

engage

Fall /Winter 2009

STUDENT MOBILITY RESEARCH: Next Steps

Significant progress has been made in the last year in understanding the mobility of both traditional “transfer” students and the broader student population. The Council’s work on student mobility research is conducted in close partnership with the Student Transitions Project (STP), a collaborative effort between the Ministries of Education (MEd) and Advanced Education & Labour Market Development (ALMD) and BC public post-secondary institutions to link data about students in the K-12 and post-secondary systems to answer questions on student transitions.

The STP released a report (bccat.ca/pubs/rr_mobility09.pdf) which showed that the number of students in the “transfer student pipeline” at public institutions had risen slightly in Fall 2007 for the second consecutive year whereas the number that actually arrived at universities with transfer as the basis of admission (about 4,600) had dropped in 2008 for the third year in a row. Other STP research has shown that about 26,000 students move in multiple directions between public post-secondary institutions from one year to the next.

The majority of this movement is among institutions other than research universities. An STP newsletter will be published shortly on these findings and will be available at aved.gov.bc.ca/student_transitions. A number of other interesting STP publications on student transitions are also available at this site.

In light of the extent of this broader student movement and the considerable changes that have occurred in the BC post-secondary system regarding institutional designations and mandates, the Council hosted a “visioning session” in Fall 2009 to revisit the research framework and definitions used for transfer students with a view to broadening the research to include the movement of all BC post-secondary students and the assessment of portability of credit and success of those students.

As a next step, BCCAT staff will prepare a paper to engage a broader audience in the discussion about the evolving nature of the transfer system and the need to alter how we conceive of and measure movement and student success within that system.



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SUPPORTING THE BC TRANSFER SYSTEM

The work of supporting transfer and articulation in the BC Transfer System is central to the mandate of BCCAT. This involves a range of activities, from responding to queries and issues as they arise to taking a lead role in organizing events and initiatives that facilitate and improve admission, articulation, and transfer between BC post-secondary institutions. The following are three recent examples of this work.

Joint Annual Meeting (JAM)

Until now, BCCAT has hosted separate annual meetings for our Institutional Contact Persons (ICPs) and for our articulation committee Chairs and System Liaison Persons (SLPs). This year, we brought these groups together by hosting a single, joint annual meeting (JAM) on November 6, 2009. Our goal was to raise awareness of each group's roles and perspectives and to foster positive, productive relationships that will bridge the administrative and academic sides of the articulation process. See bccat.ca/jam for further details.



Bryan Richards and Brenda Thompson (both faculty members from Thompson Rivers University) break for coffee at the JAM 2009 event.

Articulation Committee Companion: 2009 Edition

BCCAT has updated its handbook, the *Articulation Committee Companion*, to serve as both an introductory resource for new articulation committee members and as an ongoing reference for committees. The *Companion* constitutes the Terms of Reference for the province's 68 articulation committees and describes their essential role in the BC Transfer System. It also outlines key roles and responsibilities of articulation committee members, BCCAT and system member institutions and suggests best practices. The 2009 edition is now online at bccat.ca/pubs/companion.pdf.

Degree Partnership Symposium

Degree partnerships involve providing a guarantee to students that they can start a degree program in one institution and complete it at another as long as adequate grades are maintained. This year, BCCAT hosted its second degree partnership symposium on November 5, 2009. The symposium focused on identifying best practices and pitfalls in developing and implementing degree partnerships, including a focus on the role of support services in ensuring successful degree partnerships. There were eight concurrent sessions, representing institutions from BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario, and the keynote speaker was Dr. John Walsh, Vice-Provost at the University of Guelph-Humber, who spoke about the degree partnership model in place in Ontario. (See bccat.ca/degree for more information.)

STUDENT SUCCESS: Profile Reports

This year, BCCAT published five reports profiling students who transferred to BC universities in the period 2003-04 to 2007-08. BCCAT contracted with the Institutional Research offices at SFU, TRU, UBC, UNBC, and UVic to carry out these studies (which are published every five years). These reports provide detailed demographic and performance information about students admitted as "transfer students", and include some comparisons with findings from the previous five-year period.

The data indicate the number of transfer students, where they transferred from, number of credits transferred, programs entered, and performance measures after transfer. Academic performance of transfer students is compared to that of students entering directly from high school.

A newsletter summarizing the findings of these five reports is due for publication later this fall.

The five profile reports are available at:

- bccat.ca/pubs/SFUProfile0708.pdf
- bccat.ca/pubs/TRUProfile0708.pdf
- bccat.ca/pubs/UBCProfile0708.pdf
- bccat.ca/pubs/UNBCProfile0708.pdf
- bccat.ca/pubs/UVICProfile0708.pdf

TRANSFER IN CANADA

BCCAT works in collaboration with others across the provinces to strengthen and support inter-provincial transfer. Here are two examples of recent activities:

PCCAT Initiatives

BCCAT staff members attended and presented at the 2009 meeting of the Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer (PCCAT) held in Fredericton, New Brunswick in June. (See pccat.ca for details). The 2010 PCCAT meeting will be hosted by BCCAT in Vancouver in June 2010 (date to be confirmed).

