



TRANSFER STORIES

Supporting Student Journeys

INTRODUCTION > What the stories tell us

This year, we invited students, faculty, professional staff, and others to share their reflections about BC's transfer system and transfer experiences. These stories have been instructive and illuminating, shining a light on the necessity for flexible pathways to support post-secondary student journeys. They have also underscored the reality that it takes a responsive and collaborative network to make these pathways possible.

Whatever the circumstances--life events, financial or geographical constraints, changes in education or career goals, and even major global disruptions--a transfer community that works together to address challenges and mitigate barriers enables students to persevere throughout their post-secondary journeys.

Against the backdrop of these stories, this Annual Review looks at the various ways that BCCAT continues to work with system partners to enable students to keep moving towards their educational goals.

"BCCAT and the BC Transfer System were conceived as a way to go from a college program to one of the research universities to finish off a degree.

Now it's much more than that. It's a way for students who may need to relocate for work, may have family issues, or may simply want to study at more than one institution or study more than one program."

- James Gifford (Professor of English, Fairleigh-Dickinson University)



Check out [BCCAT's 30th anniversary commemorative video](#) to hear reflections from students and others about transfer and mobility in BC.

COVID-19 and BC Transfer System Support

BCCAT recognizes the extraordinary efforts of BC Transfer System members to adapt policies and practices to support current and incoming students; and to minimize the impact of the pandemic on their educational experiences. BCCAT has been providing system support in a variety of ways, as outlined in [this summary](#).

For updates about BCCAT activities, and what's happening across the BC Transfer System, see bccat.ca/systemnews.

THE BC TRANSFER SYSTEM >

Facilitating BC's Transfer Community

BC's 65 discipline-specific articulation committees play an essential role in the BC Transfer System. These committees meet regularly to discuss curriculum and articulation-related issues. The discussions serve to foster the collaboration, respect, and mutual understanding required to address challenges and improve transfer opportunities for students.



Every year, the Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) brings together BC post-secondary faculty and administrators, along with transfer partners from other Canadian jurisdictions, to discuss articulation and transfer issues and developments. At the 2019 JAM event, the theme focused on "Diversity and Flexibility in the BC Transfer System. For more information, including video highlights, see bccat.ca/articulation/jam.



Articulation Committee Project (ACP) Funding Program

BCCAT's Transfer Innovations (TI) funding program was launched in 2000 to support the creation of the new transfer pathways. After a thorough review this year, it has been relaunched as the Articulation Committee Project (ACP) funding program, supporting articulation committees' research on transfer-related issues. Details are available at bccat.ca/articulation/projects.



"A real strength of articulation and transfer in BC is the provincial discipline-based articulation committees. If those colleagues across institutions can agree, **we have a system that works for everybody.**"

- Diane Naugler (Dean of Business & Applied Studies, North Island College)

"BCCAT is what really makes the BC post-secondary system **a system** as opposed to simply a whole bunch of separate, independent institutions."

- Martin Gerson (Vice-President Academic & Provost Emeritus, Langara College)



Articulation Maintenance

BCCAT is providing information to articulation committees regarding transfer agreements that have not been reviewed in ten or more years, to determine if re-articulation is necessary. This review will help to increase the currency and accuracy of articulation in the BC Transfer Guide.

Unarticulated Courses

BCCAT recently published a report on research looking into the extent of unarticulated courses available at BC Transfer System member institutions, and courses that are articulated at different year levels. BCCAT will distribute the report to raise awareness across the system. View/download the report at bccat.ca/pubs/reports/unarticulatedcourses2020.pdf.

INFORMATION SERVICES >

Delivering Technology and Resources

BCTransferGuide.ca

[BCTransferGuide.ca](https://www.bctransferguide.ca) is an integral online resource that offers extensive information on a wide range of transfer pathways options. This post-secondary planning resource continues to draw a high number of new users.

After an external review in 2019, the site has undergone enhancements to improve navigability and search functionality. Plans are underway for more substantial enhancements which will include an additional search tool allowing students to search transfer agreements between BC post-secondary institutions and national and international partners.

Transfer Credit System (TCS)

The Transfer Credit System (TCS) underlies the BC Transfer Guide database of formal transfer agreements. Following a pilot study with UBC to bring previously unlisted agreements into the TCS, the system database continues to expand as we add course-to-course agreements from post-secondary institutions nationwide and internationally.

