
Associate Degrees Awarded in British Columbia: 1993/94 to 2001/02

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BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL ON
ADMISSIONS & TRANSFER

SUPPORTING BC's
EDUCATION SYSTEM

Associate Degrees Awarded in British Columbia: 1993/94 to 2001/02

Prepared by the B.C. Council on Admissions and Transfer

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Background

The Associate Degree is a two year academic credential available with an Arts or Science focus. The B.C. Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT) initiated development of this provincial credential at the request of B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions. The original curricular requirements, the goal of which were to ensure both sufficient depth and breadth in Arts or Science, were approved by the Minister responsible for post-secondary education in 1991.

In the fall of 1998, BCCAT convened the first meeting of its Associate Degree Review Task Force to review the curricular requirements of the credential, and to investigate the most acceptable approach to recommending the associate degree for block transfer to degree granting institutions. As a result of broad consultations undertaken, the curricular requirements of the degree were amended and then approved by the Minister responsible in May 2000 (see <http://www.bccat.bc.ca/otg/associate/requirements.html>), and a new transfer policy for the associate degree was adopted by all universities and university colleges (see <http://www.bccat.bc.ca/otg/associate/transferwith.html>).

At the outset of the consultation process, BCCAT surveyed Registrars at institutions offering the Associate Degree, to gather data on the number of degrees granted, on institutional policies and practices pertaining to the credential, as well as their perceptions of how students viewed the credential. The October 1998 survey findings are available on the BCCAT Web site at: <http://www.bccat.bc.ca/pubs/karlinski.pdf>.

This report updates that portion of the 1998 associate degree document detailing the number of associate of degrees granted by institution. It provides final figures for 1997/98 (which were preliminary in the previous report) and adds an additional four years worth of data up to and including 2001/02, as provided by the institutions involved.

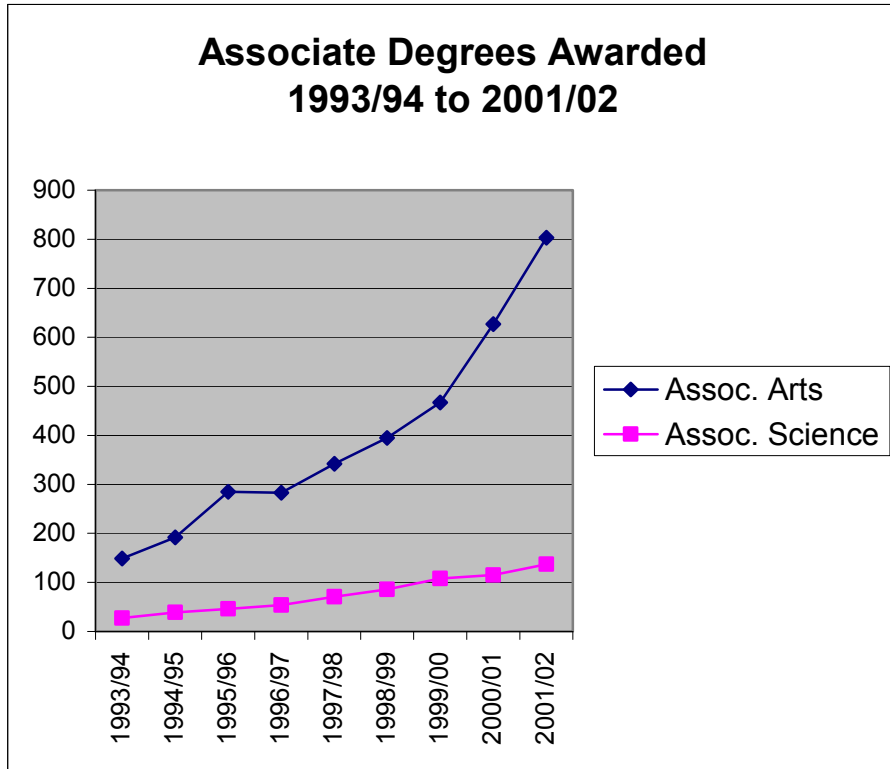
Total Degrees Awarded

A total of 4,226 degrees were awarded in the period 1993/94 to 2001/02 (Table 1). The vast majority (84%) were Associate of Arts degrees. Graph 1 indicates the upward trend in the number of degrees over time. The total number of degrees awarded annually is illustrated in Graphs 2 and 3 (next page).

