



Early College Graduation Policy

Colorado Early Colleges' mission is to prepare a diverse population of students for life by developing their mind, body and character through rigorous academic studies and character development activities in cooperation with the community we serve.

All students, regardless of background or skill level, will have the opportunity to pursue a growth mindset that will allow them to achieve mastery and will demonstrate that they can succeed in school, in college, and in their chosen career. No exceptions. No excuses.

Colorado Early College Definition

C.R.S. 22-35-103(10)(a) states, "Early college' means a secondary school that provides only a curriculum that requires each student to enroll in and complete secondary and postsecondary courses while enrolled in the four years of high school such that, upon successful completion of the curriculum, the student will have completed the requirements of a high school diploma and an associate degree or other postsecondary credential or at least 60 credits towards the completion of a postsecondary credential. The curriculum must be designed to be completed within four years."

Graduation Requirements

The CEC Governing Board has established the following graduation requirements for all students. The minimum requirement of 20 credits in the categories listed below will result in a high school diploma. Beginning with the graduating class of 2022, students must earn an associate degree, postsecondary or industry certification or 60+ college credits in addition to meeting the high school graduation requirements to be awarded a CEC diploma:

English:

- University Degree and Associate Degree Pathways- 4 credits
- Career Pathway- 4 credits

Math:

- University Degree and Associate Degree Pathways - 4 credits
- Career Pathway- 3 credits

Science

- University Degree and Associate Degree Pathways- 3 credits
- Career Pathway- 2 credits
- Laboratory classes in science must meet both process and content standards.
- Required classes must be natural science courses including but not limited to biology, chemistry, physics, astronomy, geology, and environmental science.

Social Studies/Social Sciences/Civics

- University Degree and Associate Degree Pathways- 3 credits
- Career Pathway- 2 credits
- Social Science credit includes the satisfactory completion of a civics/government course that encompasses information on both the United States and State of Colorado (C.R.S 22-1-104).

World Languages

- University Degree and Associate Degree Pathways - 2 credits
- Career Pathway – 0 credits

Academic Electives

- University Degree and Associate Degree Pathways – 4 credits
- Career Pathway- 9 credits
- Electives include the fine arts, technology, career and technical education, physical education, and core content electives in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and world languages.
- Electives must include a college/career readiness course (.5 – 1 credit), which is a graduation requirement, unless waived by the Head of School.

The Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) will set out a course of study for each student based on completion of all requirements for graduation. Students are required to participate in and successfully complete the requirements and goals of the ICAP process.

Students who earn their associate degree at the time of high school graduation will be deemed as having met all CEC high school graduation requirements. Students earning an associate degree must include the satisfactory completion of a civics/government course that encompasses information on both the United States and State of Colorado.

Full-time students transferring from other educational programs must meet CEC's graduation requirements to be awarded a CEC high school diploma. Part-time students do not need to meet CEC's graduation requirements as they are not eligible to graduate from CEC.

To the extent permitted by law, the CEA can waive requirements based on individual student circumstances. All requests must be made in writing to the CEA and must be included in the student's Graduation Plan.

For the classes of 2022 and beyond, graduates must demonstrate, at a minimum, College and Career Readiness in English and math through one or more of the following approved options found on the [Menu of College and Career-Ready Demonstrations Fact Sheet](#).

Exceptional Students and English Language Learners

CEC's Chief Executive Administrator (CEA) has the authority, to the extent permitted by law, to adapt the Menu of College and Career-Ready Demonstrations established by the Colorado Department of Education and CEC's graduation requirements to accommodate Exceptional Students (students with disabilities and gifted students) and English Language Learners as outlined in the student's individual education plan (IEP, ALP, ELDP, respectively). A student who has an Individual Education Plan (IEP) may be granted a diploma based on completion of the goals listed in the IEP and on the basis of modified content standards and modified course requirements.

Graduation Ceremonies

To participate in a CEC graduation ceremony, students will be required to:

- Complete all required credits for graduation
- Complete and submit the Graduation Application and Postsecondary Survey/Questionnaire, if required
- Pay the appropriate Graduation Fee, if required
- Return all school property
- Pay school bill in its entirety

Diploma Distinctions

- Honors: 30-59 college credits and postsecondary or industry certification
- High Honors: Associate degree or 60+ college credits
- Cum Laude (with praise): 3.75-3.89 cumulative weighted GPA
- Magna Cum Laude (with great praise): 3.9 – 4.199 cumulative weighted GPA
- Summa Cum Laude (with highest praise): 4.2 cumulative weighted GPA

To qualify as the Valedictorian and Salutatorian, a student(s):

- Must have earned at least an associate degree, 60 college credits, or a qualifying postsecondary/industry certification, per the CEC approved list
- Must graduate Summa Cum Laude based off weighted GPA
- Must walk in the graduation ceremony
- The Valedictorian must give a speech or special presentation during the ceremony
- Must earn an Endorsed Diploma, if the school offers one
- Must be classified as graduating by December 1st of current school year

Early Graduation

The CEC Governing Board believes that most students benefit from four years of high school experience. However, in some cases, students are ready for continued postsecondary education in a college/university or other opportunities at an earlier age. Therefore, the Head of School may grant permission to students wishing to graduate early, provided the student has met all CEC's graduation requirements in accordance with this policy.

Additional Legal Refs:

C.R.S. 22-1-104 (teaching history, culture and civil government)

C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(kk) (board to establish graduation requirements that "meet or exceed" state graduation guidelines)

C.R.S. 22-33-104.5 (home-based education law)

C.R.S. 22-35-101 et seq. (Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act)

C.R.S. 22-35-103(10)(a) (Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act)

C.R.S. 22-30.5-525 (ICAP)

C.R.S. 22-2-136 (ICAP) Colorado Constitution, Article IX, Section 15

CSI Resolution 1245 Concerning the Adoption of A CSI Individual Career and Academic Plans Policy

Colorado College and Career Ready Demonstrations- <http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/grad-menu>

Policy Refs:

JF-G Enrollment

IHCDA-G Post-Secondary Workforce Readiness Guarantee