

# Working for Student Mobility in BC and Beyond

2014-15 Annual Review

Report of the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer  
to the Ministry of Advanced Education

June 2015



**BCCAT**



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This report, an infographic overview, and other related materials are available at  
[bccat.ca/about/annualreview](http://bccat.ca/about/annualreview)

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## Who we are:

*The BC Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT) oversees the BC Transfer System, enabling vital links between the BC post-secondary institutions, the education ministries, and the public and private education sectors. BCCAT's collaborative approach contributes to the ongoing development of a robust and responsive transfer network.*

The Council:	<a href="http://bccat.ca/about/council">bccat.ca/about/council</a>
Committees:	<a href="http://bccat.ca/about/committees">bccat.ca/about/committees</a>
What We Do/Staff Team:	<a href="http://bccat.ca/about/work">bccat.ca/about/work</a>
BC Transfer System:	<a href="http://bccat.ca/system/psec">bccat.ca/system/psec</a>

*"I congratulate BCCAT on 25 stellar years of guiding and undergirding BC's post-secondary admissions, transfer and articulation system. The far-sighted leadership and superb management provided to BC's education system by BCCAT's Council and Staff over the years have provided a major steadying, unifying influence on the system that few appreciate and understand. Thank you for steadfastly maintaining the unwavering integrity and visionary purpose of this invaluable service."*

*Dr. Leo Neufeld, Former Chair, BCcupm (Mathematics Articulation Committee)/Camosun Faculty) and winner of the 2014 Franklin Gelin Lifetime Achievement Award.*



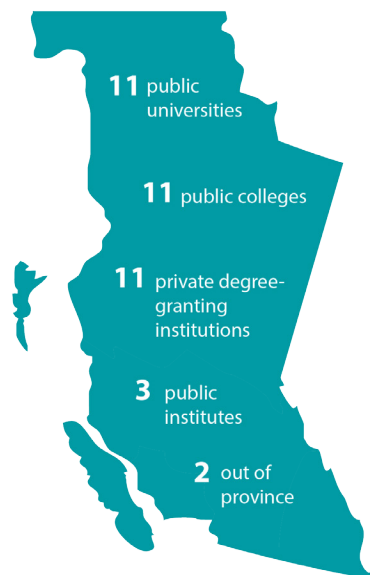
## BCCAT AND THE BC TRANSFER SYSTEM

The BC Transfer System is widely acknowledged for maximizing access, flexibility, and efficiency for students with diverse needs and interests. BCCAT works with post-secondary partners to provide an extensive range of educational pathway options for BC students by:

- 🕒 **providing tools and resources** that support students with their post-secondary planning
- 🕒 **facilitating transfer credit processes** and managing transfer agreements and information on the BC Transfer Guide
- 🕒 **overseeing and coordinating 67 articulation committees**
- 🕒 **undertaking research to inform** institutional planning, policies, and processes that support student mobility
- 🕒 **collaborating with inter-provincial partners** to support and advance transfer across jurisdictions.

The *2014-15 Annual Review*<sup>1</sup> provides a synopsis of the ways that BCCAT has worked for students, BC Transfer System partners, and our inter-provincial counterparts to support post-secondary access and student mobility in BC and beyond.

<sup>1</sup>This *Annual Review* and related materials are available at [bccat.ca/about/annualreview](http://bccat.ca/about/annualreview)



# 2014 BCCAT TRANSFER AWARDS

The work of BCCAT would not be possible without the collaboration and cooperation of many different individuals and groups across the BC Transfer System. In 2014, BCCAT celebrated its 25th anniversary. We chose this occasion to honour the dedication of individuals who work every day to respond to student transfer queries, process transfer agreements, explore innovative approaches to transfer, and participate in vital articulation discussions and decisions. The BCCAT Transfer Awards<sup>2</sup> were launched with this in mind, and we are delighted to share here the names of our very first award winners:

## RISING STAR AWARD

MICHAELA HUTH-ALDRICH

Transfer Credit Coordinator, Thompson Rivers University

KAREN LANGAN

Articulation Officer, College of the Rockies

## TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

SUZANNE NORMAN

Admissions & Academic Advising Officer, Capilano University

DAVE TWYNAM

Dean, Faculty of Management, Vancouver Island University

## LEADERSHIP AWARD

NEIL COBURN

Vice-President, Education & Students, Selkirk College

## FRANKLIN GELIN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

LEO NEUFELD

Former Chair, BCcupm



Left to right: Neil Coburn, Dave Twynam (back), Leo Neufeld, Frank Gelin (back), Suzanne Norman, Karen Langan. (Michaela Huth-Aldrich was presented her award in absentia.)

