



## **BC JURISDICTIONAL REPORT FOR CMEC**

(AS SUBMITTED BY BCCAT IN FEBRUARY 2007)

### **I. Overview**

The British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT) was established by the Provincial government in 1989. Its mandate is to facilitate admission, articulation and transfer arrangements among BC post-secondary institutions. Specifically, the Council (a) encourages institutions to develop policies and practices regarding the transferability of post-secondary credit courses so that credit granted at one institution can be applied toward credentials at other institutions, and (b) examines issues concerning capacity, demand, and student mobility, and recommends policies and practices related to the admission process for direct entry and transfer students. The Council has no legislative or regulatory authority and is funded annually by the Ministry responsible for post-secondary institutions. Council members are selected from the education system and appointed by the Minister. They strive to achieve the mandate of the Council by serving the overall best interests of the system and do not formally represent any specific institution or constituency with which they are affiliated.

The Council carries out its work with the assistance of a number of standing committees, whose members are drawn from the post-secondary system: Transfer and Articulation Committee; Admissions Committee; Institutional Contact Persons Committee; Research Committee; and Education Planner Advisory Committee. Advisory and task-specific groups are established as needed.

More information about the comprehensive work undertaken by BCCAT can be obtained on its three web sites:

- [www.bccat.bc.ca](http://www.bccat.bc.ca)
- [www.bctransferguide.ca](http://www.bctransferguide.ca)
- [www.educationplanner.bc.ca](http://www.educationplanner.bc.ca)

### **2. Adoption of CMEC Ministerial Statement on Credit Transfer in Canada**

The BCCAT Principles and Guidelines for Transfer are consistent with the CMEC principles on credit transfer. They have been in effect in British Columbia since 1975 (although modified over time) and have formed the basis for all credit transfer arrangements in the BC Transfer System. See: [bccat.ca/articulation/principles.cfm](http://bccat.ca/articulation/principles.cfm)

### **3. Report on Project and Activities completed in 2005-06**

Each year the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT) prepares a detailed work plan and at the end of the fiscal year prepares an Annual Report that summarizes what was achieved. Each annual report is approximately 50 pages in length and includes reference to completed research reports, newsletters, and related publications. Annual Reports and other BCCAT publications can be located at: [bccat.ca/publications/](http://bccat.ca/publications/).

In summary, the following major activities were undertaken and were successfully achieved in 2005-06:

- **Launched [BCTransferGuide.ca](http://BCTransferGuide.ca)**, a student-friendly web resource featuring a searchable online guide to transfer throughout the BC Transfer System. The Guide lists 92,000 course-to-course articulation agreements as well as 759 block transfer agreements. As well, a web service was developed to enable institutions to incorporate information from the BC Transfer Guide into their own websites.
- **Re-designed the Transfer Credit Evaluation System (TCES)**, a web-based facility enabling institutions to create and maintain articulation agreements. The new, revised TCES is dynamically linked to [BCTransferGuide.ca](http://BCTransferGuide.ca).
- **Implemented substantial enhancements to Education Planner ([EducationPlanner.bc.ca](http://EducationPlanner.bc.ca))**, a free student-oriented web resource providing information on programs offered throughout the BC public post-secondary system. Enhancements included integration with Work Futures ([workfutures.bc.ca](http://workfutures.bc.ca)) to provide information on occupational profiles, creation of an infrastructure to enable personalized access, and provision of more detailed information on outcomes of former graduates.
- **Completed numerous studies examining a wide variety of transfer- and admission-related issues**, including student outcomes, transfer activity, and transfer student profile reports. Reports included (a) a profile report on UBC students between 2000-01 and 2004-05, (b) an analysis of the admission and transfer experiences of transfer students based on the 2005 student outcomes survey, (c) a study on the role of university colleges in BC as destinations for transfer students, (d) an investigation into concerns regarding international and domestic ESL students and university-level English, and (e) an examination of the benefits of the BC Transfer System. (These and other reports are available at [bccat.bc.ca/publications](http://bccat.bc.ca/publications).)
- **Made significant gains in research on student mobility.** The Council continued to encourage institutions throughout the BC post-secondary system to share registrant and applicant data for research. This research has significantly increased our collective understanding of student mobility into and among our institutions, as well as assisting institutions with their enrolment planning. Much of this research is now undertaken in conjunction with the Student Transitions Project (STP), an initiative of the Ministries of Education and Advanced Education and BC public post-secondary institutions. (See [aved.gov.bc.ca/student\\_transitions](http://aved.gov.bc.ca/student_transitions) for details.) BCCAT is represented on the STP Steering Committee.
- **Launched the first phase of a system-wide consultation process** to examine how best to address increasing changes and complexity in the BC Transfer System by examining current and potential transfer models and possible revisions to the BC Transfer Guide. (The full report, “Recalibrating the BC Transfer System,” is available online at [bccat.bc.ca/publications](http://bccat.bc.ca/publications).)

- **Authored various publications and resources dealing with a range of issues,** including papers on the history of the transfer system in BC and the accountability framework of the transfer system. BCCAT also published a “How to Articulate” handbook, a practical manual outlining steps involved with the articulation process, based on best practices observed by BCCAT over years of coordinating and administering articulation and transfer in BC. (See [bccat.bc.ca/articulation/handbook](http://bccat.bc.ca/articulation/handbook).)

