



Exploring Credit Accumulation in Pathway Programs

Background

BCCAT has undertaken studies assessing the number of credits that transfer and direct entry students complete to graduate with a degree (Credits to Graduation projects 2010, 2020). These quantitative studies have been challenging due, in part, to institutional business practices, which have tended to make it difficult to identify the number of credits not recognized when students transfer to their degree granting institution. This follow-up Credits to Graduation study attempts to explore the experiences of students in specific “pathway” programs as well as direct entry students in the corresponding programs through a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods. For the purpose of this study, a “pathway” program involves the transfer of an undifferentiated block of credit, giving students advanced standing in Year 2 or greater of an undergraduate degree program at their receiving institution.

Purpose/ Goal

To assess the number of credits to graduation in pathway programs and to explore the experiences of upper-level transfer students and of direct entry students enrolled in the same program areas at BC Transfer System institutions

Scope

The study will focus on a select number of BC Transfer System institutions offering pathway programs in one or more program areas (e.g., Nursing, Business, or Engineering). Those submitting proposals should include a discussion of how these public post-secondary institutions would be identified and invited to participate.

Objectives

The objectives of the study include:

1. To identify a sample of pathway programs leading to a baccalaureate degree, and to recruit the institutional participants.
2. To assess the number of credits typically completed by transfer and direct entry students in these programs.
3. To explore the reasons why these students complete the number of credits they do (particularly those credits beyond the strict program requirements), and
4. To identify areas for future research and, if appropriate, the development of institutional practices.

Timeline

Completion date for this project will be January 2021.

Budget

Proposals in the range of \$18,000 to \$23,000 will be considered. This range is inclusive of all hourly charges, travel and associated costs, and GST.

[Proposal Template for Research Projects](#)