

Colorado

Colorado Commission on Higher Education
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- 1) Does the state have an identifiable “P-16” effort visible? Who is in charge of this effort?
There is not an organized effort at this time. However, the Governor will be appointing a P-20 commission within the next few months. The Governor’s agenda – Colorado Promise – calls for this P-20 commission that will include business leaders, policy makers, and educators.
 - a) Does the agency include a utility or function on its website designed explicitly to help potential students locate an appropriate college or university to attend?
Colorado in College offers a one-stop resource to help students, parents and counselors plan, apply and pay for college. <http://www.collegeincolorado.org/>
- 2) Is a mandated or recommended college preparatory curriculum in place in the state’s public high schools?
Curriculum is controlled locally so it differs from school district to school district.
- 3) Has the state articulated a set of explicit competencies or skills that define what it means to be “college ready?”
Not currently. However, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education passed pre-collegiate requirements. The Commission established set of courses required which will be implemented with high school graduating class of 2008.
<http://www.state.co.us/cche/academic/admissions/index.pdf>
- 4) Are systematic programs in place in the state that encourage students to accelerate progress by taking college-level courses while still enrolled in high school?
Not state-wide only district by district. However, the state funds Post Secondary Education Option (PSEO): the state’s dual enrollment program. Students take college courses while in high school. The high school pays for the courses or reimburses the student. Institutions also have programs in place. The courses are taught in high school or college through continuing education programs.

- 5) Is there a statewide policy present that governs placement into college-level courses or remedial courses? Is a standard set of placement tests recommended or required? If yes, are common cut scores for placement decisions in place or do institutions get to set their own?
Yes, there are state wide remedial policy tests for college readiness with minimum cut scores but institutions can require higher scores.
- 6) Is there a visible statewide transfer and articulation policy? Does this cover all institutions or only public institutions? What are the specifics of this policy?
Yes, the agreement very specific via the King Bill. The Bill required the policy to be spelled out. This policy is implemented but not complete. The policy only applies to public institutions. <http://www.state.co.us/cche/policy/newpolicies/i-partl.pdf>
- a) Is the transfer/articulation policy accompanied by a statewide transferable general education requirement? Does this name actual courses and/or credits? Are specific competencies identified that the student should meet through this coursework? Is testing used to guarantee student competency for progress or transfer?
Colorado is still working on general education component but it is already implemented. The policy names actual courses. Specific competencies are identified. No testing outside of the normal course examinations.
<http://www.state.co.us/cche/gened/gtpathways/index.pdf>
- b) More specifically, does an AA or AS degree from a community college in the state meet general education requirements at public four-year institutions? What mechanisms are in place to make sure this actually happens?
Yes, an Associate's degree from a community college meets the general education requirements at public four-year institutions. This was passed legislation and academic policy at institutions. Community College graduates receive a guaranteed seal on transcript. <http://www.state.co.us/cche/gened/gtpathways/index.pdf>
- c) Does credit from transfer courses meet specific course requirements at the transfer institution (e.g. American History counts for American History) or do just the credits transfer to count against the total needed for graduation?
The credit from transfer courses meet specific courses requirements.
- 7) Are there statewide test-out or competency-based provisions that will allow a student to accelerate progress toward a degree?
Foreign language tests are being developed. Writing tests are being talked about and developed but not worked out yet at this point.
- 8) Does the state have an easily-accessible state-supported alternative institution that allows students to complete their degrees more quickly or conveniently than through attendance at a traditional public institution?
Colorado has institution by institution initiatives.

- a) Does the state have an accessible central bank or catalog of on-line courses contributed by many institutions that enable students to do “one-stop shopping” for electronic courses?

Yes. Colorado has a catalog.

- 9) Does the state provide incentives to institutions for improvements in degree production or graduation rates? For minimizing the number of students graduating with excessive numbers of credits (e.g. more than 120 SCH)?

Colorado has Performance Contracts. The Contract has a requirement that retention rates and graduation rates increase. If the Contract goals are not met, the institution will not receive fee for service dollars (2009-2010).

- 10) Does the state provide incentives for students who successfully complete their degrees (e.g. tuition rebates or cash bonuses)? For students who complete their programs without amassing additional credits (e.g. within 120 SCH)? Are there financial disincentives for students to take more than the number of credits needed to graduate (e.g. full or out-of-state tuition)?

No, not statewide. However, CSU –Pueblo is proposing rebate for students who graduate in four years. Program approval does not go through if program has over 120 SCH.