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<sup>2</sup>For more information about the annual BCCAT Transfer Awards, see [bccat.ca/system/awards](http://bccat.ca/system/awards)





Above: Frank Gelin (second from the right) assisting with registration at the College of New Caledonia. (circa 1969)

## THE FRANKLIN GELIN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

In 2014, the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer established the BCCAT Lifetime Achievement Award in honour of DR. FRANKLIN GELIN, who served as Executive Director from 1994-2010. His value for collaboration and consultation was a vital contributing factor to the success of the BC Transfer System as we know it today.

The *Franklin Gelin Lifetime Achievement Award* recognizes those who carry on this important work in the same spirit of collaboration, engagement, and dedication in service to the system over the course of their post-secondary careers.

*“Few have devoted as much leadership to the activities of BCCAT as Frank Gelin. For more than two decades Frank has been responsible for a great deal of the innovation, the reputation, the image and the culture of the Council as recognized by government, the post-secondary educational system and the community at large.”*

*- John Dennison, BCCAT Co-Chair (1993-1999) and Professor Emeritus, Administrative, Adult & Higher Education, UBC*

## WORKING FOR STUDENTS

BCCAT's core mandate is to support and advance efficient credit transfer and student mobility. BC's robust transfer system ensures equitable treatment of students while saving them time and money.

## SERVICES AND RESOURCES

BCCAT manages two web resources to assist student planning: [BCTransferGuide.ca](http://BCTransferGuide.ca) and [EducationPlanner.ca](http://EducationPlanner.ca).

- 📍 **BCTransferGuide.ca** allows learners to explore their transfer options. The site lists over **100,000** guaranteed transfer agreements, all of which are updated through BCCAT's web-based Transfer Credit Evaluation System (TCES).

This year, **BCTransferGuide.ca** was redeveloped to upgrade the search tools, incorporate social media, update content to address common questions, and refresh the look and feel to improve the user experience.

- 📍 **EducationPlanner.ca** provides access to a searchable database of over **2,100** post-secondary programs at BC post-secondary institutions. This year, enhancements to the site included the addition of information on interdisciplinary programs and linkages with WorkBC regarding career profiles and labour market information related to educational programs.



“BCCAT plays a vital part in enabling student access to education in British Columbia.”

*The Honourable Andrew Wilkinson, Minister of Advanced Education*

**150,000**  
unique visitors per month  
(combined and approximate) to  
**BCTransferGuide.ca** and **Educa-  
tionPlanner.ca**

**BCTransferGuide.ca**  
**100,000+**  
guaranteed transfer agree-  
ments

**1,000+**  
block credit pathways

**80+**  
guaranteed admission degree  
program partnerships

**EducationPlanner.ca**  
**2,100**  
post-secondary program listings

**100s**  
of free education and career  
planning resources



## COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

BCCAT communications activities are undertaken to ensure that information regarding resources is available for students, counsellors, parents, and the wider public. BCCAT staff regularly participate at secondary and post-secondary fairs, and run an ongoing province-wide transit ad campaign



Anna Tikina, BCCAT's Research Officer, helps out at the 2015 Skills Canada BC Provincial Skills Competition.

# WORKING FOR THE BC TRANSFER SYSTEM

BCCAT works with and for BC Transfer system partners to enable transfer and mobility. Through facilitation, engagement, research and analysis, BCCAT builds on the successes of a comprehensive transfer network that works for students.

## FACILITATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The BC Transfer System is widely recognized as the most comprehensive and adaptive credit equivalency system in Canada for accommodating unique student pathways across differentiated institutions. BCCAT oversees the BC Transfer System, enabling links between the BC post-secondary institutions, the education ministries, and the public and private education sectors.

BCCAT's Transfer Credit Evaluation System (TCES) is the online infrastructure linking institutions and facilitating pathway options for students. BCCAT works in a variety of ways to support those involved in the work of transfer and articulation.



