

Colorado Department of Higher Education

Fall 2019 Faculty-to-Faculty Conference

Revisit, Revise, and Renew
Statewide Transfer Articulation
Agreements

October 25, 2019 | Colorado State University - Pueblo



COLORADO
Department of
Higher Education

Conference Goals:

“Revisit, Revise, and Renew” existing Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreements (STAAs) to improve their Simplicity, Transparency, and Portability.

Affirm the content knowledge and competencies associated with the bachelor’s degree and ensure that the collection of courses in STAAs best prepare students for success in upper-division study and in the field upon graduation.

Identify potential obstacles to more frequent use of STAAs and recommend course changes and other strategies for overcoming these obstacles.

Strengthen collaborative and collegial relationships among faculty from different institutions, particularly between two-year and four-year institutions.

Continue efforts to develop a Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreement in engineering.



THE COLORADO GOAL:
66% ATTAINMENT BY 2025

STRATEGIC GOAL #1

Increase
Completion

STRATEGIC GOAL #2

Erase Equity
Gaps

STRATEGIC GOAL #3

Improve Student
Success

STRATEGIC GOAL #4

Invest in Affordability
and Innovation



THE COLORADO GOAL:
66% ATTAINMENT BY 2025

STRATEGIC GOAL #1

Increase Completion through:

- Producing additional degrees through structured pathways

STRATEGIC GOAL #3

Improve Student Success

STRATEGIC GOAL #2

Erase Equity
Gaps

STRATEGIC GOAL #4

Invest in Affordability
and Innovation



THE COLORADO GOAL:
66% ATTAINMENT BY 2025

STRATEGIC GOAL #1

Increase
Completion

STRATEGIC GOAL #2

Erase Equity
Gaps

STRATEGIC GOAL #3

Improve Student Success through:

- Increased retention
- Shorter time-to-degree
- Reduced average credits to degree

STRATEGIC GOAL #4

Invest in Affordability
and Innovation



THE COLORADO GOAL:
66% ATTAINMENT BY 2025

STRATEGIC GOAL #1

Increase
Completion

STRATEGIC GOAL #3

Improve Student
Success

STRATEGIC GOAL #2

Erase Equity Gaps

- Data on who is using STAAs by race/ethnicity and gender

STRATEGIC GOAL #4

Invest in Affordability and
Innovation

STAAs and DwDs

- The **Degree with Designation (DwD)** is a 60-credit associate program in a specific academic area (CRS 23-60-211)
- The **Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreement (STAA)** is a negotiated pathway from a DwD into a bachelor's degree program in the same area (23-1-108(7))
- All STAAs include a DwD - and all DwDs are part of an STAA
- STAAs were launched in 2011 - now 34 in place (with 5 additional agreements in development)
- Over 5,000 Degrees with Designation have been awarded
- In 2018, one-third of all AA/AS degrees awarded were DwDs

What goes into a DwD/STAA

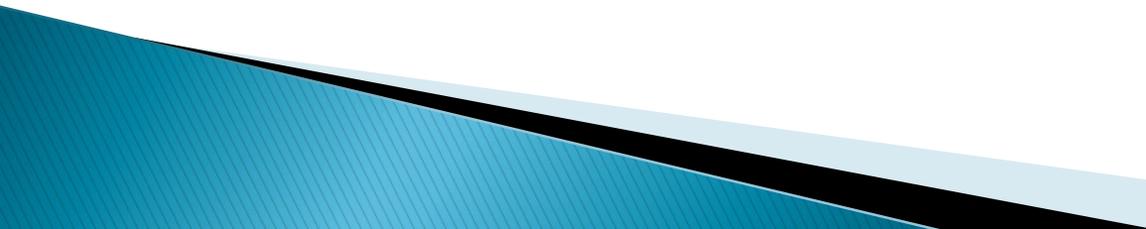
- 31 credits in GT-Pathways
- Additional credits in the discipline or related areas
- Free electives (ideally 6-15)
- 60 credits total
- Full bulk transferability into an identified academic program at a four-year institution
- AVOID the temptation to accommodate exceptions into the agreement! Minimize the number of examples of “for Institution A, take courses W/X; for Institution B, take courses Y/Z”
- Third and fourth year of the curriculum specific to the receiving institution but will become an extension of the agreement

General Education (GE) Council

The GE Council is a statutory entity (CRS §23-1-108.5(3)) with duties to:

