



COLORADO

Department of
Higher Education

1600 Broadway, Suite 2200
Denver, CO 80202

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| Meeting | Academic Council October 14, 2025 1:00 – 3:00 pm |
| Location | Remote ONLY |
| Call-In Information | Join Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 868 9225 8732 Passcode: 903037 |
| Meeting Participants | Provosts and Chief Academic Officers (CAOs) of the public institutions of higher education |
| Meeting Objectives | Members advise the Department on policy development and implementation, as well as other matters affecting higher education. |

AGENDA -- NOTES

1. Greetings and Introductions

In attendance: Helen Caprioglio (CSUP); Deborah Coates (CCCS-MCC); Margaret Doell (ASU); Kirsty Fleming (UNC); Karla Hardesty (CMC); Roze Hentschell (CSU-SYS); Andy Herring (CSM); Mark Kavanaugh (CU Boulder); Mike Lightner (CU-SYS); Matt Makley (MSU Denver); Kimberly Miloch (CSU); Beth Myers (CU Denver); Dave Oehler (Aims); Katherine Olson (CSUG); Tina Parscal (CCCS); Susan Taylor (UCCS); Linda Van Doren (EGTC); Rebecca Woulfe (CCCS-FRCC); Jess Young (WCU); Anna Deese (Gov's Office); Christina Carrillo (CDHE); Liliana Diaz Solodukhin (CDHE); Carl Einhaus (CDHE); Brad Griffith (CDHE)

2. Approval of September Meeting Notes

[see handout: 2025-09-09 NOTES-AC.pdf]

Notes approved

3. Announcements and Discussion Items

a. Updates from CCHE Advisor Michael Lightner

Dr. Lightner provided Council members with an overview of the CCHE Student Success & Workforce Alignment (SS&WA) Standing Committee meeting that occurred on Tuesday, October 7 – a key development is the reconstitution of an ad hoc committee on

transfer, prompted by the recent state auditor's report that will be released next week (see agenda item b) and ongoing work related to Senate Bill 24-164. The committee will include representatives such as registrars, academic advisors, and other institutional leaders. The committee is currently gathering recommendations for participants and aims to finalize the committee structure by November.

Additionally, SS&WA committee members received a reminder about the statutory requirement to mark courses using OER, as outlined in HB18-1331. Most institutions are complying, and the OER Council continues to support implementation. The meeting also previewed the upcoming public release of minimum value threshold (MVT) data, which will be presented at the October 16 CCHE meeting. The data includes high-level summaries of program value by credential level and student outcomes. Chair Walmer expressed support for institutions receiving full access to their data, which may lead to increased transparency in future reporting.

Carl announced the creation of a new leadership role at CDHE: Deputy Chief for Student Success and Academic Affairs. Dr. Cynthia Armendariz, formerly leading the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI), has been appointed to this position to streamline and manage student success programs across the department.

b. [Legislative Audit Committee Hearing](#) on Higher Education Transfer Credit System:
Monday, October 20, 9:00 am

Carl informed Council members that the Legislative Audit Committee (LAC) hearing is scheduled for Monday morning at 9:00 am. This hearing will present the final recommendations from the Office of the State Auditor following the comprehensive transfer audit conducted over the past several months. Carl expressed deep appreciation to all institutions and staff who contributed to the audit process, acknowledging the significant effort required to provide the requested data and documentation.

While the specific recommendations remain confidential until the hearing, Carl noted that once the hearing concludes, the Department will issue a public communication summarizing the results. These recommendations will then guide future actions by both the Department and CCHE.

The Council was assured that once the recommendations are released, Department staff will engage in deeper discussions with various stakeholder groups, including the Academic Council, to determine how best to implement the findings and improve transfer processes across the state.

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c. Update on Math Pathways

Brad provided a comprehensive update on Colorado’s renewed commitment to the Dana Center’s Launch Year Initiative, commonly referred to as Math Pathways. A tri-agency letter of support was signed by leaders from CDHE, CCCS, and CDE, signaling unified commitment across K–12 and higher education. The initiative includes updates to K–12 math standards and efforts to expand pathways such as data science. The Council discussed revising CCHE admission standards to reduce reliance on Algebra II and better reflect diverse math pathways. Colorado continues to be recognized nationally for its leadership in math reform. Brad also introduced a potential partnership with Motivate Lab to provide mindset training for gateway course instructors, aimed at improving student success in math and English.

d. Review draft rules authorized by SB24-164

Brad walked members through the draft rules, which outline institutional responsibilities, enforcement procedures, and a new student appeals process. Institutions must submit GT Pathways course data, maintain compliance documentation, and participate in GE Council. Students will be able to appeal transfer credit denials to CDHE after exhausting institutional processes. The rules also detail informal and formal resolution pathways, including potential escalation to administrative law judges and Denver District Court. Council members provided feedback on clarity, panel composition, and alignment with existing articulation agreements. The rules are under review by the Attorney General’s office and are expected to be finalized and implemented in early 2026.

4. New, modified, and closed programs

a. New

- Colorado State University – Global Campus
 - Undergraduate Certificate in Paralegal Studies
 - Undergraduate Certificate in Paralegal Studies with Leadership Fundamentals
- University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
 - Master of Science in Midwifery
- University of Colorado Boulder
 - Master of Science in Biological Engineering

b. Modified

- None

c. Closed Programs

- None

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ACTION ITEMS

| Issue | Action / Next Step | Assigned To & Date Assigned |
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