Ultimately, [BCTransferGuide.ca](https://www.bctransferguide.ca) will serve as a global transfer guide, providing a publicly available, searchable database of transfer agreements between institutions in BC and around the world. As a result, both BC and non-BC students will be able to explore post-secondary opportunities available in BC.

Meanwhile, BCCAT is in discussions with other Canadian jurisdictions focused on sharing and leverage technologies and transfer information, supporting mobility within and across borders. Work is underway to develop an improved version of the TCS (referred to as "TCS Atomic") to allow for more effective data management and efficient workflows. These enhancements will ensure efficiency, accuracy, and transparency of transfer agreements available at [BCTransferGuide.ca](https://www.bctransferguide.ca).

"For me, [the BC Transfer System] is personal. It's not only that my undergraduate degree was atypical, but that [transfer] made it possible for me to do that, and for me to surprise myself by going on and now being in higher education."

- James Gifford (Professor of English, Fairleigh-Dickinson University, and former transfer student)

BCCAT.ca

[BCCAT.ca](https://www.bccat.ca) features a new design and layout, and offers a significantly improved search function allowing users to explore BCCAT's extensive range of publications. Articulation committees will also be better able to access and manage committee meeting information and committee-related publications and resources.



FAST FACTS

560,491

Active Engagement Sessions

286,064

New Users

229,024

Course-to-Course (C2C) BCTS Agreements

57,427

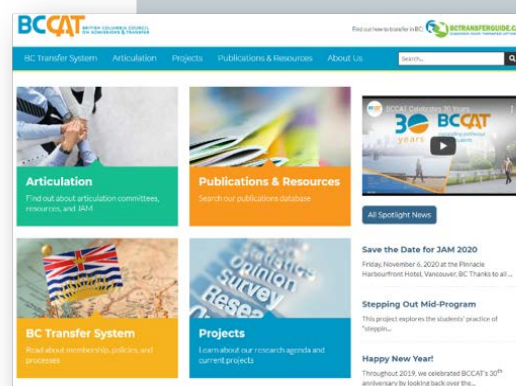
C2C Agreements with Non-BCTS Institutions

1,410

Block Transfer Agreements

202

Block Transfer Agreements



TRANSFER STORIES > What the Students Say



Ashley Ives

"With the BC Transfer Guide, I was able to find which courses transfer to different institutions, all in one very condensed resource."

- Associate Degree in Science at Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- Bachelor of Science at Simon Fraser University



Kaelan Stainsby

"I found it really easy to use the [BC Transfer Guide] platform. For me, it laid out quite nicely all the options I had and I was able to take that data to make my own lists of what I needed to complete in order to reach my goals."

- Associate Degree in Psychology at Langara College
- Bachelor of Business Administration with a joint major in Business and Psychology at Simon Fraser University



Searaj Alam

"Without the Transfer Guide, it would be a guessing game... The benefit of transfer for students is the momentum to keep moving forward in their education."

- Studied biology at Douglas College, followed by engineering.
- Transferred to UBC's Sauder School of Business to complete a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Business Technology Management
- Today, growing his own social media business



BCCAT provides system resources for information, communication, and training purposes.

Check out the "Media Toolkit" at bccat.ca/about/news for access to a range of materials, including the "Find Your Path" viewbook, post-cards, bookmarks, and more!

Jerry Mundi

"Having the ability to transfer straight from college to university in order to complete a degree allowed me to take that next step, and get into a job that actually feeds my passion and is more meaningful work and more financially sustainable for our family."

When Jerry decided to take a new career direction, he returned to post-secondary study. He undertook the two-year Social Service diploma program at North Island College and transferred to the University of Victoria to complete the Bachelor of Social Work program in Human and Social Development.



RESEARCH >

Learning about Mobility and Transfer

Research is a major component of BCCAT's mandate and an integral part of the evolving story of transfer in BC. The Council's research agenda focuses on key questions to help us better understand BC's changing post-secondary environment.

What we learn from these studies helps to inform and support institutional planning procedures, and policies. As a result, this research serves to enhance educational opportunities and experiences for BC post-secondary students.

