

University of Colorado Denver Core Curriculum and Transfer Credit Guidelines

This document outlines policies and guidelines from the CU Denver Core Curriculum Oversight Committee (CCOC), the Office of Admissions, the Office of the Registrar, and the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) toward general education transfer credit.

General Education Core Issues – The Core Curriculum Oversight Committee is a governance committee comprised of faculty from each college/school offering baccalaureate degrees. The CCOC reviews courses for approval in the Core, oversees general education learning objectives, and receives student petitions related to core policies. CCOC policies, approved courses, and forms are located at <http://www.ucdenver.edu/ccoc>

1. All department, program and college/school web sites and advising sheets must be consistent with the official CCOC list of approved courses and policies relating to the campus-wide Core Curriculum.
2. Core credit status for a new course will be identified by the Records Office in ISIS and may be applied to graduation requirements beginning the semester/term immediately following the CCOC approval.

CCOC requests that a course dropped from the CU Denver Core Curriculum not be offered for a minimum of one year. CCOC may request a change in number/title to avoid confusion for existing courses changing Core status. CCOC requests that new Core courses not be taught until official Core credit is approved.

3. The CCOC requires that the syllabus for every Core course identify the course as a Core course, identify the Core area to which the credit is applied, and incorporate learning objectives required of Core courses.
4. The evaluation and application of transfer credit to the CU Denver Core is the responsibility of the student's home college/school following CCOC guidelines as outlined in this document.

When there is uncertainty about applicability of a course toward general education requirements, the expectation is that the department defined by the course prefix will be consulted for a faculty recommendation. The decision lies with the student's home college/school.

5. Once a student officially matriculates at CU Denver, approval to apply a non-Core CU Denver course to the CU Denver Core lies solely with the CCOC.

One exception to this general rule is study abroad credit applied toward the International Perspectives area of the Core Curriculum, which is determined by the home college advising office using CCOC guidelines.

A second exception is for gtPathways approved courses transferred to CU Denver after the student has matriculated and/or taken as part of the MSUD-UCD Common Pool. gtPathways courses cannot be denied CU Denver Core credit unless the gtPathways course is not applicable (see below for gtPathways restrictions).

6. For proficiency in English composition and mathematics in the Intellectual Competencies area of Core, the minimum CU Denver grade for successful completion is a C– (1.7). For courses in the Knowledge Areas, Cultural Diversity, and International Perspectives areas, the minimum grade is a D– (0.7).

Under these grade policies, CU Denver students are precluded from taking ENGL and MATH courses in the Intellectual Competency area using the P/F grade option. Other areas of the Core are open to P/F grading subject to individual college/school policies for P/F credit.

7. Pre-requisites for Core courses must be identified in the official course description as given in the ISIS course inventory, the CU Denver Catalog, ISIS registration system, and on the course syllabus.
8. Consistent with CCOC guidelines, initial college core decisions for transfer credit will be accepted across major and college lines if a student changes majors or changes college/school.

Individual schools/colleges may impose specific graduation requirements for Core courses. For example, a student transferring to Business is required to take a macro- and microeconomics Core courses to fulfill major requirements, even if the student had previously completed the social science knowledge area outside economics.

9. Non-CU Denver students seeking a second undergraduate degree may be covered by statewide articulation and gtPathways policies if course work is not more than 10 years old. The CCOC guideline is to accept the lower division Core requirements from the previous degree without a course-by-course analysis.

General Transfer Guidelines – Office of Admissions

Transfer credit is initially evaluated by the Office of Admissions based on general criteria identified below. Transfer credits not initially accepted by Admissions may be accepted by the school/college based on an evaluation of academic content; however, there should be a rigorous (well beyond a transcript title) review of the content and assessment by faculty with content specialization and by the college/school advising office.

