



COLORADO

Department of
Higher Education

1600 Broadway, Suite 2200
Denver, CO 80202

Meeting	General Education Council May 11, 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); Lynette Bates (CCCS-TSC); Hamilton Bean (CU Denver); Kelsey Bennett (WCU); Rachel Borum (UNC); Brad Bowers (CCCS-PCC); Helen Caprioglio (CSUP); Liz Cox (CSM); Jenn Dale (CCCS-CCA); Rachelle Davis (CCCS-NJC); Maureen Durkin (CU-SYS); Michael Galchinsky (CSU); Brian Gauck (CCCS-LCC); Cheryl Gomez (CCCS-); Theresa Groff (CCCS-ACC); Michael Gulliksen (CCCS-FRCC); Roze Hentschell (CSU-SYS); Paul Hitchcock (MSU Denver); Sara Holzberlein (EGTC); Misty Hull (CCCS-CCA); Danen Jobe (CCCS); Carrie Knudson (CCCS-NJC); Paul Langston (CCCS-CCA); Kyle Lasley (CCCS-OC); Mike Lightner (CU-SYS); Fida Obeidi (CCCS-CCD); Christiane Olivo (CCCS-MCC); Katherine Olson (CSUG); Tina Parscal (CCCS); Jessica Peters (CCCS-RRCC); Kathryn Regio (CMC); Scott Reichel (Aims); Jenai Rutledge (CCCS-RRCC); Nick Saenz (ASU); Shaun Schafer (MSU Denver); Mary Jo Stanley (CMU); Nicholas Swails (CCCS-); Patrick Tally (CU Boulder); Susan Taylor (UCCS); Zachary Machani, Jr. (College Board);

Suzanne McGurk (College Board); Danielle Ongart (CDE); Michelle Romero (CDE); Eric Tucker (CCHE); Christina Carrillo (CDHE); Carl Einhaus (CDHE); Spencer Ellis (CDHE); Gillian McKnight-Tutein (CDHE)

II. Adoption of last meeting's notes

1. *[See handout: 2026-04-13–GE Council-NOTES.docx]*
Notes approved

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Review of April 2026 proposal votes

- *[See handout: 2026-04 GE Council Proposal Voting Results.xlsx]*

Staff presented a summary of the prior month's voting results in a new spreadsheet format to improve clarity and transparency moving forward. A correction was noted by UNC regarding a submission error, which was acknowledged, and staff also indicated that clarification is still needed regarding a Colorado Mesa University request related to Elementary Education. CDHE staff will follow up directly with CMU to clarify the request and ensure accurate documentation.

2. New academic forms available

- *[See handouts: Request Form for GT Pathways Waiver.docx, Request Form for Credit Cap Exception.docx]*

Christina introduced two new forms intended to standardize and streamline request processes for GT Pathways waivers and bachelor's credit hour exceptions. The GT Pathways waiver form aligns with existing policy criteria and requires curriculum documentation, while the credit hour exception form establishes a structured approach for programs exceeding 120 credits. The credit hour exception form may be adapted for reduced-credit degrees in the future. Members discussed clarity of language and future applicability, especially for reduced-credit bachelor's programs. CDHE will incorporate Council feedback, finalize both forms, and post them to the GE Council resource webpage; additionally, staff will develop or adapt a version of the form for reduced-credit bachelor's programs and follow up with leadership regarding questions about minimum GT category representation requirements.

IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. [Basic Needs Campus Designation](#), [Career-Connected Campus Designation](#), and [CO-WIL](#) updates (Dr. Gillian McKnight-Tutein, Senior Educational Impact Officer, CDHE)

Dr. G presented updates on the Higher Education Impact Framework, including changes to campus designations related to student basic needs, workforce alignment, and data-informed student success initiatives. Key updates included the launch of a tiered Basic Needs designation model, ongoing Career Connected Campus efforts, and the rollout of

1600 Broadway, Suite 2200, Denver, CO 80202

Phone 303-862-3001 • Email CDHE@dhe.state.co.us

www.highered.colorado.gov



the CO-WIL consortium focused on work-integrated learning. Institutions were reminded that the Basic Needs designation application closes May 13, after which CDHE will review submissions and convene committees. Additional work will continue on stakeholder engagement, data collection, and statutory reporting related to the CO-WIL pilot and broader framework initiatives.

2. Presentation and Q&A on Colorado Department of Education’s [The Big Three](#) initiative (Danielle Ongart, Assistant Commissioner of Student Pathways & Engagement and Michelle Romero, Director, Office of Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness, CDE) Danielle and Michelle provided an overview of Senate Bill 25-315 implementation, outlining the “Big Three” focus areas of postsecondary credit attainment, industry-recognized credentials, and work-based learning. Students will be expected to complete one of the “Big Three” beginning with the graduating class of 2029. The presentation described new funding structures (Startup, Sustain, and Innovation Funds), changes to data collection, and alignment with GT Pathways and concurrent enrollment. CDHE and CDE will continue coordinating on data sharing, including use of SURDS (Student Unit Records Data System) data, while CDE will distribute presentation materials to Council members and institutions will need to prepare for updated reporting processes and potential participation in funding opportunities.
3. Review and Discussion of GT Pathways Waiver Requests for Bachelor of Applied Sciences (BAS) in Behavioral Health: Addiction Recovery for Community College of Aurora, Community College of Denver, Pikes Peak State College, and Pueblo Community College
4. Review and Discussion of GT Pathways Waiver Requests for BAS in Behavioral Health: Mental Health and Wellness for Community College of Aurora, Community College of Denver, Pikes Peak State College, Pueblo Community College, and Red Rocks Community College