## Articulation Committees

The BC Transfer System owes much of its effectiveness to the work carried out by BC's articulation committees. These groups address issues of concern, strengthen trust and understanding, and uphold quality across programs and institutions.

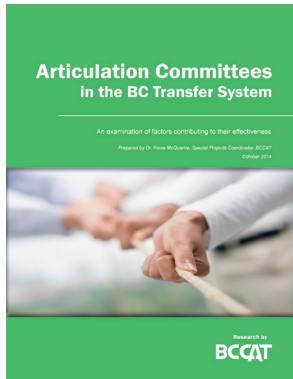
BCCAT supports and coordinates BC's 67 articulation committees<sup>3</sup> by maintaining regular contact, providing key information and resources to help committees operate more effectively and efficiently, and overseeing Transfer Innovation (TI) projects that explore fresh ways to enable transfer and articulation, such as the development of Major Pathways,<sup>4</sup> Block Transfers and Descriptive Pathways/Transfer Grids.<sup>5</sup>

Mathematics-statistics  
Early Childhood Education  
Engineering Biology  
Creative Writing  
Sociology-anthropology  
First Nations Studies  
Practical Nursing  
Piping Trades  
Adventure Tourism

<sup>3</sup>See [bccat.ca/articulation](http://bccat.ca/articulation) for more information.

<sup>4</sup>Otherwise known as Flexible Pre-Majors (FPMs)

<sup>5</sup>See [bccat.ca/articulation/projects](http://bccat.ca/articulation/projects) for more info.



*Articulation Committees in the BC Transfer System*<sup>6</sup> looks at the practices that have contributed to successful articulation committees over the years. It offers guidance for existing committees and other transfer systems exploring the establishment of articulation committees. It includes a number of recommendations for articulation committees seeking to enhance their effectiveness. A key recommendation purports that **articulation committees operate more effectively when they allow for professional networking and interaction with other articulation committees.**

**152**

**attendees participated at the 2015 JAM event, including a number of representatives from other jurisdictions.**

## **┆ Joint Annual Meeting (JAM)**

Every year, BCCAT hosts an event bringing together those involved in the work of transfer and articulation in BC and beyond. The Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) serves as a system-focused transfer conference that allows BC Transfer System participants to meet and share about issues and developments of interest or concern. This year, it was attended by 152 individuals, most of whom came from institutions across the BC Transfer System. Increasingly, the event is attracting attendees from other jurisdictions as well. This year, we welcomed participants from Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick, and Ontario. Information (and links to presentations) are available at [bccat.ca/articulation/jam](http://bccat.ca/articulation/jam)

## **┆ Learning Outcomes – Discussion Forum**

Learning outcomes are increasingly prevalent in the global post-secondary landscape, changing approaches to curriculum development, delivery and review. This topic can be powerful vehicle for conversation on a wide variety of post-secondary issues, including: student mobility, credit recognition, and transfer.

<sup>6</sup> [bccat.ca/pubs/articulationcommittees.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/articulationcommittees.pdf)

In fall 2014, BCCAT co-hosted a discussion forum<sup>7</sup> together with the Senior Academic Administrators' Forum (SAAF). We invited post-secondary partners to connect and share on issues and experiences surrounding learning outcomes initiatives. An introduction to “The What, Why, How and Implementation of Learning Outcomes” was delivered by John FitzGibbon,<sup>8</sup> Associate Director at BCCAT, and this was followed by a variety of presentations from numerous BC post-secondary institutions. Attendees reported that they appreciated the opportunity to share across institutions and to learn from the experiences and approaches of others.



## Associate Degree Developments

Associate degrees have been useful vehicles for transfer in BC for many years. Following the provincial review of the existing Associate Degree frameworks, BCCAT and system partners proceeded with the implementation of key recommendations of the Provincial Associate Degree Review Steering Committee.<sup>9</sup>

Proposed changes to the curricular and articulation specifications of the Arts and Science associate degree frameworks increase the flexibility of these credentials. These are being reviewed by the Degree Quality Assessment Board (DQAB) and the Ministry of Advanced Education. If approved, system implementation may occur as early as fall 2015. **While the proposed revisions will enhance flexibility for students and institutions, they would not require any changes be made to existing associate degrees.**

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*The Associate Degree in Specialized Studies would enable institutions to offer an associate degree in specialized study areas, including career, professional and inter-disciplinary fields.*