- The sending institution is typically regionally accredited; for example, by the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges. All Colorado 2- and 4-year public colleges and universities are regionally accredited. CU Denver, consistent with North Central Association policies, no longer denies transfer of credit solely based on the lack of regional accreditation.
- The transfer course content must be academic, rather than professional or technical. CU Denver accepts limited technical credit through special and statewide articulation agreements; however, technical courses accepted through articulation are not automatically transferrable between majors or schools/colleges.
- Course content can negate transfer of credit. Examples of non-transferable credit include:
 - Doctrinal religious courses, such as Roman Catholic or Buddhist theology
 - Courses without a catalog description, such as special topics, internships, transition seminars, or undergraduate research (all may be reviewed at the department/program level)
 - Courses for which CU Denver has no program equivalent, such as agriculture
- The minimum course grade for transfer credit acceptance by CU Denver is a C– (1.7).
- The lower/upper division status and credit hours are determined by the sending institution, even if a similar course at CU Denver has different lower/upper division status or different credit hours. While schools/colleges have some discretion about substituting lower division courses to meet upper division requirements, degree audit information reflects information defined by the sending institution.
- CU Denver does not accept academic transfer credit for prior learning through a portfolio or other non-transcript basis. Military veterans are allowed specific Core and elective credit (contact Office of Veteran Student Services for details).
- CDHE policies preclude transcription of delivery mode on an official transcript. Course information such as on-line, hybrid and location are not available from an official transcript received for transfer analysis.

Degree Audit and Course Equivalency Tables – Office of the Registrar

Once a transfer student is admitted and undergoes general transfer evaluation, the student is forwarded to the Registrar's Office for all academic records.

- The Records Office maintains course equivalency tables in ISIS/DARS that assign pre-determined CU Denver course equivalencies for transfer courses. If an equivalent CU Denver course is not identified, the school/college applies transfer course credit to Core using CCOC guidelines (below).
- CU Denver accepts a maximum of 60 semester hours of credit from community/junior colleges, and a maximum of 90 semester hours from baccalaureate institutions. Students with more credit than the maximum work with their academic advisor to identify the best courses for transfer.

gtPathways – Guaranteed Transfer – Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE)

The gtPathways program provides for guaranteed transfer (see below for restrictions), and more importantly, guaranteed application, of credit toward lower division general education credit between Colorado public institutions of higher education, <http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/Transfers/>. All gtPathways approved courses undergo statewide faculty review. All lower division CU Denver Core courses are gtPathways approved.

The gtPathways general education program for community college students is given below.

Communication – 2 course composition sequence (CO1/CO2 or CO2/CO3)	6 hours
Introductory Writing Course (GT-CO1)	
Intermediate Writing Course (GT-CO2)	
Advanced Writing Course (GT-CO3, may have non-ENG prefix)	
Mathematics – 1 course, or 3 1-credit modules	3-5 hours
Mathematics (GT-MA1)	
Arts and Humanities, History, and Social and Behavioral Sciences	15 hours
<i>Arts and Humanities</i> – 2 courses	
Arts and Expression (GT-AH1)	
Literature and Humanities (GT-AH2)	
Ways of Thinking (GT-AH3)	
Foreign Language (200-level only) (GT-AH4)	
<i>History</i> – 1 course	
History (GT-HI1)	
<i>Social and Behavioral Sciences</i> – 1 course	
Economic or Political Systems (GT-SS1)	
Geography (GT-SS2)	
Human Behavior, Culture, or Social Frameworks (GT-SS3)	
<i>Additional Course</i> (in any of three sub-categories) – 1 course	
Natural and Physical Sciences – 2 courses, one with lab	7-8 hours
Course with <i>required</i> laboratory, or <i>stand alone</i> laboratory (GT-SC1)	
Lecture without required laboratory (GT-SC2)	

- Application of gtPathways credit focuses on general education in the CU Denver Core, but may be applied to other general education graduation requirements, the student's major, or elective credit.
- gtPathways course credit is guaranteed for general education, but not for the major. For example, a gtPathways science course will count toward the CU Denver Core as general education, but may require faculty review before application toward the student's science major.

gtPathways Restrictions – Although 'gt' implies guaranteed transfer, there are conditions that restrict the guaranteed nature of gtPathways courses and their application to the CU Denver Core.

- Similar to all transfer restrictions, gtPathways courses must earn a minimum C– (1.7) grade.
- gtPathways courses/hours may not exceed the category restrictions noted above. For example, a community college student with 18 hours of Arts/Humanities/History/Social Sciences/Behavioral Sciences gtPathways credits is restricted to 15 hours guaranteed to apply toward the CU Denver Core. The additional 3 hours are applicable to elective credit, but not Core credit.

