



COLORADO

Department of
Higher Education

1600 Broadway, Suite 2200
Denver, CO 80202

Meeting	General Education Council September 14, 2026 1:00 – 4:00 pm
Location	Virtual Only
Meeting Recording Link	View Meeting Recording Passcode: %P9pgb0+
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

I. GREETINGS & INTRODUCTIONS

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

II. Adoption of last meeting's notes

1. *[See handout: 2026-08-10–GE Council-DRAFT NOTES.docx] –
The August 10, 2026 meeting notes were presented for review. No corrections were offered by members and the notes were approved as presented.*

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Review of August 2026 proposal votes
Brad Griffith reviewed the results of the August proposal voting period. Approved items included the removal of Arapahoe Community College from the Geography and

Geology STAAs, the removal of Community College of Aurora from the Spanish STAA, and the removal of Adams State University from the Early Childhood Education STAA. A GT Pathways waiver for a BAS in Healthcare Administration was approved by CCHE, along with several new GT Pathways course additions. Members also discussed feedback received regarding the placement of Permaculture Design courses in the SS2 category, and those comments were shared with CCHE during its review process.

(Item added to agenda during meeting) Elementary Education STAA Update

Brad Griffith announced a non-substantive change to the Elementary Education Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreement. Colorado Mesa University agreed to transition from its separate elementary education agreement and participate under the regular statewide Elementary Education STAA framework.

Colorado Mesa University representatives expressed support for the change and indicated it will better serve students. The institution has also provided elective guidance that will be posted with other transfer degree resources. No concerns were raised by Council members.

2. Student Complaints webpage update

Christina Carrillo provided an update on the development of a new CDHE Student Complaint Process webpage intended to better direct students to institutional complaint procedures before seeking assistance from the Department. Members were asked to review institutional complaint links previously distributed by CDHE and provide corrections as needed. Discussion focused on public access to complaint forms, requirements associated with NC-SARA participation, and the forthcoming implementation of the GT Pathways appeals process required by Senate Bill 24-164. CDHE staff anticipate restoring the online student complaint database and implementing transfer appeal rules by January 1, 2027.

3. [Creation, Modification and Discontinuance of Academic and Vocational Degree and Certificate Programs](#) webpage update

Christina Carrillo reviewed updates to the academic program approval webpage, including new resources and forms for GT Pathways waiver requests and credit-hour exception requests for programs exceeding statutory credit limits. Members were encouraged to utilize the new resources and continue sharing suggestions for process improvements.

4. Combined GE Council and Academic Council Meetings for October and November

Brad Griffith informed members that the October and November GE Council meetings will be combined with Academic Council meetings. Academic Council agenda items will be scheduled at the beginning of the meetings to accommodate guest participation.

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Members were encouraged to suggest topics for discussion, including reduced-credit bachelor's degrees and other transfer-related issues. Brad Griffith and Carl Einhaus noted they will be unavailable for the October meeting, which will be facilitated by Christina Carrillo

IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. GT Pathways Waiver Request for BAS Echocardiography from Red Rocks Community College
Kate Monteith presented a GT Pathways waiver request for the Bachelor of Applied Science in Echocardiography at Red Rocks Community College. The program was described as highly technical and similar to previously approved sonography BAS degrees, with general education outcomes integrated into upper-division technical coursework. No concerns or questions were raised by members.
2. Proposed Removal of Aims Community College from the Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreement (STAA) in French
Scott Reichel explained that Aims Community College is seeking removal from the French Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreement due to low enrollment in upper-level French courses. While the institution will continue offering French coursework and related opportunities, enrollment levels no longer support maintenance of the full transfer pathway. Members expressed appreciation for the institution's continued commitment to language instruction and raised no objections.
3. Use of the term “Emphases” for Degrees with Designation (DwD)
The Council continued its discussion regarding Colorado Mountain College's use of emphases within Degrees with Designation. Kathryn Regjo expressed concerns that the term “Degree with Designation” is confusing to students and external audiences, while emphasizing that CMC values its current model for assessment and program management purposes. Members discussed student understanding, transcript notation requirements, and transfer evaluation practices. Several participants agreed that the current terminology may not clearly communicate the purpose of statewide transfer degrees and suggested that alternative branding or future statutory changes may warrant consideration. No action was taken
4. Finalize draft reports
 - Colorado Statewide Transfer Degrees Report AY2015-2024
Brad Griffith reviewed updates to the Colorado Statewide Transfer Degrees Report and the GT Pathways Credit Hour Differential Analysis. Revisions were made to better explain methodology and data limitations. Members were asked to submit final

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comments by the end of the week so the reports can be finalized and presented to CCHE in October. Discussion also highlighted several possible recommendations related to GT Pathways credit-hour differentials, including faculty reviews of selected categories, improved student information resources, and enhanced data collection efforts.

- GT Pathways Credit Hour Differential Analysis

5. Ongoing discussion of GE Council reporting for [C.R.S. 23-1-108.5](#)
Members reviewed recommendations that will be included in the Council's annual reporting to CCHE regarding GT Pathways and transfer initiatives. Discussion focused on potential recommendations to improve analysis of credit-hour differentials, add GT Pathways indicators to statewide data collections, and support future faculty conversations regarding course structures and transfer practices. Members will provide their perspectives through the September voting form.

6. Transfer initiatives updates

- Higher Education Transfer Audit
- CCHE Transfer Subcommittee
- Policy revision update and next steps

Brad Griffith reported that implementation of the Higher Education Transfer Audit recommendations remains on schedule for completion by October 2026. Student cases identified through the audit have been resolved, institutions are updating military PLA credit tables, and policy revisions have completed public review. The CCHE Transfer Subcommittee has one meeting remaining and is expected to conclude its work this fall. Revised statewide transfer and prior learning assessment policies were presented to CCHE as discussion items and are anticipated to return for final approval at the October 23 meeting. CDHE also continues to develop GT Pathways appeals rules, with implementation targeted for January 1, 2027. Members thanked CDHE staff for incorporating stakeholder feedback into the final policy drafts.

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

Brad Griffith provided an update on the Postsecondary Talent Development System Transition Advisory Committee. Recent discussions have focused on potential governance structures to align higher education and workforce development. The committee is currently evaluating options ranging from a coordinating statewide board to a fully consolidated commission model. Members were reminded that the committee's role is advisory and that any structural changes would require future

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legislative action. The committee is expected to complete its work and submit recommendations later this fall.

8. Institutional transfer share-outs (issues, opportunities, questions)
Members shared brief institutional updates and observations. Theresa Groff reported that no significant transfer issues had arisen and that annual reporting work was nearing completion. Discussion highlighted the critical role of academic advising in promoting successful transfer outcomes. Several members noted that advisors often have unique insight into how students experience transfer pathways and suggested strengthening advisor participation in future transfer discussions and STAA reviews. Members agreed that student-facing communication and advising remain essential components of transfer success.
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
 - None
 - Closed (Withdrawn from GTP but may still be offered at IHE)
 - None
 - Closed (No longer offered at IHE)
 - None

No new, modified, or closed GT Pathways courses were presented for consideration during this meeting. Members were reminded to complete the September voting form and submit any remaining comments on draft reports and recommendations.

ACTION ITEMS

Issue	Action / Next Step	Assigned To & Date Assigned
Vote on Proposed Items	Complete September 2026 GE Council Voting Form (voting representatives only)	To be completed by Friday, September 25, 2026 (extended from 9/21 original date)

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