



# COLORADO RE-ENGAGED

## The CORE Initiative



# Implementation Timeline

**HB21-1330  
signed into  
law**



June '21

**Associate Degree  
Design Working  
Group**



January – June '22

**Implementation  
Working  
Group**



Nov '22 – August '23

**Outreach  
and  
Communications**



Sept.- Dec. '23

**First Associate  
Degrees  
Awarded**



Dec. '23



## Legislation

CORE allows four-year institutions to award associate degrees to students who meet specific eligibility criteria.

“The goal of awarding an associate degree is to increase a student's earning potential, making it more likely the student will re-enroll and complete a bachelor's degree.”



## Legislation

Student  
Eligibility  
Requirements  
Limit Program  
Scope

- ✓ Earned **70+ credits**
- ✓ **Stopped-out from a bachelor's program** within the last **10 years**
- ✓ **Unenrolled** for the last two semesters
- ✓ **Not eligible for Reverse Transfer**



Associate  
Degree  
Design

**Working Group  
Guidelines**  
created additional  
**Student Eligibility  
Requirements**

- Earned at least **18 credits in residence** from the awarding institution (25% of 70 credits).
- **Cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher from the awarding institution**



Associate  
Degree  
Design

## Which Degree Type(s) Should be Awarded?

### Primary Considerations

# of eligible students

employability/  
income potential

transferability to  
bachelor's



Associate  
Degree  
Design

Associate of  
General Studies

Associate of Arts /  
of Science

AA or AS degree with  
designation (DwD)

Associate of  
Applied Science

# of eligible students	employability/ income potential	transferability to bachelor's





Associate  
Degree  
Design

## Determining Course and Credit Requirements

Required #  
Gen. Ed. credits

Gen. Ed. credits  
by category

Other course or  
credit requirements

### Assoc. of General Studies

**15**  
credits

institutional  
decision

institutional  
decision

### Associate of Arts

**31**  
credits

**Aligned to GT  
Pathways  
Requirements**

institutional  
decision



# Participating Institutions: Spring 2023

Colorado  
State  
University



CSU  
PUEBLO



Denver



METROPOLITAN  
STATE UNIVERSITY<sup>SM</sup>  
OF DENVER

UCCS

University of Colorado  
Colorado Springs



UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTHERN  
COLORADO



Implementation  
Working Group

## Initial Steps to Implementation (Fall 2022)

**Notify CDHE of institution's  
intent to participate**



**Determine degree type(s)  
to be awarded**

A.A.  
A.G.S.  
A.S.

**Determine any institution-  
specific course  
requirements**



**Secure internal approvals –**  
faculty senate, curriculum review board,  
governing board, etc.





# Operational Grants to Institutions to cover costs associated with implementing CORE

Update  
data  
systems  
and  
catalog



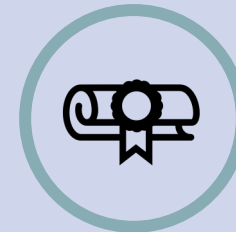
Identify  
eligible  
former  
students



Contact  
eligible  
individuals



Design,  
print, and  
deliver  
associate's  
diplomas



Develop  
messaging  
and  
materials to  
encourage  
reenrollment





Institutional Approval  
and Implementation

## Internal Decision and Approval Process

**Discuss and create institutional plan-** Provost office, deans and faculty champions

**Build catalog language**

**Secure internal approvals –**  
curriculum review board, faculty senate,  
provost, system governing board





## Addressing Concerns

- Resources required and cost to implement?
- CORE without creating 2-yr competition?
- Will award of associate degree after 70cr discourage bachelor's completion?
- Does this diminish perceived value of baccalaureate degrees?
- Will associate degree benefit the students?



## Perspectives and Next Steps

**Use of CORE Operational Grant Funds-** staff time and training, catalog coding, degree audits, diplomas, etc.

**Institutional perspectives on HLC substantive change-** accelerated and batch process

**Next Steps** – contact students, CDHE or 3<sup>rd</sup> party roles, capitalize on the Re-Engaged component of CORE,



Implementation  
Working Group

# The Higher Learning Commission

## Innovation and Partnership



Coordination and  
standardization across  
multiple institutions



Batch submission of  
applications



Accelerated Process for  
Initial Accreditation

Accreditation &  
Authorization

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[cdhe.colorado.gov](http://cdhe.colorado.gov)