Statewide Articulation Agreements – Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE)

Under the supervision of CDHE, Colorado public 2-year and 4-year institutions are developing statewide articulation agreements for specific majors at the baccalaureate institution. The goal of the agreements is to complete the first two years of the baccalaureate degree at a community college. Statewide articulation includes (1) the gtPathways program for application to lower division portion of the CU Denver Core, (2) the application of community college course work toward the major, and (3) a guarantee that the community college student can complete the baccalaureate degree within an additional 60 hours of course work. The Statewide Articulation Program and a list of approved majors are found at <http://higher.ed.colorado.gov/Academics/Transfers/>.

Transfer students must meet all CU Denver admission (including MAPS) requirements and meet articulation agreement course work conditions to be eligible for transfer benefits under statewide articulation agreements.

Community College Student Transfer

Neither the gtPathways program nor the statewide articulation agreements guarantee admission to CU Denver for Colorado community college students. However, the CU System and the CU Denver campus have established agreements of guaranteed admission for community college students to specific CU Denver colleges/schools.

A community college student guaranteed admission into the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is primarily (other conditions apply) dependent upon 30 transferrable hours community college course work with a minimum GPA of 2.7. The Transfer Promise is an agreement between CU Denver and the metro area community colleges for guaranteed admission to CU Denver for students who elect to start their baccalaureate education at a community college. Transfer Promise conditions vary between CU Denver schools and colleges, but are consistent with a minimum GPA of 2.7-3.0. Both Guaranteed Admission and the Transfer Promise details are found in the Office of Admissions website for transfer students.

AA/AS Degree – Community college students earning the AA/AS degree from a Colorado public community/junior college are guaranteed:

- junior standing with a minimum 60 hours of transfer credit,
- a minimum of 31 semester hours of lower division general education Core credit, and
- to have completed all lower division requirements of the CU Denver Core Curriculum independent of whether the student's selection of gtPathways courses aligns with the CU Denver Core.

Core Completion – While not part of statute or CDHE policy, it has long been the practice of all CU Denver schools/colleges to afford block transfer of the gtPathways general education program to students receiving a 'Core Completion' stamp from the Colorado Community College System.

- When transfer of general education credit from a Colorado community college is accompanied with either the AA/AS degree or the 'core completion' stamp, transfer credit is guaranteed to fulfill the lower division of the CU Denver Core without a course-by-course analysis, and a student must only fulfill the Cultural Diversity requirement to complete the CU Denver Core Curriculum.
- gtPathways course credit may count simultaneously (double dip) for both the CU Denver Core and the student's major, even if the same simultaneous credit is not allowed for native CU Denver students. For example, Colorado community college students may use second-year foreign language courses, or course work in their major, to fulfill CU Denver Knowledge Area credits.

Non-AA/AS Degree – Community college students transferring from a Colorado public community college without the AA/AS degree or the 'core completion' stamp, or from a 4-year college/university without completion of the general education program, have gtPathways and non-gtPathways general education courses evaluated on a course-by-course basis in the student's home college/school.

- gtPathways course work is not treated as a block but *must* be applied individually to the CU Denver Core Curriculum requirements if within credit hour restrictions of the gtPathways program.
- Non-gtPathways course work is evaluated individually against specific CU Denver Core requirements outlined below.

Individual Course Transfer Credit – General Philosophy

Transfer credit not subject to statewide articulation for a specific major or gtPathways policies is evaluated by the student's home school/college, consistent with CCOC guidelines established for the Core Curriculum. The CU Denver Core, while similar, does not exactly match the gtPathways general education curriculum for Colorado community college students.

CU Denver has a history of being flexible in the application of transfer credit to Core requirements. However, once a student matriculates at CU Denver, Core credit must (see exceptions above) come from the list of CCOC approved core courses.

NOTE: Please note that for transfer credit to be applied to the CU Denver Core, exact equivalency is NOT required; rather, the transfer course needs to be a general, introductory course in the same/similar discipline and meet the intent of the Core as outlined below.

General guidelines for transfer credit application to the CU Denver Core Curriculum include:

- lower division course from sending institution
- broad general education course content
- minimum, often zero, number of prerequisites

The following is a guide for evaluation of transfer credit applicable to the Core Curriculum. Each general philosophy statement is followed (*italics*) by discipline prefixes *commonly* used to meet the requirements and notes.

