



Survey of Movers

Executive Summary

Thanks to the Student Transitions Project (STP) there is a wealth of data on student mobility in BC's post-secondary system; however, these data do not explain why students are moving, and how their educational goals are being supported. In early 2012, the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer commissioned BC Stats to survey over 1,600 students who changed BC public post-secondary institutions between the 2010/11 academic year and fall 2011, and found:

- Respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with their original institution (75%), the transfer process (80%), and their subsequent institution (88%). (pp. 12, 16, 21)¹
- The largest proportion of respondents (48%) determined the institution to which they intended to move when registered at their original institution, while almost a quarter did so even earlier. While over 60% of respondents planned their move in advance, slightly over a quarter decided on their next institution after leaving their initial one. (p. 14)
- Respondents who originally enrolled at colleges, institutes, and teaching universities were most likely to achieve grades as good as, or higher than expected (p. 10-11), and were much more likely to report that they had met their main goal for enrolling. (p. 9) They moved according to their plan to complete a credential at their subsequent institution.
- Respondents who originally enrolled at a research university, and then moved to another institution were more likely to have done so after encountering challenges in their academic performance or personal circumstances. (p. 11) Moving allowed them to continue toward their educational goals while retaining credit for previous, relevant learning. (p.12)
- A majority (62%) of respondents expected to transfer credits when they moved between institutions, and the vast majority (94%) received at least some of the credit they had earned at their initial institution. (p.15) Almost nine out of ten students who moved to research universities from another institution expected to transfer credit. Less than half (43%) of those who moved to colleges or institutes expected to do so. (p. 15)
- Respondents moving along the most developed transfer credit pathways expressed the highest levels of satisfaction with their transfer experience. (p. 16)
- More than two-thirds of respondents (69%) reported that the program at their subsequent institution was related to their initial program, regardless of which institution type they came from or moved to. (p. 21)
- Respondents from all institution types reported the availability of programs or courses as the top reason they chose their new institution (52%), followed by convenient location (39%), and program or institution reputation (33%). (p. 20)

The BC Transfer System enabled students moving to research universities to plan effectively, and provided those moving from research universities the option to continue their studies elsewhere when circumstances intervened. Students moving to and from all institution-types were able to progress toward their educational goals across the range of institutions and programs comprising BC's articulated post-secondary system.

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The Survey of Movers report was prepared for BCCAT by BC Stats.
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¹ For further details, see the full report at bccat.ca/publications/research/surveyofmovers.