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<sup>7</sup> For details, including links to the event program, presentations and a summary, see [bccat.ca/about/saaf](http://bccat.ca/about/saaf)

<sup>8</sup> John FitzGibbon also presented on the topic at a workshop in Ontario, having authored a report looking at learning outcome and their utility for credit transfer. See [bccat.ca/pubs/Learning\\_Outcomes\\_and\\_Credit\\_Transfer\\_Feb2014.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/Learning_Outcomes_and_Credit_Transfer_Feb2014.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> [bccat.ca/pubs/ADReviewFinalReport.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/ADReviewFinalReport.pdf)

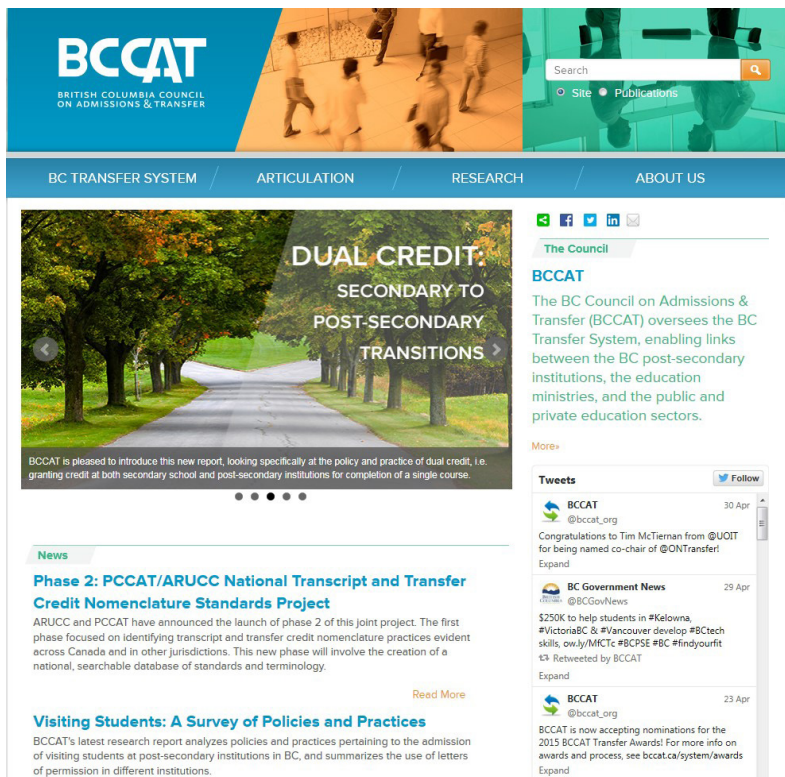
To implement another key recommendation, BCCAT established a steering committee and identified Dr. Robert Campbell as the Project Lead to develop guidelines for a proposed new associate degree credential, the Associate Degree in Specialized Studies. Drawing upon feedback from consultation, the principles and framework for the proposed new option would enable institutions to offer an associate degree in specialized study areas, including career, professional and inter-disciplinary fields. If endorsed by the Council, the proposal will be submitted to the DQAB and the Ministry for consideration later this year.

## BCCAT.ca

# 70,000

approximate unique visits to BCCAT.ca per month.

BCCAT.ca serves as an information hub for articulation committees and all post-secondary partners, offering information, updates, resource materials and publications of interest across the BC Transfer System. This year the site underwent a major redesign to upgrade to a more powerful operating platform, improve the search function, refresh the look and feel, and incorporate social media features.

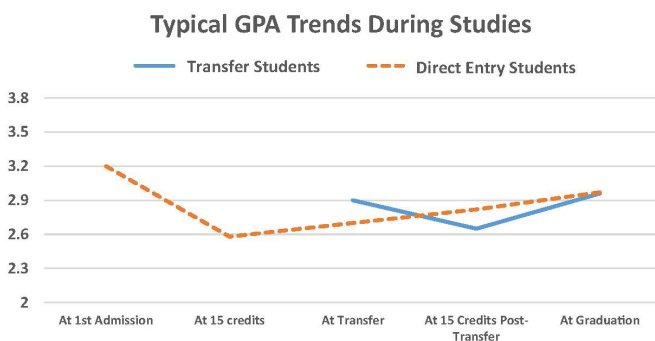
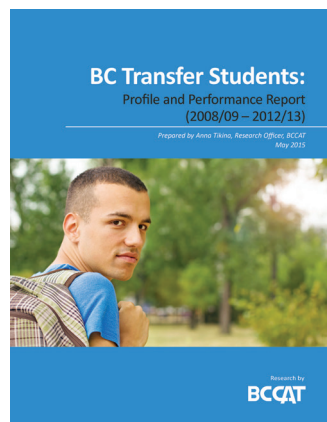


# RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

BCCAT is committed to deepening our understanding of the ever-changing BC post-secondary system. This involves overseeing a comprehensive research agenda<sup>10</sup> to inform institutional partners and, ultimately, to enhance transfer opportunities and experiences for BC students.

## BC Transfer Students: Profile and Performance

BCCAT has been producing reports on the profile and performance of BC Transfer Students since 1991. The latest project covers the 2008-13 academic years and is based on data submitted by the Research Universities' Council of British Columbia (RUCBC). The report<sup>11</sup> looks at the demographic of these students and the levels of their success at receiving institutions. Significantly, the report shows that, despite their demographic differences, the performance of transfer students was comparable to that of students who entered directly following secondary school graduation.



Typical GPA trends during studies for transfer and direct entry students

*The report shows that, regardless of demographic differences, the performance of transfer students was comparable to that of students who entered directly following secondary school graduation.*

<sup>10</sup>For more information about BCCAT research, see [bccat.ca/research](http://bccat.ca/research). The 2014-15 Research Plan is provided at [bccat.ca/research/plan](http://bccat.ca/research/plan)

<sup>11</sup>Access to the report and related infographic summary (displayed on the following page) is available at [bccat.ca/research/projects/profile](http://bccat.ca/research/projects/profile)



*These studies yield important information about BC transfer students. BCCAT's coordination of system-wide research and the availability of data from receiving institutions make these kinds of projects possible, and help to contribute to the national discussion regarding transfer and mobility.*

See the following links, for access to:

The BC Transfer Student Profile and Performance Report and the related infographic: [bccat.ca/research/projects/profile](http://bccat.ca/research/projects/profile)

2014-15 Research Plan: [bccat.ca/research/plan](http://bccat.ca/research/plan)

Other research projects: [bccat.ca/research/projects](http://bccat.ca/research/projects)

# TRANSFER STUDENTS AT RUCBC UNIVERSITIES 2008/09 - 2012/13



Profile and performance of undergraduate students moving from more than 30 BC post-secondary institutions to 6 BC Research Universities, members of RUCBC (<http://www.rucbc.ca/>)

**What Students are Included in this Study?**

RU Transfer Students are a subset of all mobile undergraduate students in BC who moved to 6 Universities during 2008/09 - 2012/13 academic years.



Student mobility to colleges, institutes and other universities is beyond the scope of this report.

All Mobile Students in BC (~53,000/year)



RU Transfer Students...

**2.0+** are admitted with post-secondary GPA of 2.0 or higher.

**>15** are those who bring more than 15 credits from a different college, institute, or university.

**Profile of RU Transfer Students**

**Average Transferred Credits at Admission**

**48.2** RU Transfer Students on average brought credits equivalent to more than 1.5 years of full-time study.

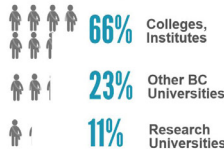
**Credits Taken in First Year at Universities**

RU Transfer Students **24.1** Direct Entry Students **25.9**

**Average Age**

RU Transfer Students **22.8** Direct Entry Students **17.9**

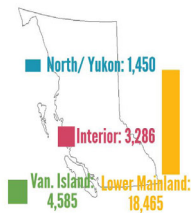
**Where do they Transfer from?**



**What Percent of Incoming Students?**

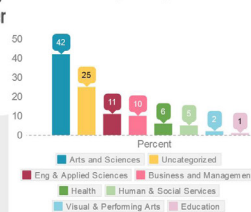
**34%** RU Transfer Students on average constituted a third of all students admitted in a year at the 6 universities.