- ▶ Recommend to CCHE a system of common course numbering for the General Transfer Pathways curriculum;
 - ▶ Recommend to CCHE statewide transfer articulation agreements; and
 - ▶ Participate in and collaborate with DHE on Faculty-to-Faculty Conferences.
- 

§23-1-108(7), Colorado Revised Statutes

- ▶ Required a total of 14 statewide transfer articulation agreements by July 1, 2016.
 - ▶ A total of 28 agreements were created by the end of 2014.
 - ▶ Existing agreements will be opened and updated as needed starting Fall 2019.
- 

34 STAAs have been created since 2011

NATURAL & PHYSICAL SCIENCES

- [Biology](#)
- [Chemistry](#)
- Computer Science (in development)
- Engineering (in development)
- [Geology](#)
- [Mathematics](#)
- [Physics](#)
- Animal Science; Equine Science; Fermentation Sciences; Horticulture; Soil and Crop Sciences

ARTS & HUMANITIES AND COMMUNICATION

- [Art History](#)
- [Communication](#)
- [Dance \(in development\)](#)
- [English](#)
- [French](#)
- [History](#)
- [Journalism \(in development\)](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Philosophy](#)
- [Spanish](#)
- [Studio Art](#)
- [Theatre](#)

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES AND HUMAN SERVICES

- [Anthropology](#)
- [Criminal Justice](#)
- [Economics](#)
- [Geography](#)
- [Political Science](#)
- [Psychology \(AA and AS\)](#)
- Public Health (in development)
- [Sociology](#)

BUSINESS

- [Agricultural Business](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Horticulture Business Management](#)

EDUCATION

- [Early Childhood Teacher Education](#)
- [Elementary Teacher Education](#)
- Agricultural Education

MISSING?

- [Cybersecurity](#)
- [Nursing](#)

But are they worth it?

- How frequently are STAAs being used, and how does use break down by program?
- Do DwDs/STAAs make a difference in...
 - ...transfer?
 - ...bachelor's degree completion?
 - ...reducing credits to degree?
- What is preventing greater use of DwDs/STAAs?
- How might DwDs/STAAs be revised to make them more attractive to students and advisors?

YAAAAAAS!!

