Intrastate and Interstate Transfer Pathways: Colorado Style
STATE LEVEL GOALS

Colorado uses transfer policies to support higher education goals.

- **Reduce Attainment Gap**: Significant difference in 2-yr and 4-yr degree attainment between minority and non-minority students.

- **Provide Seamless Credit Transfer**: Focus on 2-yr to 4-yr intrastate transfer, but 4-yr to 4-yr also included.

- **Reduce Time to Graduation**: Enhanced student persistence. Reduced cost to State.

- **Promote Student Success**: Alignment with academic, career and workforce success goals included in P-20 initiatives.
COLORADO TRANSFER MILESTONES

1987  First 2-yr to 4-yr agreement for general education course transfer
      Faculty-to-Faculty Conferences initiated.

1991  Community College Common Course Descriptor project

2001  King Bill (Student Bill of Rights) and Berry Bill (General Education)
      General Education Council created.
      gtPathways program initiated for general education course transfer.

2008  Transfer Guides for specific majors at designated baccalaureate institutions

2010  Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreements (STAAAs)
      Degrees with Designation (DwDs) for community college students initiated.

2012  Reverse Transfer – move 4-yr credits to 2-yr school for AA/AS degree completion

2013  State Remediation Policy – English and mathematics for entering freshmen
      2014 Supplemental Academic Instruction

2015+ Policies and Procedures under discussion:
      Prior Learning Assessment – AB, IB, CLEP, DSST, challenge exam, portfolio
      gtPathways updated content and competency learning objectives
      Colorado Mathematics Pathways – initiative to lower reliance on college algebra
      Remediation Policy and Course Placement
The foundation of the Colorado transfer policies is the gt-Pathways program of guaranteed transfer/application of general education credit between public institutions.

- minimum 31-hr general education program
- gen ed core for all AA/AS degrees and several BA/BS degrees
- 8 knowledge areas – liberal education distribution model
- 1300 faculty-reviewed courses maintained by CDHE.
- guaranteed to transfer/apply to lower division general education at receiving institution (some restrictions)
- oversight provided by GE Council of 2-yr and 4-yr representatives
- updating content and competency learning objectives to better align with AAC&U Essential Learning Outcomes

http://highered.colorado.gov/academics/transfers/gtPathways/curriculum.html
**Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreements** – completion of first two years of BA/BS at community college with transfer to any baccalaureate program (institution independent) offering the major
- 32 baccalaureate majors and CC degrees with designation
- minimum 60 hours transferred and junior standing
- lower division general education completed at receiving institution
- courses applied to major, typically 12-15 hours
- successful completion does not guarantee admission to 4-yr institution
- change of major reduces guarantees

**Transfer Guides** – similar to STAA, but baccalaureate institution specific
- only for major content areas not covered by STAAs
- may include tracks/options within degree
- RN to BSN

**Advising Guides** – transfer encouraged prior to AA/AS degree completion
- pre-engineering students
COLORADO INTERSTATE TRANSFER

Most Colorado transfer policies are the result of legislation and resulting Colorado Commission on Higher Education policies; therefore, policies only technically apply to intrastate transfers.

- Updating (in progress) gtPathways content and competency learning objectives designed to align with WICHE Interstate Passport learning outcomes.
  - Aims CC and University of Northern Colorado participating in Passport mapping.
  - Colorado plans to become a Passport state.
- Application of Colorado transfer policies to non-Colorado transfer credit – application of ‘fairness’ principles to all transfer students.
- Institution-specific programs
  - recruiting of students from non-Colorado community colleges
  - virtual campus tours
  - on-line orientation, advising and registration
  - Transfer Center – staff and advisors dedicated to non-Colorado transfer students
EVALUATION OF COLORADO TRANSFER

❖ Widespread adoption and acceptance of gtPathways program.
  ✦ CC students look for gtPathways designated courses for degree planning and advising
  ✦ Increasing misperception that only gtPathways courses are transferrable
  ✦ Institutions seeking gtPathways designation for courses outside general education

❖ STAAs being used by CC students and advisors.
  ✦ DwDs help CC recruit students, especially non-Colorado students
  ✦ Increased emphasis in completing AA/AS degree to attain STAA guarantees
  ✦ Small, but increasing, number of CC students greatly exceeding 60-hr transfer goal

❖ Lack of assessment of Colorado transfer policies.
  ✦ Good anecdotal information from CC advisors
  ✦ Fewer student complaints to CDHE from transfer students
  ✦ Disappointing early STAA enrollment, but too soon to evaluate effectiveness

❖ Improved 2-yr and 4-yr institution communication.
  ✦ Continued use of Faculty-to-Faculty Conferences
  ✦ GE Council and faculty involvement with STAA approval process

❖ Perception that State, not institution faculty, control gen ed curriculum.
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