In June 2008, PCCAT formed a research subcommittee to develop and oversee a research agenda. The subcommittee includes members from BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. BCCAT provides secretariat support for and coordinates the project and also chairs the subcommittee, whose first research project is to develop pan-Canadian transfer student profile reports. The project will involve the analysis of institutional records at four or five Canadian universities over a multi-year period to determine the number of students enrolled who had previously completed credits from another public post-secondary institution in another province or territory and how these students performed. The plan is to complete an individual profile report at each university plus a summary report collating the results of the individual reports.



BC-Alberta Transfer Policies

The Council has finalized a policy, following extensive consultation with system stakeholders, which allows for the inclusion of Alberta post-secondary institutions in the BC Transfer System. (See bccat.ca/pubs/albertapolicy.pdf.) The policy states that only those Alberta institutions that can provide strong evidence of existing transfer activity and student traffic involving BC will be considered for admission. Meanwhile, the Alberta Council on Admissions & Transfer (ACAT) has approved a similar policy which is available at acat.gov.ab.ca/pdfs/BCInstitutionMembApplPolicy-andProcess.pdf. These policies build upon the transfer relationship established between the two provinces in the *BC/Alberta Transfer System Protocol* (bccat.ca/pubs/BC-ABprotocol.pdf) and are the result of ongoing cooperation between the two provinces to improve student transfer and mobility.

WEB UPDATES

Articulation Requests: One-Year Time Limit

BCCAT recently implemented a one-year time limit for articulation requests. Feedback from institutions indicated that many institutions were falling behind in articulation requests due to requests being submitted in error or where there were no matching programs. All requests for articulation now have a one-year time limit from their date of submission for a response by the receiving institution. If the request is not responded to within one year, the request will expire. This change has helped to eliminate the backlog of articulation requests, and positions the BC Transfer System to be sustainable in the long term. BCCAT continues to work with institutions and to add features to the Transfer Credit Evaluation System (TCES) to improve the processes and efficiency of articulation.

Trades Information on EducationPlanner.ca

EducationPlanner.ca now includes information on trades programs. BCCAT has worked closely with the Industry Training Authority (ITA) over recent months to integrate public institution trades and apprenticeship information from both the ITA and the Trades Training Consortium into the main search features of Education Planner. BCCAT is also working with ITA regarding the inclusion of information about programs at private trades training providers.

EducationPlanner.ca
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COUNCIL NOTES

We are delighted to announce the appointment of four new members of Council:

- **Catherine Mateer:** Associate Vice-President, Academic Planning, University of Victoria
- **Anna Lee Boulton:** Supervisor, Advising Centre, Capilano University
- **Kathleen Ross:** Senior Director, Enrolment Services & Registrar, Simon Fraser University
- **Tony Eder:** Director, Institutional Planning & Analysis, University of Victoria

As well, we are pleased to confirm the re-appointment of three existing members:

- **Martin Gerson:** Dean of Instruction, Langara College
- **Jody Gordon:** Associate VP, Student Services & Registrar, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- **Lesley Andres:** Professor, Educational Studies, University of British Columbia

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to four outgoing council members for their considerable contributions to the Council over the years:

- **Bob Harris:** Counsellor, College of New Caledonia
- **Lou Dryden:** formerly President, North Island College
- **Tim Segger:** Vice-President, Administration, University of the Fraser Valley
- **Bill Krane:** Associate Vice-President Academic & Associate Provost, Simon Fraser University

See bccat.ca/council.cfm for further information about the council.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- **Special Report: Credit Transfer: Models and Systems in BC, North America and Beyond**

Produced by BCCAT, October 2009
bccat.ca/pubs/sr_transfermodels.pdf

- **2008-09 Annual Report (to the Ministry of Advanced Education & Labour Market Development)**

Produced by BCCAT, May 2009
bccat.ca/pubs/ar08-09.pdf

- **Where Did They Go? Findings from a Survey of 2005-06 BC High School Graduates**

Produced by: Canadian Council on Learning, April 2009
Newsletter: bccat.ca/pubs/rr_apr09.pdf
Report: bccat.ca/pubs/wheredidtheygo.pdf

- **2008 Admissions and Transfer Experiences of Students Continuing their Post-Secondary Studies in British Columbia**

Produced by: BC Stats, February 2009
Newsletter: bccat.ca/pubs/rr_mar09.pdf
Full report: bccat.ca/pubs/bcstats08.pdf

BCCAT publications are available on the BCCAT website at bccat.ca/publications.

COMING SOON...

BCCAT.ca, EducationPlanner.ca, and BCTransferGuide.ca are due for a makeover.

We are in the process of refreshing the look and feel of our websites. The redesigned sites will be unveiled in 2010. Also, be sure to look out for our new ads on BC buses and on the SkyTrain during the Vancouver 2010 Olympics.

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BCTRANSFERGUIDE.CA



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