English Composition

Courses provide opportunities to write for different purposes and audiences, with an emphasis on critical thinking, reading, and writing in print-based and electronic contexts. The intermediate course (equiv to ENGL 2030) must have a research paper emphasis.

ENGL, WRIT, and occasionally COM (written communications only)

Note: Core composition courses may be offered with non-ENGL prefix.

Note: Input from English department is desirable when uncertainty toward Core or major exists.

Mathematics

Courses promote critical thinking, logic, quantitative reasoning, and numerical relationships in behavioral, social and physical phenomena.

MATH, STAT

Note: Statistics courses must focus on analysis and hypothesis testing.

Note: Business and social science research methods courses are not accepted.

Note: Input from Mathematics department is desirable when uncertainty toward Core or major exists.

Arts

Arts courses celebrate creativity, nurture self-expression, generate an appreciation of the artistic and cultural aesthetics, and stimulate thought from a creative perspective.

ART, DAN, DRAW, FA, FILM, FINE, MUS, PHO, PMUS, SCUL, THTR

Note: Dance classes through a physical education program are not accepted.

Note: Multimedia technical courses are not accepted. Multimedia courses vary greatly in content and must be reviewed by CAM on a case-by-case basis for a decision.

Humanities

Humanities courses develop the skills necessary for analysis of human development including contemporary life issues, civic responsibilities and impacts of social actions.

ENGL, ETST, HIST (also considered social science), LIT, MLNG, PHIL, RLST

Note: First two foreign language courses, equivalent to 1010/1020, are not accepted.

Behavioral Sciences

Behavioral science courses develop an understanding of behavior, communication, and analysis of human experience and development.

ANTH, CMMU, COM, PSY**

** restricted to the behavioral science concentration of the discipline*

Social Sciences

Social science courses develop an understanding of the social, political, and spatial relationships that constitute human society.

ECON, EDUC, GEOG, PSC, SOC, ETST

Natural and Physical Sciences

Biological and physical science courses develop knowledge through the scientific method, scientific reasoning, and solutions to complex phenomena in nature.

ANTH, BIOL, CHEM, GEOG*, ENVS*, GEOL, PHYS, ENVS, PSY**

** restricted to the physical science concentration of the discipline*

International Perspectives

International perspectives courses develop insight into globalization effects and the influence of a world-wide, multi-cultural society. Content focus should be on appreciation and understanding of history, culture, society, and/or economy of any nation or region outside the US; and must not focus on US policy. May be either lower or upper division transfer credit.

ANTH, ECON, ETST, HIST, INT, MLNG, PSC, RLST, SOC, and many others

Note: Students graduating from high school outside the US and Canada are exempt.

Cultural Diversity

Cultural diversity courses provide insight and analysis of and sensitivity to race/ethnicity and gender issues within the United States. Content must concentrate on both gender and race issues in the US.

any discipline including professional programs

Note: Transfer credit must be upper division from the sending institution.

Transfer courses are not always easy to interpret against the general criteria outlined above. The following represent CCOC guidelines for school/college advisors when general education transfer courses are not well defined:

- Advisors are encouraged to examine the electronic Catalog from the sending institution to see whether the course is accepted toward general education and whether course prerequisites (or lack thereof) are consistent with a general education course.
- Department (particularly English, multimedia, psychology, anthropology, geography and mathematics) recommendations based on a thorough (syllabus, exams, papers, and graded assignment) portfolio review are highly encouraged, but the decision is that of the school/college based on CCOC guidelines.
- Waivers through nationally recognized tests such as IB, AP, or CLEP are honored by CU Denver, but only using CU Denver criteria. Institution-specific exams, portfolios, and life-experience credit are not accepted toward the CU Denver Core without CCOC approval.

Student Appeal Process

It is the intent of the CCOC that student appeals for transfer credit toward the CU Denver Core Curriculum be initiated in the student's home college/school. If not resolved at the college level, students may appeal to the CCOC.

Please note that students have the right, and have done so, to appeal transfer credit issues and general education issues directly to the Colorado Department of Higher Education. The CCOC will work with the home school/college on issues appealed to CDHE.

CCOC Contact

Advisors with questions about transfer credit, articulation agreements, and CU Denver Core Curriculum should contact the Core Curriculum Oversight Committee through the Office of Undergraduate Experiences, 303-315-2133, or e-mail at ccoc@ucdenver.edu.