



Request for Expressions of Interest:

Research Study on First and Second Year Prerequisites into Upper-level Studies

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 role of lower level program prerequisites in smoothing or limiting access to upper level programming and articulation and transfer. Knowing more about lower level prerequisites as a progression standard into upper-level studies and how they operate in the system is important given the increasing numbers of students for whom English is not a first language. The general increase in the numbers of diverse students, i.e., Indigenous, millennial, first generation post-secondary, and low socio-economic also behooves us to examine how the system supports student success through such institutional processes.

Purpose/ Goal

To conduct a review and comparison of how lower level course prerequisites act as a standard for entry into upper-level studies for both intra- and inter-institutional progression.

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 in the use of prerequisites as a progression standard into upper-level studies in BC, Canada, and similar jurisdictions.
2. To catalogue the policies, procedures, and practices currently operating in BC Transfer System member institutions.
3. To identify issues related to lower level course prerequisite policies, procedures, and practices.
4. To identify those practices considered to be innovative, efficient, or worthy of replication in other institutions and opportunities for system-wide sharing and collaboration.
5. 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 academic advice, 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.

Timeline

- 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.