



Request for Expressions of Interest:

Research Study on Restricted Programs in BC

Background

BCCAT is committed to ensuring that any possible barriers to successful articulation and credit transfer are identified and regularly conducts research on various policies, procedures, and practices within the BC Transfer System that might affect the efficiency of these processes. One topic identified by the Transfer and Articulation Committee (TAC) of Council was the extent to which programs restrict access to otherwise qualified transfer students and whether there is admission or registration priority for or counter to transfer students compared to continuing students. Knowing more about how the mechanisms that institutions use to manage program enrolment affect student mobility is important in maintaining an efficient BC Transfer System.

Purpose/ Goal

To review programming in BC and determine the number of seats within programs that are restricted for or not available to transfer students. The report will identify those program areas that have restricted access or developed institutional barriers for transfer students and the reasons, policies, procedures, informing that. The report will identify programs that potentially could accommodate transfer students but are currently restricted.

Scope

Members of the BC Transfer System would be both the focal point for investigation and the main target audience for the final report, although practices in institutions in other Canadian jurisdictions may be reviewed as well.

Objectives

1. To review current literature on institutional policies, procedures, and practices related to restricting seat allocation or making transfer difficult for qualified transfer students in programs in BC, Canada, and similar jurisdictions.
2. To catalogue restricted programs in BC Transfer System member institutions.
3. To suggest approaches to facilitating transfer into some of these programs where there is capacity.
4. To suggest topics for further research in this and related areas.

Suggested Methodology

- a. Prepare a project plan indicating the methodology to be used, timeline, costs, and deliverables.
- b. Confirm the project plan with a reference group consisting of BCCAT staff and selected members of the Transfer and Articulation Committee.
- c. Review the literature on the topic.
- d. Conduct a review of current practice in BC institutions including targeted interviews with institutional staff responsible for institutional policy and decision making. Other data gathering methods could include a search of institutional websites, targeted interviews with key



institutional personnel, an electronic survey of institutions, or case studies of practices within a college, a research or teaching intensive university, or institute.

- e. Produce a draft report for review by the reference group.
- f. Finalize the report by working with BCCAT staff and peer reviewers and through feedback from field-based examination of the draft report.

Qualifications

The successful proponent should possess at a minimum:

- a. Extensive experience in a post-secondary setting, preferably within a BC college, institute, or university.
 - b. Graduate degree in an appropriate field or commensurate experience.
 - c. Demonstrated capacity to conduct research.
 - d. Demonstrated excellent ability in written communications.
- Expressions of Interest in conducting this research will be accepted until Friday October 20, 2017.
 - Selected proponents meeting the criteria will be invited to submit a more formal proposal including a draft project plan, methodology, timeline, and budget. Proposals will be requested during October and November with a decision by November 24.
 - It is expected that a contract for the work will be in place by December 15 with a completion date in 2018 to be determined through the planning process.

Funding

The maximum funding for this project is \$25,000. This figure is inclusive of all hourly charges, travel and associated costs, and GST.