



COLORADO

Department of
Higher Education

1600 Broadway, Suite 2200

Denver, CO 80202

Meeting	General Education Council July 13, 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: Richard Allen (CU Denver); Wayne Artis (CCCS-PPSC); Lynette Bates (CCCS-TSC); Kelsey Bennett (WCU); Brad Bowers (CCCS-PCC); Helen Caprioglio (CSUP); Liz Cox (CSM); Rachelle Davis (CCCS-NJC); Maureen Durkin (CU-SYS); Kelly Emick (CCCS-LCC); Stephani Etheridge-Woodson (UNC); Michael Galchinsky (CSU); Theresa Groff (CCCS-ACC); Karla Hardesty (CMC); Roze Hentschell (CSU-SYS); Larry Irvin (PTC); Danen Jobe (CCCS); Paul Langston (CCCS-CCA); Kyle Lasley (CCCS-OC); Mike Lightner (CU-SYS); Kate Monteith (CCCS); Ashley Nels (CCCS-FRCC); Christiane Olivo (CCCS-MCC); Katherine Olson (CSUG); Tina Parscal (CCCS); Jessica Peters (CCCS-RRCC); Scott Reichel (Aims); Nick Saenz (ASU); Shaun Schafer (MSU Denver); Mary Jo Stanley (CMU); Nicholas Swails (CCCS-CNCC); Patrick Tally (CU Boulder); Susan Taylor (UCCS); Linda Van Doren (EGTC); Kaylah Zelig (CCCS-CCD); Christina Carrillo (CDHE); Spencer Ellis (CDHE); Brad Griffith (CDHE)

II. Adoption of last meeting's notes

1. *[See handout: 2026-06-08–GE Council-DRAFT NOTES.docx]*
Notes approved

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Review of June 2026 proposal votes
Brad reported that the two GT Pathways course proposals considered during the previous cycle were approved by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) at its July retreat and will be added to the GT Pathways database once technical issues are resolved. The Council also reviewed responses from a survey regarding implementation of the General Education Foundational Skills Credential. Adams State University, Otero College, and Colorado Mountain College reported active implementation and credential conferrals, while several institutions indicated they are exploring future implementation. Members discussed benefits of the credential, including increased recognition of GT Pathways coursework for students, families, employers, and concurrent enrollment populations. Participants noted implementation challenges related to degree audit systems and institutional capacity. CDHE will continue collecting information on implementation status, explore the development of supporting resources, and may engage the Registrar's Council regarding system-level approaches for credential conferral and degree auditing.

IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Reduced-Credit Bachelor's Degree faculty survey results
Brad presented findings from a statewide faculty survey conducted in partnership with the Colorado Faculty Advisory Council (CFAC) regarding reduced-credit bachelor's degrees. The survey received 686 responses and showed substantial faculty opposition to reducing the traditional 120-credit bachelor's degree standard. Faculty emphasized preserving degree rigor, learning outcomes, general education requirements, transferability, licensure alignment, and workforce recognition. While most respondents opposed broad implementation, some expressed willingness to consider tightly controlled pilot programs with strong safeguards and reporting requirements. Council members discussed potential naming conventions, implementation parameters, affordability considerations, and the need to balance workforce demands with educational quality. Members also highlighted the importance of developing clear definitions, reporting metrics, transfer protections, and communication strategies if the state ultimately pursues legislation authorizing reduced-credit bachelor's degree options. CDHE will continue stakeholder engagement and keep advisory councils informed as discussions evolve.

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2. Review of STAA student usage data

Christina presented preliminary findings from the Statewide Transfer Degrees with Designation (DwD) Outcomes Analysis covering academic years 2015-2024. The data show substantial growth in participation, with transfer degree completions increasing from approximately 733 students in 2015 to over 1,700 students by 2023. Students completing transfer-designated degrees consistently demonstrated higher transfer rates, higher bachelor's degree attainment rates, stronger alignment with their intended fields of study, and lower excess credit accumulation than students completing traditional AA or AS degrees. The report found no evidence that growth in participation has diminished the effectiveness of the transfer pathways. Council members noted that teacher licensure students and engineering students often follow alternative transfer pathways not fully reflected in the analysis. CDHE staff requested Council review of the report and invited additional feedback, recommendations, and suggested data enhancements before the report is finalized and shared more broadly.

3. Discussion of STAA course modification requests and institutional processes

Council members revisited ongoing discussion regarding institutional processes for evaluating course substitutions and modifications within DwDs. Members did not offer additional examples beyond those previously discussed; however, Brad encouraged members to review upcoming transfer policy revisions with this issue in mind. Particular attention was requested on how institutions can reduce barriers for transfer students while ensuring receiving institutions have confidence that substitutions were appropriately evaluated and documented. Council members were asked to identify potential policy improvements, templates, or standardized procedures that could support more consistent statewide practices.