Council members reviewed multiple GT Pathways waiver requests for BAS programs in Behavioral Health across several community colleges. Discussion focused on the balance between workforce-driven applied degree design and adherence to GT Pathways requirements. Concerns were raised about transfer implications, competency coverage, and consistency across programs. Members emphasized the importance of clear policy guidance and transparent communication to students, particularly regarding transfer limitations. Council members are expected to review the proposals and submit votes by the extended deadline of Wednesday, May 20. Department staff will continue policy development on transfer applicability for AAS and BAS pathways. Institutions are expected to strengthen advising and develop formal, documented disclosure processes — embedded in program materials — to clearly communicate transfer limitations to

1600 Broadway, Suite 2200, Denver, CO 80202

Phone 303-862-3001 • Email CDHE@dhe.state.co.us

www.highered.colorado.gov



students, and the Council will continue broader discussions on refining expectations such as category distribution and competency alignment in future meetings.

5. Proposed Removal of Red Rocks Community College (RRCC) from the STAA in Geology
RRCC requested removal from the Geology STAA due to low enrollment and limited student demand for the full degree pathway, while intending to continue offering some geology coursework and shift toward a more flexible environmental studies approach. Council discussion highlighted broader concerns about the structure and future relevance of the Geology STAA and raised the possibility of alternative pathways, including environmental studies or differentiated AA/AS tracks. CDHE will initiate a 30-day comment period with Academic Council to gather faculty input once the voting period closes, after which the item will be returned to GE Council for further review and action. Department staff will also explore statewide interest in environmental studies or related articulation pathways.

6. Transfer initiatives updates

- Higher Education Transfer Audit
- CCHE Transfer Subcommittee

Carl provided an update on work responding to the statewide transfer audit, noting that efforts are resuming through the Transfer Subcommittee to address policy gaps and improve clarity around credit portability and applicability. With a deadline of October 1, and Commission approval required by September, the timeline for developing and approving policy revisions is compressed. Department staff will continue drafting policy updates, engage GE Council for input, and develop plans to address key issues such as credit hour discrepancies across disciplines, even if not fully resolved prior to the audit deadline.

7. Review of AP Business and Personal Finance

Christina informed Council members that limited institutional responses have been received regarding course equivalencies and credit awards following earlier faculty discussions on AP Business and Personal Finance. To move forward with communication to the College Board, CDHE will redistribute the data collection form, verify that it reached the appropriate faculty, and provide meeting attendance information as needed. Institutions are requested to submit their equivalency and credit award decisions promptly.

8. Open Discussion

Christina invited Council members to suggest topics for future meetings or to share comments on issues of interest. Members discussed the status of the statewide [Foundational Skills Credential](#), noting uneven implementation across institutions due to

1600 Broadway, Suite 2200, Denver, CO 80202

Phone 303-862-3001 • Email CDHE@dhe.state.co.us

www.highered.colorado.gov



differences in staffing capacity and operational readiness. Some institutions have begun or will soon begin awarding the credential, while others remain in planning stages. CDHE will bring this topic back at a future meeting to assess statewide adoption, identify barriers to implementation, and consider potential strategies to support consistency and scalability.

Council members additionally raised concerns about perceived differences in rigor between concurrent enrollment courses taught on high school campuses and those taught on college campuses, while acknowledging that current understanding is largely anecdotal. Members agreed that future discussion should be grounded in data rather than isolated reports. CDHE will follow up on earlier requests for institutional feedback on concurrent enrollment quality and return the topic to a future agenda with a more structured, data-informed approach to support meaningful policy discussion.

9. 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.*)

Council members reviewed proposed new GT Pathways courses and the removal of courses from the designation. Discussion focused on expectations for course frequency, with members noting that GT Pathways courses should be offered regularly enough to allow timely student completion, though the exact policy language was unclear. CDHE will review state policy or statute to confirm requirements related to course offering frequency and report findings back to the Council for clarification and consistent application moving forward.

- New
 - GT-AH4: CHI 1011 Chinese Language I (5) – Colorado Community College System
 - GT-AH4: CHI 1012 Chinese Language II (5) – Colorado Community College System
 - GT-CO2: SCI 291 Scientific Writing (3) – University of Northern Colorado
 - GT-SS1: PSC 2000 Public Policy (3) – Colorado Community College System
- Closed (Withdrawn from GTP but may still be offered at IHE)
 - GT-HI1: HIST 250 History of the Middle East (3) – Western Colorado University
 - GT-HI1: HIST 254 History of Africa (3) – Western Colorado University
 - GT-HI1: HIST 260 History of Latin America (3) – Western Colorado University
- Closed (No longer offered at IHE)
 - GT-AH1: ART 181 Ancient Art History (3) – University of Northern Colorado

1600 Broadway, Suite 2200, Denver, CO 80202

Phone 303-862-3001 • Email CDHE@dhe.state.co.us

www.highered.colorado.gov



- GT-AH1: ART 182 Medieval to Rococo Art History (3) – University of Northern Colorado
- GT-AH1: ART 185 Neoclassic to Modern Art History (3) – University of Northern Colorado
- GT-AH1: THE 2111 Development of Theatre: Greek to Renaissance (3) – Colorado Community College System
- GT-AH1: THE 2112 Development of Theatre: Restoration to Modern (3) – Colorado Community College System
- GT-CO2: ENG 225 Research Writing for Contemporary Culture (3) – University of Northern Colorado
- GT-SC1: SES 220 Anatomical Kinesiology (4) – University of Northern Colorado

ACTION ITEMS

Issue	Action / Next Step	Assigned To & Date Assigned
Vote on Proposed Items	Complete May 2026 GE Council Voting Form (voting representatives only)	To be completed by Wednesday, May 20, 2026

