

TRANSFERABILITY AND ARTICULATION OF POST-SECONDARY CREDIT

British Columbia's credit transfer system is highly diverse, reflecting the province's varied post-secondary programs, and the flexible pathways by which students access them. Current research priorities support the continuous improvement of specific transfer mechanisms, capture successful articulation practices, and the development of articulation and transfer processes for specific types of courses, learner circumstances, and areas of innovation.

-> **Pathways Partnerships with Indigenous Institutions**

This project will use surveys, interviews, focus groups and/or other tools to gather information on the development, implementation and maintenance of credit-transfer pathways with indigenous mandated post-secondary institutions in BC. Where possible, it will provide a quantitative account of the functioning of the pathway, relying on institutional data or other sources. *(Admissions Committee)*

-> **Successful Practices in Supporting Students with Lived Experience in Care**

Building on the experience of BC public post-secondary institutions, this research will focus on the development of programs and practices that improve access for students with lived experience in care, and that support their persistence and success. Surveys, interviews, focus groups and/or other tools will be used to gather information on the development, implementation and maintenance of these programs and practices. *(Admissions Committee)*

-> **Examining the Challenges and Barriers to Articulation Maintenance**

The Transfer Credit System (TCS) course audit in 2019 illustrated that the maintenance of articulation agreements has become a challenge for many BC Transfer System members. This project will explore the challenges and barriers to articulation maintenance, and identify opportunities and recommendations to improve this area of the BC Transfer System. *(Transfer & Articulation Committee)*

CAPACITY, DEMAND, STUDENT MOBILITY, AND STUDENT SUCCESS

Research on student mobility patterns, and on the experiences of students who transfer, allows Council and its partners to better understand student demand, and to ensure the effectiveness of the BC Transfer System in supporting student access. Current projects focus on continuous improvement of student mobility data, a major survey of transfer student decision-making and experience, and exploratory research into student motivations for credit accumulation beyond program requirements.

-> **Increasing the Availability of Transfer Data**

For a number of years BCCAT has worked with BC Transfer System members and government to develop a data source that captures transfer credit granted at most BC public post-secondary institutions. Currently, the work focuses on improving data consistency and reliability, and sharing the data with articulation committees and other system-level groups in order to better understand credit mobility in the province. (*Admissions Committee*)

-> **Surveying Mobile Students in BC Post-Secondary Institutions**

With the assistance of BC's public post-secondary institutions, and BC Stats, over 4500 students were surveyed regarding their experience moving between post-secondary institutions. Respondents provided information on their goals, decision-making, experience, and level of satisfaction. The results have been released to participating institutions, and a public report will be released this year. (*Research Committee*)

-> **Exploring Credit Accumulation - Student Perspectives**

This follow-up to BCCAT's Credits to Graduation study attempts to explore transfer and direct entry students' motivations, experiences and perceptions concerning the credits they complete at BC Transfer System institutions – particularly those which do not apply to their credential(s). (*Research Committee*)

ADMISSION PROCESSES FOR DIRECT ENTRY AND TRANSFER STUDENTS

Admissions policies and practices have a significant impact on credit transferability and the transfer experience. Research projects focus on identifying successful admissions policies and processes that maximize access to post-secondary education for both transfer students and those transitioning directly from high school.

-> **Transfer Practices within the Registrar's Office**

This study will focus on the practices and procedures used to articulate and award transfer credit within BC Transfer System institutions. The report will identify the positions or areas within these institutions that have the authority to award transfer credit, and explore the processes by which transfer award decisions are made. (*Transfer and Articulation Committee*)

