

Request for gtPathways Waiver for the BAS in Technical Education at Pueblo Community College.

7.02 Waivers of gtPathways Curriculum Requirements

Per §23-1-125(3), C.R.S., the Commission “may make allowances for baccalaureate programs that have additional degree requirements recognized by the commission”, thereby enabling institutions to develop academic programs that do not contain the full gtPathways curriculum. Institutions that seek a waiver from gtPathways curriculum requirements for a particular academic program must submit a formal request to the Department that includes responses to the following questions:

1. Why is it important that a gtPathways waiver be granted for this program?

The Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Technical Education is structured as an applied baccalaureate completion degree, designed to provide a transfer pathway for working professionals who hold an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) or equivalent applied degree in technical fields. This program directly supports Colorado's workforce development priorities by preparing educators to teach in Career and Technical Education (CTE) and other technical programs throughout the state. Students entering this program bring substantial technical expertise, typically having completed 60 to 90 credit hours in their associate-level programs.

The curriculum is intentionally aligned with Colorado's workforce and educational priorities. For example, CIS 1018 competencies are recognized in the Colorado Talent Pipeline Report as a course that develops high-demand, cross-sector technological competencies. This course supports the Colorado Community College System's definition of general education as outlined in System President's Procedure 9-30a. Furthermore, education is inherently a social science discipline. The program's required education courses—EDU 2211, EDU 2331, EDU 2341, and EDU 2401—directly address the content and competencies specified in the GT-SS3 category (Human Behavior, Culture, and Social Frameworks) of the gtPathways curriculum.

Requiring students who have already earned an AAS degree to complete the full gtPathways general education curriculum would impose unnecessary barriers to degree completion and delay their entry into the educator workforce. Granting this waiver enables students to pursue a relevant, efficient pathway toward licensure or credentialing as technical educators, thereby advancing both individual career goals and statewide workforce needs.

2. Which specific components of the gtPathways curriculum are requested to be waived or modified?

We are requesting a waiver of the full 31-credit gtPathways requirement. Instead, students in the BAS in Technical Education will:

- Transfer in or complete a minimum of 27 credit hours in general education, including courses in Written Communication, Mathematics, Arts and Humanities, Social Science, and Natural and Physical Sciences.
- Fulfill general education competencies through core coursework, especially in the areas of education and technology. Courses such as EDU 2211 (Introduction to Education), EDU 2331 (English Language Learners), and CIS 1018 (Introduction to PC Applications) provide instruction aligned with critical thinking, inquiry, civic engagement, and technological literacy.

3. How will the institution ensure that the program includes a “core of courses” that provide a general education through which “students demonstrate competency in reading, critical thinking, written communications, mathematics, and technology”?

The BAS in Technical Education program is intentionally structured to embed general education competencies throughout the curriculum. Students fulfill requirements in Written Communication, Mathematics, and Social Science either through transfer credit or by completing designated courses within the program.

The required education courses are purposefully aligned with the core competencies outlined in the gtPathways framework. Specifically, these courses address the GT-SS3 category by fostering students’ ability to:

- Understand and appreciate diverse perspectives
- Analyze human behavior and societal structures

- Apply critical thinking and effective communication within educational contexts

Technological literacy is a cornerstone of the program, exemplified by CIS 1018, which equips students with the cross-sector technology skills identified as essential in the Colorado Talent Pipeline Report. Collectively, the curriculum ensures comprehensive coverage of all ten gtPathways competencies, including information literacy, civic engagement, and inquiry and analysis, thereby preparing graduates to meet both academic and workforce expectations.

4. What additional degree requirements, such as those associated with accreditation and licensure, make it impossible to include the full gtPathways in the program curriculum?

The BAS in Technical Education is designed to serve adult learners who have completed a technical Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree and are now seeking to transition into teaching roles within Career and Technical Education (CTE). These students typically enter the program with up to 65 credit hours already earned and are often balancing the demands of full-time employment alongside their academic pursuits.

This program is intentionally structured to align with Colorado's teacher licensure competencies while avoiding unnecessary repetition of general education content that students have already mastered through their AAS studies. The curriculum's emphasis on advanced coursework in pedagogy, learning theory, and classroom practice ensures that students are well-prepared for educator roles, while the streamlined design leaves limited capacity for additional lower-division general education requirements.

5. How will the absence of a gtPathways waiver potentially harm students?

Without approval of this waiver, students would be required to complete additional lower-division general education coursework that neither aligns with their professional objectives nor builds upon the substantial competencies they have already demonstrated. Imposing these redundant requirements would unnecessarily extend time to degree, increase financial burdens, and diminish the incentive for qualified professionals to pursue teaching careers in technical education—a field with significant workforce demand in Colorado.

Mandating the full gtPathways curriculum would present a substantial barrier for adult learners, many of whom are balancing full-time employment with their studies. Granting this waiver will promote access, affordability, and timely completion, ensuring that Colorado can continue to meet its critical need for skilled technical educators.

6. How will the institution ensure that the gtPathways waiver will not create barriers to student transfer?

The BAS in Technical Education is intentionally structured as an applied baccalaureate completion degree focused on workforce advancement and teacher licensure pathways, rather than as a preparatory route to traditional graduate programs. All previously completed gtPathways coursework will be awarded full credit, and no courses completed as part of a student's prior AAS or general education history will be discounted. The requested waiver removes only the requirement to complete the full gtPathways core, eliminating academic redundancy and enabling timely, cost-effective degree completion without compromising academic rigor.