4. Discussion of annual statutory requirements for [C.R.S. 23-1-108.5](#)

Brad reviewed the Council's statutory responsibility to annually evaluate GT Pathways courses and provide recommendations to CCHE regarding enrollment patterns, transfer activity, application of transfer credits, and credit-hour differentials. Discussion focused on challenges associated with interpreting statutory reporting requirements and identifying meaningful analyses that can support policy recommendations. Members discussed limitations of current data collection methods, distinctions between GT Pathways categories and course equivalencies, and difficulties related to measuring application of transfer credits toward degree programs. The Council agreed that while the existing reporting process will largely follow last year's methodology due to timing constraints, future improvements to statewide data systems may allow for more meaningful analysis and reporting. CDHE will distribute preliminary reports and relevant data prior to the next meeting for Council review and discussion.

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5. Transfer initiatives updates

- Higher Education Transfer Audit
- CCHE Transfer Subcommittee
- Review [proposed revisions for CCHE Policy I, Part L: Statewide Transfer and GT Pathways](#)

Brad provided an update on the CCHE Transfer Subcommittee's work to implement recommendations from the statewide transfer audit before the October 1 deadline. Members reviewed a comprehensive draft of proposed revisions to the Statewide Transfer and GT Pathways policy. Key proposed changes include clarification of transferability requirements for GT Pathways credit and STAAs/DwDs, treatment of military learning credits, transfer evaluation portability, acceptance of transfer credits without requiring underlying documentation in specified circumstances, GT Pathways applicability to certain associate degrees, and improved communication expectations regarding transcript collection and transfer evaluations. Additional revisions address dual-mission institutions, Emily Griffith Technical College associate degrees, and updates to the transfer complaint process created by Senate Bill 24-164. Transfer Subcommittee members emphasized the operational and compliance implications of these changes and encouraged thorough review by Council members. Public comment opportunities will be available, and Council members were invited to provide direct feedback to CDHE staff and through future surveys.

6. Discussion of potential Faculty-to-Faculty conference for AY26-27

Christina discussed efforts to revive Faculty-to-Faculty Conferences during the 2026-27 academic year. Because conference funding remains uncertain, CDHE is seeking institutions willing to host events and provide meeting space and basic logistical support. Potential conference themes discussed included artificial intelligence in teaching and learning, examination of GT Pathways credit-hour differentials, transfer-related collaboration among registrars, advisors, admissions staff, and faculty, and discussions within health sciences and pre-health disciplines. Members were encouraged to indicate their institution's willingness and ability to host through the monthly proposal form and to contact CDHE staff with questions.

7. [Postsecondary Talent Development System Transition Advisory Committee \(TAC\)](#) updates

Brad informed the Council that the CCHE Transfer Subcommittee plans to dedicate its final meeting on September 22 to developing recommendations and key messages for the TAC. Discussion focused on ensuring that transfer, credit mobility, and workforce-to-higher-education pathways are represented in the TAC's ongoing work.

8. Member updates and open discussion

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Council members suggested establishing a standing "transfer share-outs" agenda item to provide a consistent venue for discussion of transfer successes, concerns, and emerging issues. Members also discussed highlights from the recent CCHE retreat. Michael Lightner reported discussions led by Governor Polis regarding potential long-term institutional consolidation driven by demographic and enrollment trends, as well as interest in statewide collaboration around AI-related technology procurement. Wayne Artis also highlighted presentations regarding the CSU Fort Collins and Front Range Community College Ram Transfer Academy and expressed interest in exploring expansion of similar models with additional institutions. Council members agreed that these developments warrant continued observation and discussion in future meetings.

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.*)
 - New
 - GT-AH2: MAS 260 Corridos: Music, Identity, Cultural Expressions, and Social Narratives in the Borderlands (3) – University of Northern Colorado
 - GT-HI1: ANTH 251/HIST 261 Ancient Sex, Drugs, & Rock 'n' Roll (3) – Colorado State University
 - GT-HI1: HIST 211/ETST 211 Critical Climate Histories (3) – Colorado State University
 - GT-SC2: ANTH 273 Humans & Extinctions (3) – Colorado State University
 - GT-SS1: ECON 241 Economics to Combat Climate Change (3) – Colorado State University
 - GT-SS3: ETST 257 Understanding Antisemitism (3) - Colorado State University
 - GT-SS3: WS 268 Whiteness, Gender, and Sexuality (3) – Colorado State University
 - GT-SS3: WS 269 Women of Color in the U.S. (3) – Colorado State University
 - Closed (Withdrawn from GTP but may still be offered at IHE)
 - None
 - Closed (No longer offered at IHE)
 - None

ACTION ITEMS

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