-> **Credit Accumulation in Pathway Programs**

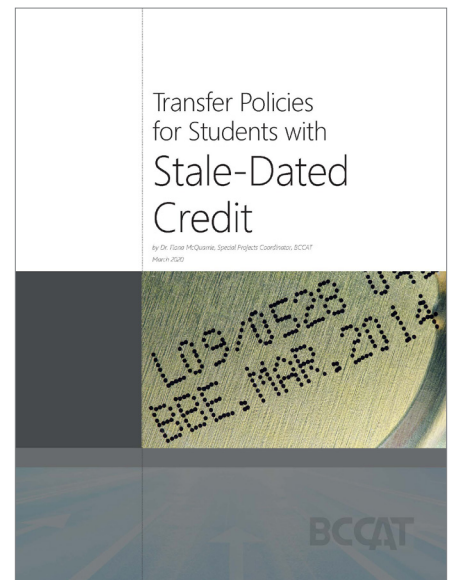
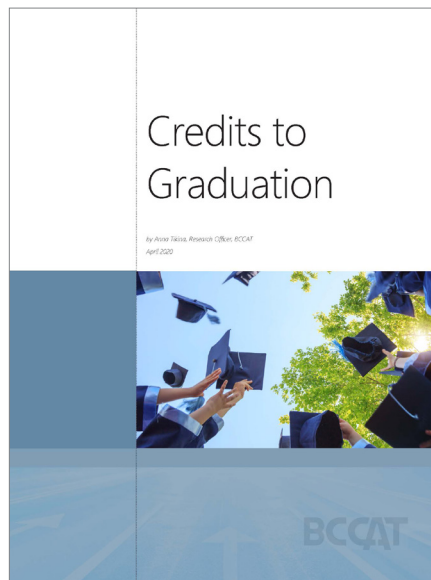
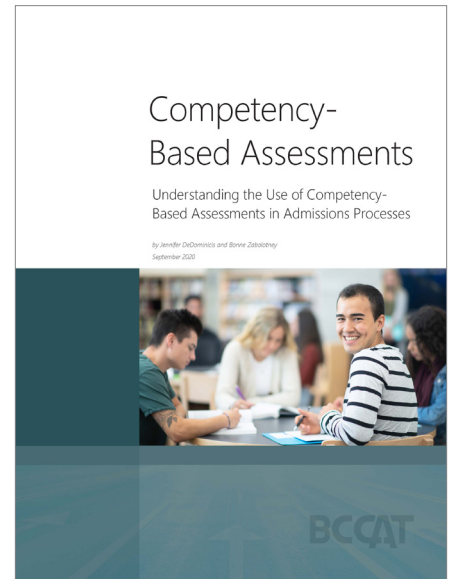
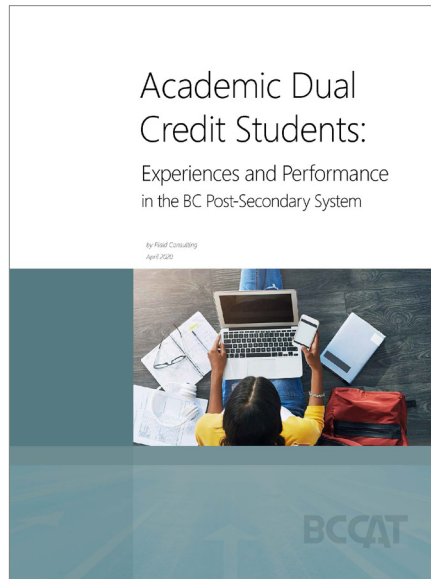
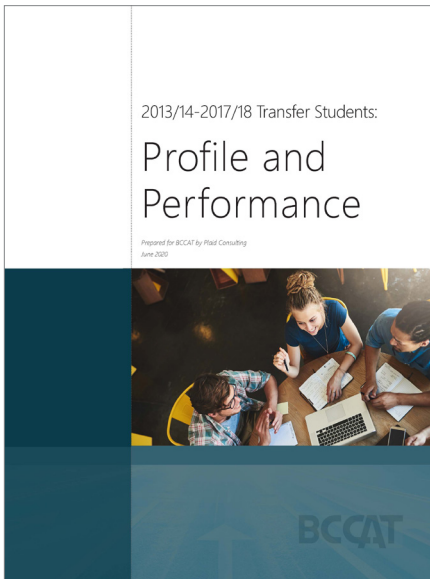
This follow-up to BCCAT's Credits to Graduation study attempts to explore the experiences of students in specific "pathway" programs in several disciplines, e.g., in Engineering and Nursing, as well as direct entry students in these programs, through a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods. (*Research Committee*)

FUTURE PROJECTS:

In developing and prioritizing research projects for future years, the following areas will be considered:

PROJECT AREA	PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION
Transfer and Articulation Policies and Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster effective and efficient articulation processes through sharing practices and undertaking environmental scans • Survey and support articulation and partnerships for innovative courses/ blocks • Assess implications of open educational resources for articulation • Outline credit banks and credit accumulation mechanisms in other jurisdictions • Analyze the impact of course and program indigenization on articulation and transfer • Describe and compare competency-based articulation processes • Assess the impact of regulatory bodies on articulation • Integrate existing and potential articulation agreements into the program review process
Credentials and Pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the implications of badges and other micro-credentials for transfer, articulation, access and mobility, and transcription. • Evaluate the effectiveness of associate degree, flexible pre-major and block transfer pathways • Describe the impact of post-degree credentials on articulation • Survey and share successful examples of laddering and degree pathways
Extra-Provincial Credit Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe, assess and support extra-provincial credit and credential evaluation and recognition • Analyze international student mobility within the BC Transfer System • Survey examples of credit transfer for international field schools
Supporting Student Access, Mobility and Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify educational planning needs of various groups of learners, including indigenous students, mature students and international students • Evaluate the effectiveness of the BC Transfer System in supporting student access and persistence • Capture mobile student motivations, decision-making, expectations and experiences.
Demographics and Metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and apply transfer student success metrics, including employment outcomes • Analyze supply and demand for educational programs and describe the implications for transfer and admissions policies and practices • Analyze patterns of student mobility and persistence • Increase understanding of mobility between private and public institutions in the BC Transfer System • Assess the impact of demographic shifts on student program choice and mobility patterns • Assess the impact of living costs on student program choices, and student mobility patterns
Policies and Processes Related to Access, Credit Assessment, and Admissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe and compare approaches to calculating grades and GPAs for transfer students for admission, academic standing, merit awards and other purposes • Assess transcription practices and their impact on credit transfer • Describe and share transfer credit assessment practices, including recognition of prior learning, advanced standing and course exemption • Describe and share policies and programs supporting transfer student persistence and success • Support credit transfer in centralized application processes • Survey policies and practices in recognition of prior learning, credit recognition, advanced standing, and course exemption • Assess the implications of hybrid and fully-online programming for student access and mobility
High School Transitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze high school performance, graduation and admission requirements, and post-secondary success • Survey other jurisdictions that utilize secondary-exit and post-secondary entrance examinations • Survey successful practices in dual credit programs • Analyze patterns of dual credit student transition to post-secondary

Check out these recent research publications at bccat.ca/search/publications:



Your guide through
post-secondary education



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