Students from all parts of BC make use of BC Transfer System: Total # RU Transfer Students in 5 yrs



**Performance of RU Transfer Students**

**Study Program After Transfer (Percent)**



**Average Time to Complete a Credential after Transfer**

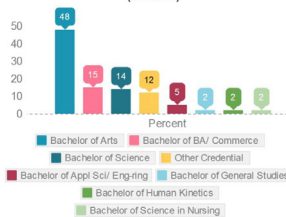
**33 months**

**Baccalaureate Degree Completion Rate**

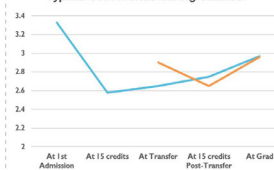


**67%** Over two thirds of RU Transfer Students admitted 2008/09 - 2009/10 completed degrees in or before 2012/13. BCCAT reports 65-67% for all students (transfer and direct entry).

**Credentials Awarded (Percent)**



**Typical GPA Trends during Studies**



After a drop in GPA by the end of the first semester, GPA for both RU Transfer Students and students entering directly from high school converge at the time of graduation.

More information: BC Transfer Students Profile and Performance Report 2008/09 - 2012/13. Available at: <http://www.bccat.ca/research/projects/profile>



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## Student Pathways

### *Readiness and Reverse: Further Analysis of the Survey of Movers<sup>12</sup>*

This project examined student mobility pathways of BC public post-secondary students, by region, sector, and motivation. The report reflects the diverse pathways taken by BC post-secondary students. Furthermore, while many follow planned pathways, many others alter their pathway to credential completion due to unanticipated circumstances. This “redemptive” quality of the BC Transfer System, allows students to continue their studies and the pursuit of their educational goals. As the author notes, “Such research has the potential to influence policy discussions and decisions that have an impact on student success.”

### *A Look Back: A Retrospective Analysis of the Sequence of Life Course Events Over 22 Years<sup>13</sup>*

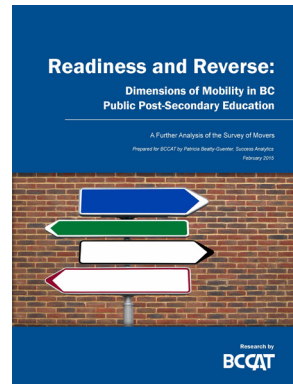
This report draws from the Paths on Life’s Way project tracking BC high school graduates from 1988. The report shows that significant percentages of the Paths respondents earned some form of post-secondary credential since graduating from high school in 1988: 85% of females, and 79% of males. The findings also suggest that transition into full-time employment was gradual and, for many respondents, sporadic, for over a decade following graduation. Relative to men, women, were “willingly or unwillingly” more “adaptive, flexible and fluid” in their relationship to paid employment over the 22 years studied.

**85% of females**  
**79% of males**

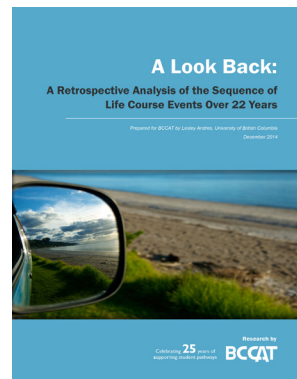
**Paths respondents who earned some form of post-secondary credential since graduating from high school in 1988**

<sup>12</sup>See [bccat.ca/pubs/readandrev2015.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/readandrev2015.pdf)

<sup>13</sup>See [bccat.ca/research/projects/paths](http://bccat.ca/research/projects/paths) for links to the report and a summary newsletter.



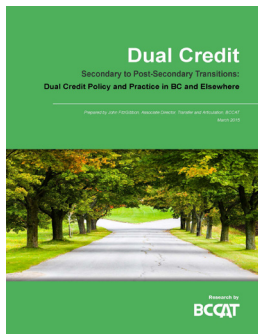
*The BC Transfer System supports students who follow planned learning pathways and also those who change direction.*



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*BCCAT works to support and enhance secondary to post-secondary transitions. The Admissions Pathways and Dual Credit projects are two key examples.*

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*Dual credit options offer a number of advantages, enabling schools, districts, and post-secondary institutions to work out arrangements that meet the needs of their students within a provincial framework.*

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## **Admissions Issues**

### **Secondary to Post-Secondary Transitions**

**Dual Credit:** There is growing interest in BC on the issue of how to improve secondary to post-secondary transitions. This year, BCCAT released a report<sup>14</sup> (and related summary newsletter) that looks specifically at the policy and practice of dual credit, i.e., granting credit at both secondary school and post-secondary institutions for completion of a single course. It surveys the academic literature on dual credit, examines current practices in North America, and offers some directions to consider.

