along with one additional GT-SS course. This reduced the “Additional Required Courses” block from 12 credits to 9 credits. They also updated the Natural & Physical Science list to include GT-SC2, which was created after the original agreement. Electives increased from 16 to 20 credits, offering more flexibility, with footnotes clarifying that credits beyond the three required PSC courses may not count toward the major depending on the receiving institution.

Council members engaged in a brief discussion about whether the footnote should specify “three courses” since four political science courses appear in the STAA; Christina explained that faculty intentionally designated only three courses as major-applicable, because receiving institutions indicated that Intro to Political Science may not always count in the major even though it fulfills GT-SS requirements.

A suggestion was made to clarify the footnote wording to state “beyond the three elective courses,” which Christina agreed to forward to faculty. A concern was raised concerning the word “may,” asking whether it implies “will not” at certain institutions. Both Christina and other Council members explained that applicability truly varies by institution and that “may” is the statutory and accurate phrasing because lower-division major credit caps differ across campuses.

The Council reached general agreement that political science faculty's rationale was sound and that the revised STAA could move forward pending the minor footnote adjustment.

- **Theatre**

Christina provided an overview of the proposed revisions for the Theatre STAA. Written communication was broadened for consistency. The discipline designated either THE 1005 (Theatre Appreciation) or THE 2015 (Playwriting) as the required Arts & Humanities course, with the second course limited to GT-AH1 options — mirroring Music’s approach of narrowing the selection to discipline-based humanities. History, Social & Behavioral Sciences, and Natural & Physical Sciences remained unchanged.

For Required Courses, the faculty retained Acting I, Technical Theatre, Theatre Production, and Script Analysis, but adjusted the Theatre History requirement so that students complete one of two updated courses: World Theatre History I or World Theatre History II. This replaced older time-period-specific titles and

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aligned with requests from four-year institutions. Elective credits increased from 11 to 14, and the discipline strengthened the advising footnote to stress proactive advising to prevent excess credits.

There were no substantial questions or concerns from the Council, and members agreed the revision was ready to advance to the institutional approval stage.

5. Discussion of STAA revisions and alignment to campus academic calendars (see [CCEH Policy I, Part L](#), Section 5.03.14)

The Council engaged in an extended discussion about STAA revision timelines and their misalignment with institutional catalog deadlines. A handful of Council members described challenges when new STAAs or revisions are finalized in spring or summer, after catalogs are published and students have registered. Members expressed interest in shifting the statewide review cycle earlier in the academic year and requested that CDHE explore options that would avoid mid-catalog changes and reduce advising confusion. CDHE will draft potential timeline adjustments for future Council consideration.

6. Discussion of potential Health Sciences STAA

Brad invited Kathryn Regio from CMC to present on their new AA in Health Sciences as a conceptual model for a possible statewide STAA. She described how the degree provides a structured, transferable alternative to the AGS for students completing prerequisites for competitive AAS programs (e.g., nursing, dental hygiene, radiologic technology). Members expressed strong interest in exploring a statewide Health Sciences STAA, noting potential benefits for advising, completion, and transfer. CDHE asked members to share the concept with their campus colleagues to assess interest, with plans to determine next steps — including whether to convene faculty — at a future meeting.

7. 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
 - GT-SS3: PBHL 1001 Race, Gender, Class and Health (3) – University of Colorado Denver
- Closed (Withdrawn from GTP but may still be offered at IHE)
 - None
- Closed (No longer offered at IHE)
 - None

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ACTION ITEMS

| Issue | Action / Next Step | Assigned To & Date Assigned |
|------------------------|--|--|
| Vote on Proposed Items | 1. Complete February 2026 GE Council Voting Form (voting representatives only) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be completed by Monday, February 16, 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 |