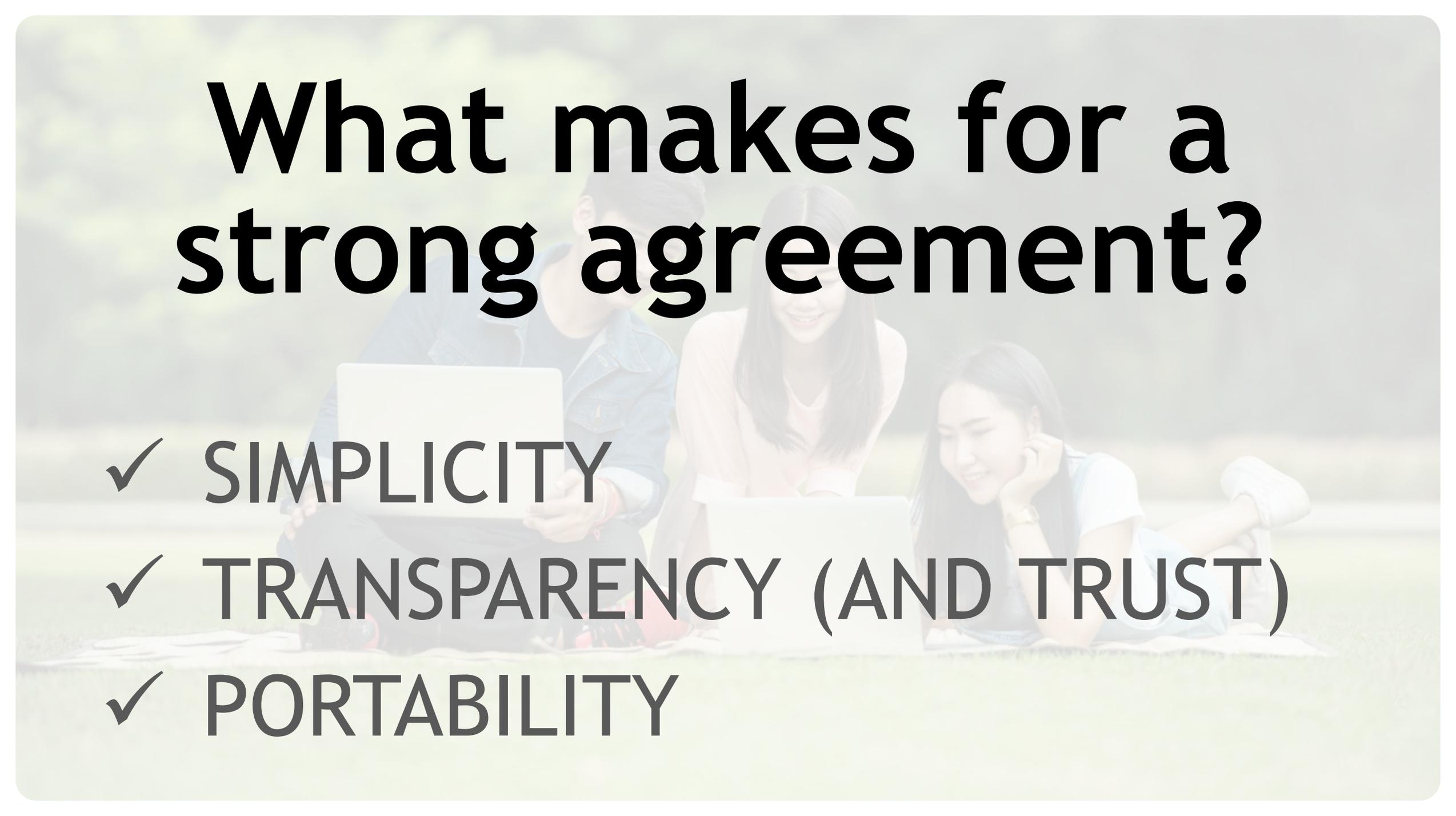


Indeed, they are worth it!

In comparing DwD earners vs. AA/AS earners without the DwD, the former are...

- ✓ ...more likely to transfer into a four-year degree program (59% vs. 50%)
- ✓ ...more likely to earn a bachelor's degree within three years (42% vs. 29%)
- ✓ ...earning fewer credits in completing the bachelor's degree (136 vs. 132)

What makes for a strong agreement?

A background image showing three young people (two women and one man) sitting on a green lawn. They are looking at laptops and smiling, suggesting a collaborative or educational setting. The image is slightly faded to allow the text to be the primary focus.

- ✓ **SIMPLICITY**
- ✓ **TRANSPARENCY (AND TRUST)**
- ✓ **PORTABILITY**

Goals for Revisit, Revise, and Renew

- Continued growth in use of STAAs by students, academic advisors, guidance counselors, and faculty.
- **Reposition the agreements as student-friendly introductions to a given academic discipline and a pathway to a bachelor's degree and into a career.**
- Simplify the agreements and maximize their portability by minimizing the number of included exceptions, conditions, and divergent pathways specific to a particular institution.
- Provide course maps for the third and fourth year of study in the discipline at the receiving four-year institution (to be updated on a biannual basis).
- Revise contractual language (and Commission policy, as appropriate) to: codify a five-year review cycle for all agreements; give the Department (in partnership with GE Council) authority to make minor administrative changes to agreements between review cycles; and formalize a process for institutional withdrawal from an agreement.

Guiding Questions for Participants

- Are the existing course requirements in the agreement best aligned with the evolving state of the discipline, and with the knowledge, skills, and competencies needed for success in upper-division study and in the field?
- Is the math course required for the DwD best aligned with the type of quantitative literacy needed for success in upper-division study and in the field?
- Are the courses required for the DwD taught with sufficient frequency and location to merit their continued inclusion in the agreement?
- Might the DwD be revised to accommodate new course options within CCCS (e.g., non-lab sciences courses—GT-SC2—and ENG 131/Technical Writing for CO1)?
- For DwDs that are under-used given the volume of bachelor's degrees awarded, what is preventing more frequent use?
- Do opportunities exist to add parties to the agreement given new academic programs and increased course availability (on campuses and with CCC Online)?

Thank
you for
being
here!

Follow CDHE Online



@CoHigherEd



/CoHigherEd

Chris Rasmussen, Ph.D.

Director of Academic Affairs

[Chris.Rasmussen@
dhe.state.co.us](mailto:Chris.Rasmussen@dhe.state.co.us)

303-862-3008