



COLORADO

Department of
Higher Education

1600 Broadway, Suite 2200
Denver, CO 80202

Meeting	General Education Council March 9, 2026 1:00 – 4:00 pm
Location	Virtual Only
Call-In Information	View meeting 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); Nick Bardo (CMU); Lynette Bates (CCCS-TSC); Kelsey Bennett (WCU); Rachel Borum (UNC); Brad Bowers (CCCS-PCC); Helen Caprioglio (CSUP); Liz Cox (CSM); Meghan Davis (CCCS-CNCC); Rachele Davis (CCCS-NJC); Maureen Durkin (CU-SYS); Kelly Emick (CCCS-LCC); Michael Galchinsky (CSU); Theresa Groff (CCCS-ACC); Michael Gulliksen (CCCS-FRCC); Karla Hardesty (CMC); Roze Hentschell (CSU-SYS); Sara Holzberlein (EGTC); Danen Jobe (CCCS); Mark Kavanaugh (CU Boulder); Paul Langston (CCCS-CCA); Kyle Lasley (CCCS-OC); Mike Lightner (CU-SYS); Kate Montieth (CCCS); Christiane Olivo (CCCS-MCC); Katherine Olson (CSUG); Tina Parscal (CCCS); Scott Reichel (Aims); Christy Richter (CCCS-RRCC); Shaun Schafer (MSU Denver); Susan Taylor (UCCS); Abe Wallin (CMU); Kaylah Zelig (CCCS-CCD); Cassanda Cordova (CDE); Eric Tucker (CCHE); Christina Carrillo (CDHE); Carl Einhaus (CDHE); Brad Griffith (CDHE)

II. Adoption of last meeting's notes

1. *[See handout: 2026-02-09–GE Council-NOTES.docx]*
Notes approved

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Review of February 2025 proposal votes
Brad presented voting participation data and noted that only 18 institutions submitted votes, a decrease from previous months. He encouraged members to share suggestions for improving clarity or accessibility of the voting process. The votes received were sufficient to meet quorum, and all items on the February proposal form were approved by CCHE at the March 6 meeting. These included GT Pathways waiver approvals for the two Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) programs (Colorado Mountain College Integrated Media Studies and Pueblo Community College Technical Education), revisions to the Journalism, Music, Political Science, and Theatre STAAs, and approval of a GT Pathways course. Members discussed the timing of votes and how institutions access the voting form. No immediate process changes were identified.
2. Two- and four-year Business faculty review of AP Business with Personal Finance:
Friday, March 13, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Brad updated the Council on the upcoming joint two- and four-year faculty review of the new AP Business with Personal Finance course, part of the Advanced Placement (AP) Career Kickstart series. College Board representatives, including course designers, will join the review meeting to answer faculty questions. The course could potentially articulate into the Business STAA (Intro to Business + Personal Finance for students scoring 4 or 5). Institutions were encouraged to ensure broad faculty participation to support informed statewide decisions.
3. Colorado Mindset Academy
Brad elaborated on the Colorado Mindset Academy opportunity for English and math faculty, funded by Strong Start to Finish and delivered by Motivate Lab (University of Virginia). Faculty may administer an IRB-approved student survey through early April, complete a 2–3 hour self-paced professional development course between March 16–31, and attend the in-person Colorado Mindset Convening on April 24 at Red Rocks Community College. CDHE has set aside \$25,000 to support faculty travel, and institutions were asked to circulate this opportunity broadly.
4. Updates on the Reduced-Credit Bachelor's degree survey
Brad thanked Colorado Community College System (CCCS) staff for inviting CDHE to present findings from the statewide survey on reduced-credit bachelor's degrees at the recent VPs meeting. He noted that the Colorado Faculty Advisory Council (CFAC) plans

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to administer a parallel faculty-focused survey. Institutions may be contacted to help distribute the survey once it is finalized.

5. **Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) statewide work**
Brad and Christina provided an update on the statewide PLA initiative led through CCCS in partnership with CAEL (Council for Adult and Experiential Learning) and RAND. CCCS was selected for a grant-supported project focused on reviewing and strengthening statewide PLA policy, with a particular emphasis on adult and continuing education. Christina represented CDHE at a convening in Santa Monica at the end of February, where she gathered insights expected to inform future statewide practices. Brad emphasized that many of the strategies emerging from this project may first be implemented at CCCS but could be scaled to four-year institutions as well. CDHE intends to ensure that promising practices are shared broadly and incorporated into GE Council and transfer policy conversations as appropriate.
6. **SHEEO (State Higher Education Executive Officer's Association) community of practice for academic advising**
Brad separately noted that CDHE was selected to participate in SHEEO's Community of Practice for Academic Advising. Through this initiative, Brad and Christina will attend national convenings with other state teams to learn how peer states organize advisor networks, structure communication channels, and deliver professional development to academic advisors. Lessons learned from this Community of Practice may inform future statewide efforts to strengthen advisor training, coordination, and support, with updates to be shared at future GE Council meetings.
7. **Updates on GE Council ad hoc committees**
Brad shared that work on the "Modernizing General Education" ad hoc committee is temporarily paused while the CCHE Transfer Subcommittee engages in related discussions that may affect the committee's direction. The dual mission institutions STAA group will reconvene via a new scheduling poll in March or early April due to key member absences in March.
8. **Colorado Transfer and exploration activity**
Brad asked GE Council members to complete an exploration activity and [survey](#) on the new [Colorado Transfer website](#) before the April meeting and to consider administering it to student-facing colleagues. CDHE may soon apply for external funding to significantly expand the platform, potentially integrating work-based learning, PLA portfolio structures, and broader credit-mobility features. Member feedback is essential to shaping this expanded vision.