Dual credit options offer a number of advantages, enabling schools, districts, and post-secondary institutions to work out arrangements that meet the needs of their students. While dual credit options in BC are currently quite limited, they are expected to increase with the continuing focus on facilitating transitions from secondary to post-secondary education and training.

**Admissions Pathways:** BCCAT is collaborating with the BC Registrars Association (BCRA) to develop a summary of current admissions models at BC post-secondary institutions. The document is intended to support continuing dialogue to maintain smooth transitions for those students continuing into post-secondary in a period when changes in secondary school curriculum and graduation requirements are being considered.

### **Transfer Credit Assessment**

This report investigates policies and practices of transfer credit assessment at post-secondary institutions in BC and at key institutions across the country, focusing on the timing of transfer credit assessment.<sup>15</sup>

### **Visiting Students**

This report provides an overview of the admissions practices regarding visiting students at BC post-secondary institutions and summarizes the use of letters of permission in different institutions.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup>[bccat.ca/research/projects/dualcredit](http://bccat.ca/research/projects/dualcredit)

<sup>15</sup>[bccat.ca/pubs/tca2015.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/tca2015.pdf)

<sup>16</sup>[bccat.ca/pubs/visitingstudents\\_report.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/visitingstudents_report.pdf)



## Collaborative Projects

### *Student Transitions Project (STP)*

The STP is BC's collaborative system-wide research initiative that tracks student mobility from secondary to post-secondary education. STP research has contributed much to our understanding of student mobility in BC. A recent STP update reported that 52,000 (17%) students moved between public institutions and programs in 2012-13,<sup>17</sup> indicating that BC's students continue to take up the flexible options afforded them by the BC Transfer System.

In 2014, the STP released a report on *International Students in BC's Education Systems*.<sup>18</sup> This report documents the population of international students studying in BC's post-secondary system, describing their countries of origin, the programs, institutions and regions in which they enroll, and the patterns of transition for international students who graduate from the BC secondary school system. Among new international students entering the BC post-secondary system in 2012/13, about 5% graduated from a BC high school in the preceding year, and about 1% graduated from a BC high school in a previous year. International students who graduated from a BC high school generally demonstrated superior educational outcomes than did those students who did not attend or graduate from a BC high school.

### *International Students Survey*

This year, BCCAT coordinated a survey<sup>19</sup> of international students, refreshing the findings from one carried out in 2008. The survey addressed emerging questions concerning international students and their experience in BC. The response rate has been encouraging; over 9,000 students completed the survey. Participating institutional research offices have received data on their own respondents. A publication reporting the findings is expected to be released by fall 2015.



## 1 in 5

**BC post-secondary students moved between public institutions in 2012/13 (approximately).**

## 34,000

**International students enrolled in the BC public post-secondary system in 2012/13 (representing 7.8% of the total enrollment).**

## 9,000+ students

**completed the International Student Survey**

<sup>17</sup>[www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student\\_transitions/documents/PSM\\_Highlights\\_2015-02-05.pdf](http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student_transitions/documents/PSM_Highlights_2015-02-05.pdf)

<sup>18</sup>[www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student\\_transitions/documents/STP-International-Research-Results\\_2014-10-10.pdf](http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student_transitions/documents/STP-International-Research-Results_2014-10-10.pdf)

<sup>19</sup>[bccat.ca/research/iss](http://bccat.ca/research/iss)

### ***Post-Secondary Central Data Warehouse***

BCCAT is working with BC's Post-Secondary Central Data Warehouse<sup>20</sup> and post-secondary institutions to gather and analyse data to better understand credit mobility in the BC Transfer System. This data can yield important information about the effectiveness of transfer initiatives, allowing us to measure (for example) the impact of work carried out by articulation committees.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>20</sup>[www.aved.gov.bc.ca/datawarehouse/](http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/datawarehouse/)

<sup>21</sup>See pages 12-13 above for more information about the work of articulation committees.

# WORKING FOR PAN-CANADIAN MOBILITY

BCCAT works together with counterparts from other Canadian jurisdictions to support and develop inter-provincial transfer and mobility options for students.

## COLLABORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

### MOU and Inter-Provincial Initiatives

This year saw the historic signing of a Memorandum of Understanding<sup>22</sup> between BCCAT and our transfer counterparts in Alberta, Ontario, and New Brunswick. THE MOU opens the way for jurisdictions to work together on enhancing student mobility in Canada.

Collaboration on key initiatives is gathering momentum. For example, BCCAT has been talking with other jurisdictions (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario) interested in adapting BCCAT's transfer processes for their provincial systems. As well, discussions are underway concerning the sharing of innovations across jurisdictions for the benefit of all partners and students. BCCAT is regularly sought out for advice on the use of technology in support of articulation by jurisdictions across Canada.

**“The signing of this MoU creates the foundation for a comprehensive pan-Canadian post-secondary credit transfer system that will provide enhanced learning recognition and opportunities for all Canadians.”**

*- Dr. Roger H. Barnsley, Co-Chair, BCCAT*

**“This MoU is a catalyst to facilitate pan-Canadian development of high quality, flexible, and efficient inter-institutional learner pathways, such as those well-established in the BC Transfer System.”**

*- Dr. Robert Fleming, BCCAT Executive Director and Co-Chair.*



Dr. Robert Fleming and Dr. Robin Fisher (Chair of the Alberta Council on Admissions) sign the MOU on October 2, 2015.



Dr. Roger H. Barnsley, BCCAT Co-Chair and President (1998-2010) Emeritus, Thompson Rivers University

<sup>22</sup>See [bccat.ca/about/news/MOU](http://bccat.ca/about/news/MOU)



Plans are also underway for BCCAT to host a discussion forum for inter-provincial institutional stakeholders in September 2015. This event will focus on issues and opportunities for credit recognition and transfer on a pan-Canadian basis. The forum will take place the day before the annual WestCAT meeting; this is an opportunity for Western Canadian transfer agency contacts to meet and discuss issues and developments pertaining to intra- and inter-provincial transfer.

## PCCAT and Pan-Canadian Activities

BCCAT continues to provide assistance and leadership for the Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer (PCCAT).<sup>23</sup> Dr. Robert Fleming, BCCAT's Executive Director, sits on the PCCAT Board, and BCCAT staff members are involved with planning for the 2015 PCCAT Conference, to be held in Windsor in June 2015. The theme for this year's conference is *Blending Borders: Expanding Capacity and Access through Student Transfer and Mobility*.

Meanwhile, BCCAT is actively involved with the second phase<sup>24</sup> of a pan-Canadian project focused on the development of a National Transcript Guide and a glossary of transfer practices. The project is designed to promote student success and mobility by increasing transparency, while respecting institutional autonomy. Increasing the consistency of transcription across the country supports the mobility of students within Canada and beyond our borders. It also creates efficiencies for institutions which evaluate the transcripts of mobile Canadian students. The project is co-led by PCCAT and ARUCC (the Association of Registrars of Universities and Colleges of Canada).

<sup>23</sup>For more information about PCCAT and the conference, see [www.pccatweb.org](http://www.pccatweb.org)

<sup>24</sup>See [bccat.ca/pubs/National-TranscriptRelease2.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/National-TranscriptRelease2.pdf) and [www.arucc.ca/en/resources/arucc-pccat-project.html](http://www.arucc.ca/en/resources/arucc-pccat-project.html)

We at BCCAT are privileged to work with and for many involved and served by the BC Transfer System. We wish to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to the groups and individuals within and beyond BC who contribute to the ongoing successes of the BC Transfer System and to emerging initiatives as we support student mobility within and across provincial borders.

## What's Next?

- 🔍 Findings from the International Students Survey, due for release in fall 2015.
- 🔍 Planned upgrades for EducationPlanner.ca and the Transfer Credit Evaluation System (TCES) in 2015-16.
- 🔍 Experiential Learning & Academic Advising projects due for completion in 2015/16.
- 🔍 Research on mature student admissions, and dual admission programs will be undertaken over the coming year.
- 🔍 BCCAT will be hosting an inter-provincial discussion forum on Credit Recognition and Transfer (fall 2015), and a symposium on transfer issues and practices (spring 2016).
- 🔍 Further collaboration with provincial counterparts on shared technologies and innovations.









BC Council on  
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