Recent Reports

Applying Credit to Multiple Credentials

Prepared for BCCAT by Stefani and Bill Cash
February 2019



Stepping Out:

A look at the mid-program transfer patterns of BC post-secondary students

Prepared for BCCAT by Peter Goulet
February 2019



English Language Proficiency Standards in the BC Transfer System

Prepared by Dr. Peter McQuinn, Special Projects Coordinator BCCAT
July 2018



Academic Dual Credit Students:

Experiences and Performance in the BC Post-Secondary System

By Peter Goulet
April 2017



"As the transfer system expanded, the Council embarked upon a comprehensive plan of evidence-based research to identify what was working well and what needed improvement.

The results of that led to constructive enhancements to many facets of the credit transfer system, and provided evidence of its effectiveness."

- Frank Gelin (Executive Director Emeritus, BCCAT)

To learn more about BCCAT research and current projects, see bccat.ca/projects/research and bccat.ca/projects.

BCCAT publications and resources are available online at bccat.ca/search/publications



"Transfer in BC does not appear to add significant barriers on the pathways to a bachelor's degree... While [transfer students] graduated with a somewhat higher number of credits than the direct entry students, the overall small difference reflects a high alignment of articulated courses."

[Full Report](#) [Summary](#)

Student Transitions Project

Since 2005, BCCAT has worked closely with the Student Transitions Project (STP), BC's collaborative system-wide research initiative that tracks student mobility from secondary to post-secondary education and between public post-secondary institutions. Over the years, STP research has answered important questions, contributing much to our understanding of student mobility in the BC post-secondary system.

For more information and access to publications, see the [STP website](#).

POST-SECONDARY PARTNERS > Making Pathways Possible

The story of transfer in BC continues as we expand our activities with post-secondary partners, to advance student access and mobility within and beyond BC. BCCAT works with institutional partners, sector groups, and organizations within BC and across Canada and the world, to share and leverage resources, and to explore key areas for collaboration.



Pictured above (Left to right): Pat Siggers (Project Lead), Debbie Lin (Manager, Transfer Credit, Undergraduate Admissions), and Jon Tsang (Project Lead). For more information about UBC's project and the 2019 awardees, see bccat.ca/about/awards/2019

BCCAT Transfer Awards

UBC's Transfer Search Pilot Project: A Success Story

The BCCAT Transfer Awards recognize individuals or groups who have demonstrated exemplary leadership in the BC post-secondary system by engaging in activities that have made a significant and valuable contribution to the transfer community.

This year, the Leadership Award was presented to Debbie Lin and the UBC Student Communications Team to acknowledge their vision, collaboration, and dedication in developing UBC's new Transfer Credit Search Tool. The first of its kind in BC, this tool makes more than 50,000 equivalencies from over 600 institutions publicly available on UBC's website.

This project led the way for BCCAT to work with other institutions on similar collaborative projects. The addition of transfer agreements with post-secondary institutions outside BC for inclusion into the centralized Transfer Credit System provides widespread access to this transfer information.

BC and Beyond

BCCAT continues to collaborate with other provincial jurisdictions that are developing and advancing their own transfer systems:



- Participating as an active member of the [Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer \(PCCAT\)](#) and CATCan, a network of Canadian "CATs" (transfer counterparts in other provincial jurisdictions);
- Participating with the [Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada \(ARUCC\)](#) and the [Groningen Declaration Network \(GDN\)](#), in supporting the [ARUCC National Network](#) initiative. This collaboration is focused on creating and modernizing infrastructure to provide a secure, electronic pathway to enable the exchange of official documents to support and advance Canadian post-secondary learner mobility.

"Without BCCAT, BC would still be the wild west of education. BCCAT has helped all the public post-secondary and approved private institutions in BC grow as an organism, as a network of learning that the province can reliably market to the world as world class."

- Diane Naugler (Dean of Business and Applied Studies, North Island College)



BC Council on Admissions & Transfer
bccat.ca info@bccat.ca [@bccat_org](https://twitter.com/bccat_org) [bctransferguide](https://www.bccat.ca/bctransferguide)

This infographic summarizes BCCAT's 2019-20 Annual Review. The full report is available at bccat.ca/about/annualreview

Where to Find:

- Annual Reviews bccat.ca/about/annualreview
- News & Resources bccat.ca/about/news
- Current Projects bccat.ca/projects
- About the Council bccat.ca/about/council
- Publications & Resources bccat.ca/search/publications
- BCCAT Transfer Awards bccat.ca/about/awards