



COLORADO

Department of
Higher Education

1600 Broadway, Suite 2200
Denver, CO 80202

Meeting	Academic Council December 9, 2025 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Location	Remote ONLY
Call-In Information	Join Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 897 3400 4119 Passcode: 035668
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); Jerid Counterman (CSUG); Kirsty Fleming (UNC); Cher Hendricks (CMU); Roze Hentschell (CSU-SYS); Andy Herring (CSM); Amanda Hill (ASU); Mark Kavanaugh (CU Boulder); Mike Lightner (CU-SYS); Matt Makley (MSU Denver); Karen Marrongelle (CU Denver); Kimberly Miloch (CSU); Dave Oehler (Aims); Tina Parscal (CCCS); Kathryn Regjo (CMC); Susan Taylor (UCCS); Linda Van Doren (EGTC); Rebecca Woulfe (CCCS-FRCC); Christina Carrillo (CDHE); Liliana Diaz Soloduhkin (CDHE); Carl Einhaus (CDHE); Brad Griffith (CDHE); Dani Lindo (CDHE); Jason Masino (CDHE)

2. Approval of October Meeting Notes

[see handout: 2025-10-14 NOTES-AC.pdf]

Notes approved

3. Announcements and Discussion Items

- a. Proposed meeting schedule for 2026

Date	Date
January 13	July 14
February 10	August 11
March 10	September 8
April 14	October 13
May 12	November 10
June 9	December 8

Carl reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for 2026. He encouraged Council members to report any conflicts. Christina noted that she will send out calendar invites later this week.

b. Updates from CCHE Advisor Michael Lightner

Dr. Lightner provided updates from the CCHE meeting that was held on December 4. Key points included a learning session on the Work-Based Learning Consortium tied to HB25-1186, and an announcement that Executive Director Dr. Angie Paccione will step down in early January. The Governor's office is expected to appoint an interim director soon, as this is a cabinet-level position. CCHE also discussed the new process for GT Pathways course approvals: GE Council will now vote to recommend courses to CCHE, which will make final decisions. Brad clarified that GE Council voting requires a quorum of 16 institutions and a two-thirds (66.7%) majority for recommendations to be moved forward to CCHE for final approval. Commissioners emphasized that GE Council does not approve courses but recommends them for CCHE action. Other CCHE updates included upcoming Talent Pipeline Report release (December 16), OER grant approvals, and continued discussion of transfer initiatives under SB24-164.

c. Discussion on reduced credit bachelor's degrees (Brad Griffith)

- Refer to 120 credit-hour minimum: [C.R.S. 23-1-125\(2\) Degree requirements](#)
- Refer to HLC's [Evaluating Reduced-Credit Bachelor's Degree Programs](#)

Brad led an in-depth discussion on reduced-credit bachelor's degrees, referencing Colorado's statutory 120-credit minimum and recent Higher Learning Commission (HLC) guidance allowing flexibility. He shared that few institutions nationally have pursued this option and outlined potential pathways for Colorado, including statutory changes or creation of a new degree type. Brad introduced a draft survey to gauge institutional interest, concerns, and expectations for guardrails. Members raised significant points: historical faculty opposition to labeling reduced-credit programs as "bachelor's degrees," implications for graduate school preparation, and risks to general education requirements. Additionally, members highlighted the need to consider high-credit associate degrees and prerequisites, suggesting a broader conversation about degree structures. Others stressed balancing innovation with quality and exploring opportunities such as eliminating free electives or rethinking field experience credits.

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The Council suggested extending the survey response window to January 30, with preliminary results shared in January and full discussion in February. Brad confirmed that responses are intended as a “temperature check,” not binding commitments, and that additional versions of the survey may be developed for faculty input.

d. Transfer initiatives update (Carl Einhaus)

- Higher Education Transfer Audit
- CCHE Transfer Subcommittee

Carl provided updates on statewide transfer initiatives. The Office of the State Auditor’s (OSA) transfer audit included 19 recommendations, some due by January 2026. Department staff have begun addressing student-specific cases and will use the CCHE Transfer Subcommittee to guide policy updates. The subcommittee’s kickoff meeting is scheduled for December 10, with additional meetings planned twice monthly through February, then monthly starting in March. Membership will include institutional representatives, registrars, K-12 partners, and other stakeholders. A new webpage is being developed and will provide updates on legislative transfer work and subcommittee activities.

4. New, modified, and closed programs

a. New

- Colorado State University Global Campus
 - Undergraduate Certificate in Financial Analytics with Leadership Fundamentals
 - Undergraduate Certificate in Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety with Leadership Fundamentals
 - Undergraduate Certificate in Long Term Care Administration with Leadership Fundamentals
 - Undergraduate Certificate in Operations and Supply Chain Management with Leadership Fundamentals
 - Undergraduate Certificate in Public Health Leadership with Leadership Fundamentals
 - Undergraduate Certificate in Python and Data Analytics with Leadership Fundamentals
 - Undergraduate Certificate in Python Application Development with Leadership Fundamentals
- Colorado State University Pueblo
 - Master of Science in Civil Engineering
- Western Colorado University
 - Bachelor of Science in Nursing

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- Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Accelerated
- b. Modified
 - None
- c. Closed Programs
 - Colorado State University
 - Graduate Certificate in Postsecondary Access and Success Programs
 - Graduate Certificate in Student Affairs Management of Auxiliary Enterprises

ACTION ITEMS

Issue	Action / Next Step	Assigned To & Date Assigned