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IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Proposed addition of Colorado Mesa University (CMU) to the Elementary Education STAA

Christina explained that CMU has revised its elementary education program and now aligns with the current statewide STAA. CMU seeks to formally join the existing STAA, allowing CDHE to retire the older version that CMU previously used. A 30-day comment period will open, after which the Council will return to discussion and affirmation in April or May.

2. Discussion and affirmation of proposed removal of Front Range Community College (FRCC) from the Fermentation Sciences STAA

Following the required 30-day comment period, which yielded no objections, the Council discussed affirming the removal of FRCC from the STAA due to discontinuation of its degree program. This action will effectively sunset the STAA, as FRCC was the only sending institution. The group engaged in a broader policy discussion regarding institutional autonomy to exit an STAA when discontinuing programs. Brad committed to researching historical interpretations of policy and bringing clarity back to the April meeting.

3. Institutional request: review and update [military courses and occupations](#) and [Defense Language Proficiency Test \(DLPT\)](#) tables

Christina announced the start of a statewide review of military credit articulations, last updated in 2018. Institutions will have approximately two months to review and submit updates. Brad clarified that DLPT credit recommendations come directly from ACE and that CDHE will provide guidance on locating the correct ACE entries. Institutions were encouraged to involve their registrars.

4. Transfer initiatives updates

- Higher Education Transfer Audit
- CCHE Transfer Subcommittee

Brad invited Council members who are serving on the transfer subcommittee to share their experiences participating in the subcommittee. Members reported on active and sometimes “feisty” discussions in subcommittee meetings, including proposed changes to GT Pathways policy, transcript practices (e.g., accepting “transfer of a transfer”), PLA clarity, and broader disruptions to longstanding processes. Registrars emphasized the need to understand operational layers, catalog timelines, and impacts on students. Brad noted that CDHE aims to bring preliminary GT policy revisions to GE Council in April.

Brad shared that the subcommittee is reconsidering the term “waiver,” noting its public perception issues. Members discussed alternatives such as requiring at least one GT

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course per content area for technical BAS degrees. This idea gained traction and will be revisited in April.

Members discussed the ongoing policy revision work tied to the OSA transfer audit, the Governor's Executive Order, and potential statewide restructuring of agencies. Brad explained that CCHE is developing a focused work plan spanning 2026–2027, with transfer as a priority area. A comprehensive policy revision framework will be presented to CCHE in April before subsequent work by the Transfer Subcommittee.

Members also raised concerns that statewide transfer tools do not replace institutional tools and often update at different cadences, creating mismatches. Brad acknowledged the challenge and emphasized that forthcoming potential funding may allow Colorado Transfer to evolve into a more comprehensive knowledge-and-credit-mobility platform. Further visioning will occur in April.

5. Discussion of potential Health Sciences STAA

The Council revisited last month's presentation on CMC's flexible Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Health Sciences model. Brad asked institutions to share whether they had local faculty interest in exploring a statewide Health Sciences STAA. Pikes Peak State College, Northeastern Junior College, Pueblo Community College, and MSU Denver expressed interest. CDHE will follow up with a formal next-steps communication and may convene a faculty workgroup.

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

- GT-AH4: ASL 101 American Sign Language I (3) – University of Northern Colorado
- GT-AH4: ASL 102 American Sign Language II (3) – University of Northern Colorado
- GT-AH4: SPAN 100 Introductory Spanish (3) – University of Northern Colorado
- GT-SS3: LEAD 100 Fundamentals of Leadership (3) – University of Northern Colorado
- GT-SS3: MAS 100 Corridos: Music, Identity, Cultural Expressions, and Social Narratives in the Borderlands (3) – University of Northern Colorado
- GT-SS3: PSY 100 General Psychology (3) – Colorado State University, Global Campus

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- GT-SC2: HON 186 Honors Natural and Physical Sciences (3) – University of Northern Colorado
- GT-SC2: PHYS 107 Introductory Astronomy: The Solar System, Exoplanets, and Life in the Universe (3) – Colorado Mesa University
- GT-SC2: PHYS 108 Introductory Astronomy: Stars, Galaxies, and the Universe (3) – Colorado Mesa University
- Closed (Withdrawn from GTP but may still be offered at IHE)
 - GT-HI1: HIS 280 History and Philosophy of Travel (3) – Western Colorado University
- Closed (No longer offered at IHE)
 - None

ACTION ITEMS

Issue	Action / Next Step	Assigned To & Date Assigned
Vote on Proposed Items	Complete March 2026 GE Council Voting Form (voting representatives only)	To be completed by Monday, March 16, 2026
Colorado Transfer Platform Exploration	Complete the exploration activity and survey on the Colorado Transfer website . Consider sharing the activity with student-affairs colleagues for broader feedback.	Before the April GE Council meeting on April 13
Colorado Mindset Academy	<p>Student Mindset Survey: Faculty may administer the student mindset survey (IRB-approved)</p> <p>Self-Paced Online Course: Participating faculty complete a 2-3 hour asynchronous course</p> <p>Convening: In-person convening at Red Rocks Community College</p>	<p>Survey: Originally March 2-16, but faculty may administer through early April</p> <p>Self-Paced Course: March 16-31</p> <p>Convening: April 24, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm</p>

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<p>Military and DLPT Credit Review</p>	<p>Institutions review and update their military training and occupational credit articulations</p> <p>Follow-up: DHE staff will identify the ACE DLPT entries and provide guidance</p>	<p>Credit Review: April 30</p> <p>Follow-up: within 1-2 days of meeting</p>
<p>Health Sciences STAA Exploration</p>	<p>DHE staff will send a formal follow-up message to institutions expressing interest</p>	<p>Prior to initiating faculty convening</p>
<p>STAA (Physics)</p>	<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