A discussion paper was also drafted in spring 2006 (due for publication in summer 2006) on the issue of degree recognition. Due to the recent expansion of degree opportunities offered by colleges and institutes in BC, Alberta, and Ontario, an issue had arisen concerning credential recognition for students who had completed undergraduate degrees but were not being considered for admission to certain graduate or professional schools in Ontario. BCCAT took a lead role in facilitating dialogue across the system. (For more information on these and other publications, check out [bccat.bc.ca/publications](http://bccat.bc.ca/publications).)

- **Re-printed and re-distributed BC Transfer TIPS** (Second Edition Revised), a comprehensive guide to transfer designed for students. ([bccat.bc.ca/tips](http://bccat.bc.ca/tips)) The revised second edition of the *TIPS Facilitation Guide* is also available on the BCCAT website for reference by Career and Personal Planning teachers, career guidance professionals, and high school counselors.
- **Provided ongoing facilitation of 70 provincial articulation committees, and coordination of Transfer Innovation (TI) & Transfer & Articulation (TAP) Projects.** These projects are carried out by articulation committees with funding from BCCAT. They focus on specific programs or disciplines with the aim of improving transfer, recommending innovative approaches to transfer, or providing better information on transfer options and pathways within particular subject areas. 2006 was a landmark year, bringing the total of TI & TAP projects undertaken to date to 40.
- **Continued to address issues concerning public/private articulation** by investigating the question of charging for articulation. (The report is available online at [bccat.bc.ca/publications](http://bccat.bc.ca/publications).) In addition, the Council continued to monitor and exercise its policy regarding articulation with degree-granting private institutions. Eight new programs from 3 private institutions were approved to articulate within the BC Transfer System.
- **Carried out a comprehensive review of BCCAT communications** to determine how best to reach students and other key audiences with vital transfer information. Findings of the review recommended integration of BCCAT web resources ([bccat.ca](http://bccat.ca), [bctransferguide.ca](http://bctransferguide.ca) and [educationplanner.bc.ca](http://educationplanner.bc.ca)), and a more uniform look and feel for all services and publications to increase recognition and improve accessibility.

#### 4. Plan of projects and activities for 2006-07

Each year, BCCAT completes a comprehensive work plan that is tightly linked with what was achieved or not achieved in the prior year and that reflects revised priorities to address emerging issues. In summary, the plan for 2006-07 includes the following major projects and activities:

- We will continue research activities on the issue of student mobility into and among post-secondary institutions, in conjunction with the Student Transitions Project (STP). This will involve actively supporting the provisions of Personal Education Numbers (PENs) to all applicants and registrants and encouraging data-sharing throughout the post-secondary system to address critical questions from a system-wide perspective. The goal is to provide institutions and government with systematic reporting of reliable data at predictable times for planning purposes.
- We will finalize and process the results of the consultation on examining transfer models in the BC system, and seek input to determine next steps based on the recommendations of the report. One major recommendation calls for our transfer system to move towards a multi-directional model.
- We will investigate whether there are discernable, significant, or meaningful differences between the levels of engagement of BC transfer students compared to those who entered the University of British Columbia directly from secondary schools, and compared to the survey population as a whole. This study will be based on the Student Engagement Survey conducted for all UBC Arts and Science undergraduates.
- We will prepare a discussion paper on degree partnership to encourage discussion among BC post-secondary institutions to consider suitable models for implementation. We will also publish and distribute a discussion paper on the issue of recognition of degrees from non-AUCC member institutions, and continue to facilitate national dialogue on this issue.
- We will continue to address issues regarding public/private articulation; in particular, we will review BCCAT's "Policy under which a new private institution articulates within the BC Transfer System," and develop a "framework" handbook for new private institutions as they undergo the Degree Quality Assurance process prior to admission to the BC Transfer System.
- We will re-design the Articulation Committee Handbook based on the new BCCAT look and feel and promote its usage by articulation committees as a companion piece with the "How to Articulate" handbook.
- We will host a seminar in conjunction with the BC Associate Registrars' and Managers' Association to share best practices in transfer credit administration.

- We will integrate our print and web resources to make them more readily recognizable and so accessible to students, in accordance with the findings of the communications review carried out in 2005-06. We will redevelop BCCAT.bc.ca to make it more user-friendly and to better reflect its relation to our student websites, EducationPlanner.bc.ca and BCTransferGuide.ca. We will also continue to develop strategies and seek out fresh opportunities to better reach students with information about transfer in BC.
- We will make significant further enhancements to EducationPlanner.bc.ca and BCTransferGuide.ca to enable the personalized access to the sites and the ability to save education plans.
- We will continue to provide a lead role in advancing transferability initiatives within Canada. This will involve (a) assisting other provinces as they establish their own mechanisms to achieve the 2002 Ministerial Statement on Credit Transfer in Canada, (b) encouraging initiatives that contribute to improved student mobility across Canada, and (c) interacting with other key jurisdictions to share valuable transfer information and experience. In particular, we will meet with the Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer (ACAT) to discuss potential initiatives for improving inter-provincial student mobility and transfer, in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two provinces in April 2006.

*[NOTE: A meeting hosted by ACAT in Edmonton in June 2006 with representatives from several provinces led to the establishment of the Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer (PCCAT), a new national organization charged with the mandate to develop policies and practices which support the advancement of inter-provincial admissions and transfer. The consortium is chaired by Frank Gelin (Executive Director & Co-Chair of BCCAT) and Lucille Walter (Chair of ACAT) and will include representatives from post-secondary institutions and provincial, territorial, and federal stakeholder groups. Meanwhile, BCCAT and ACAT are working together to develop a Transfer Protocol between the two provincial transfer systems.]*