

## Academic Council

March 8, 2022 – 1:00 - 3:00pm  
Colorado Department of Higher Education  
REMOTE ONLY

To join the webinar: [Join Zoom Meeting](#)  
Meeting ID: 837 0831 7222  
Passcode: 581427

Agenda -- **NOTES**

1. Greetings and Introductions

**In attendance:**

2. Approval of February Meeting Notes

[see handout: 2022-02-08- NOTES-AC.pdf]

3. Announcements and Discussion Items

a. Updates from CCHE Advisor Landon Pirius

b. Updates on the Colorado Re-Engaged (CORE) Initiative—HB21-1330 (Peter Fritz, CDHE)

Peter Fritz provided updates on implementation of the CORE Initiative and the progress of the working group that is meeting to clarify parameters and shape eventual CCHE policy for implementation. One of the areas discussed is the types of associate degrees that could be awarded and how they might be structured, including an Associate of General Studies, which could require fewer general education credits. Whether to participate in CORE is entirely the prerogative of institutions, as is the decision of which degrees to offer. Peter said that the work group has recommended that the AGS be offered as an option by participating institutions as it will likely have the most flexibility and enable the most students to benefit through an associate degree award. It was also noted that equity concerns can arise if students at one participating institution have access to certain kinds of degrees while students at another institution do not (or no access at all). It was also suggested that we consider whether students who do not stop out can be awarded an associate degree on the way to a bachelor's. Question was raised as to whether CDHE had data on earnings of students who earn a Degree with Designation vs. an associate degree without designation. It was also asked how associate degree awards can be considered in calculating graduation/completion rates and whether the summer term can be included in the two semester stop-out requirement.

c. Legislative update (including legislation related to the HB21-1330 task force recommendations) (Kim Poast, CDHE)

Kim Poast addressed several bills that the department is following that affect higher education institutions or students, including a bill designed to help support students with disabilities. As of the meeting, no bills have been introduced to implement recommendations of the HB21-1330 task force but it is anticipated that there will be 2-3 bills introduced in the near future. Kim also noted that the Commission has launched its strategic planning process, which is required by statute every five years. It was suggested that the strategic planning group not focus solely on workforce outcomes but concern the value of an educated citizenry, essentially to emphasize the “higher” in higher education.

d. Proposed revisions to CCHE Policy Section I, Part N: Service Areas of Colorado Public Institutions of Higher Education (Kim Poast and Chris Rasmussen, CDHE)

Kim Poast led a discussion of possible revisions to the CCHE service area policy, which was a recommendation of the HB21-1330 task force (that the policy be updated to reflect new realities



around program delivery, student/consumer demand, and the evolving technological landscape). It is hoped that a revised policy will be approved by the Commission no later than its June 2022 meeting.

4. New, modified, and closed programs

**New**

*Aims Community College*

- Bachelor of Applied Science in Public Safety

*Colorado Mountain College*

- Bachelor of Arts in Human Services

*Colorado State University*

- Master of Addiction Counseling in Psychology and Social Work

*Colorado State University – Pueblo*

- Undergraduate Certificate in Cannabis Biology & Chemistry
- Undergraduate Certificate in Creative Industry Essentials
- Undergraduate Certificate in Diversity Studies
- Bachelor of Fine Arts in Gaming & Immersive Media
- Graduate Certificate in Cannabis Biology & Chemistry
- Master of Science in Cannabis Biology & Chemistry

*University of Colorado Colorado Springs*

- Undergraduate Certificate in Substance Use and Recovery Counseling
- Bachelor of Arts in Music
- Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering

*University of Colorado Denver*

- Bachelor of Arts in Integrated Studies
- Bachelor of Science in Integrated Studies

*Western Colorado University*

- Undergraduate Certificate in Advanced Spanish Proficiency
- Undergraduate Certificate in Culture Resource Management
- Undergraduate Certificate in Spanish Language and Culture

**Modified**

*Colorado State University – Pueblo*

- Bachelor of Science in Media Communication changed to Bachelor of Science in Media and Entertainment

**Closed Programs**

*None*