



GOALS PROGRAM

Greater Opportunity for Academic & Life Success

Frequently Asked Questions

I applied to Colorado Mesa University for a bachelor's degree, why is my admission as an associate degree GOALS student?

GOALS students have not yet met the requirements to be accepted into a baccalaureate degree (also called a bachelor's degree) program at Colorado Mesa University (CMU). To assist students in becoming college-ready, Western Colorado Community College (WCCC) administers the GOALS program in partnership with CMU. Upon successful completion of the GOALS program, you will have the opportunity to enter into a bachelor's degree program, which typically takes four years to complete. Some of these programs have more stringent admission requirements, so the options available to you depend upon how well you perform academically in your first year.

Why is WCCC involved in a CMU program?

Western Colorado Community College is a division of Colorado Mesa University and helps to oversee many of the associate degree programs for CMU. Because GOALS students are not yet bachelor degree-seeking students, they are assigned to and supported by WCCC advisors, who work, teach, and advise GOALS students on the CMU campus, where GOALS students take their classes. The partnership gives GOALS students an extraordinary opportunity to learn about and take classes towards a variety of academic, career, and technical programs and majors.

Note: GOALS students who are interested in [certificate and associate degree programs](#) (which are aligned with many four-year degrees) are encouraged to explore these programs and to register for their classes. It's a great way to add traction and value to your first year at CMU!

How will my college experience be different as a GOALS student?

Because GOALS students live and take their classes on the main CMU campus, the only noticeable difference is that GOALS students are required to take the UNIV 102 / 103 series, meet regularly with their academic advisor, as well as meet [the requirements to transfer into a four-year degree](#). With help from GOALS advisors, this accomplishment lets you choose your next step: completing a

certificate, or an associate or bachelor's degree that matches your career interests. Your financial aid eligibility, ability to live in the residence halls, and involvement in student life remains the same as any other CMU/WCCC student. However, GOALS students are not eligible to play in a Varsity support (see below).

Can I play in a sport as a GOALS student?

Unfortunately, students admitted to an associated degree program such as GOALS are ineligible to play at the varsity collegiate level. Athletes can learn more about NCAA rules related to eligibility at: <http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future>. However, CMU offers many options to play club and intermural sports.

What are the benefits of being in the GOALS program?

Some of the many benefits of being in the GOALS program include regular access to individualized academic advising and support staff, as well as accelerated academic and personal growth via the UNIV 102 / 103 College Success courses. GOALS advisors support only GOALS students to ensure they have personalized guidance in choosing a major and exploring a career field. Additionally, since WCCC administers the GOALS program, GOALS students have added access to its career and technical programs and advisors. Finally, because all GOALS students attend the August kickoff prior to the start of classes, it gives GOALS students a head start on academic success and getting settled onto campus.

What are the expectations and requirements of students in the GOALS program?

The GOALS program requirements are designed to increase the likelihood of succeeding in college. To help GOALS students accomplish this, they are required to take UNIV 102 (two credits) in their first semester and UNIV 103 (one credit) in the second semester. Depending on their SAT / ACT scores, [GOALS students may need to take a placement test](#) to determine any needed developmental education (remediation) classes. GOALS students may enroll in a maximum of 15 credit hours in the first semester and 16 credit hours in the second semester. Meeting with GOALS academic advisors is another required support to encourage successful college transition, academic progress, and course completion and registration.

How do I transfer into a 4-year program?

In order to be considered for transfer to CMU as a bachelor degree-seeking student, GOALS students must [meet the requirements to transfer into a four-year degree](#). Because GOALS students are only in the GOALS program for two semesters, taking advantage of its supports and committing full effort towards meeting these requirements is essential.

What happens when I successfully complete the GOALS program?

GOALS students who meet the program's academic, GPA, and credit requirements may transfer into a CMU bachelor's degree of the student's choice. Additionally, students will then be assigned a faculty advisor specific to their major and be reassigned to the campus's [IRIS Advising Center](#). Many former GOALS students continue to support the program as mentors and student advisors to current GOALS students. Such team-oriented efforts further the success of all CMU/WCCC students connected to and united by the GOALS program.

Will participating in the GOALS program take me longer to complete my college degree?

As a participant in the GOALS program, the length of time to finish your degree will depend upon your academic readiness, work ethic, and willingness to seek help. Some GOALS students may need developmental coursework in math and / or English, while other GOALS students might only need to take the UNIV 102 / 103 course series. Because students in the GOALS program develop college success strategies and skills throughout two semesters, the risk of needing to retake classes is reduced, so students can remain on-track for graduation.

What if I don't know which classes to take to prepare for my major or career interests?

An important part of the GOALS program is making sure you have access to an academic advisor. You will meet with an advisor frequently, and s/he can explain your options regarding classes, and degree and certificate programs, as well as coordinating with [Career Services](#) staff to explore your career interests and possibilities.

How will I know if I need to take developmental math and or English classes?

GOALS students can visit the [Testing Center website](#) to know if they need to take developmental math or English classes. Based on your ACT or SAT scores, you may need to take the Accuplacer, which will help your GOALS advisor place you in the most appropriate math and English course/s. Although, you may receive communication from the GOALS advisor and/or the IRIS Advising Center to inform you about the need to take the Accuplacer, you should visit the Testing Center website above or contact them directly before attending [Orientation](#) or registering for classes. Taking this initiative and assessment seriously ensures that your math and English courses are suited and available for you.

Will I be able to take a variety of classes?

Absolutely. Other than the required UNIV 102 and 103 courses, GOALS students' schedules are similar to other CMU/WCCC student schedules. Academic readiness shapes which math and English classes they register for, and students frequently begin to take a variety of Essential Learning (general education) courses in their first semester, often adding courses in their selected major during the second semester.

Remember: GOALS students who are interested in [certificate and associate degree programs](#) are encouraged to explore these programs and to register for their classes!

Do GOALS students take classes on the CMU campus?

GOALS students take their classes on the CMU campus, where their GOALS advisors also have their offices. GOALS students are not required to go to the WCCC campus unless they choose to attend a class offered there. (The CMU and WCCC campuses are only three miles apart, and free public transportation is provided for students.) That said, some GOALS students choose to take essential learning and / or career and technical education classes on the WCCC campus, so they can explore its numerous and varied programs.

Still have questions? Contact the GOALS program office at: goals@coloradomesa.edu or Lori Epperson, GOALS Lead Advisor at lepperson@coloradomesa.edu or at 970-255-2635.