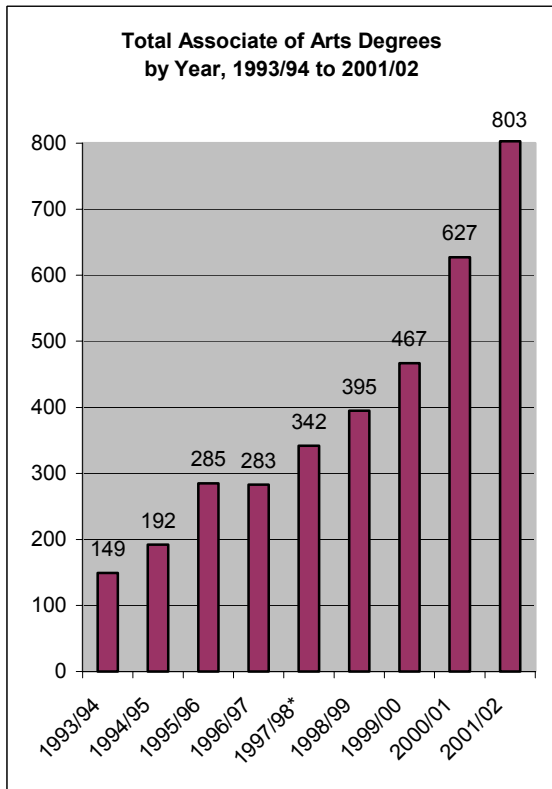
Table 1
Associate Degrees Awarded, 1993/94 to 2001/02

Year	Assoc. Arts	Assoc. Science	Total
1993/94	149	27	176
1994/95	192	39	231
1995/96	285	46	331
1996/97	283	54	337
1997/98	342	71	413
1998/99	395	86	481
1999/00	467	108	575
2000/01	627	115	742
2001/02	803	137	940
Total	3,543	683	4,226

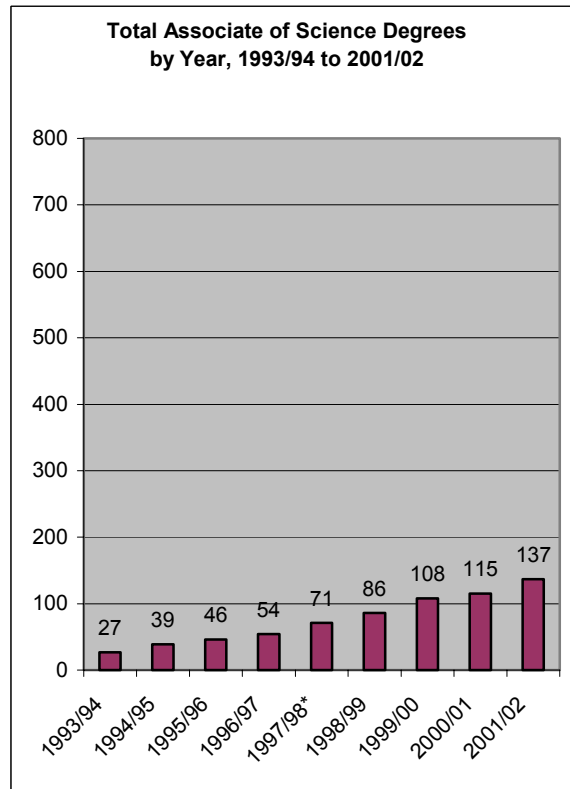
Graph 1



Graph 2

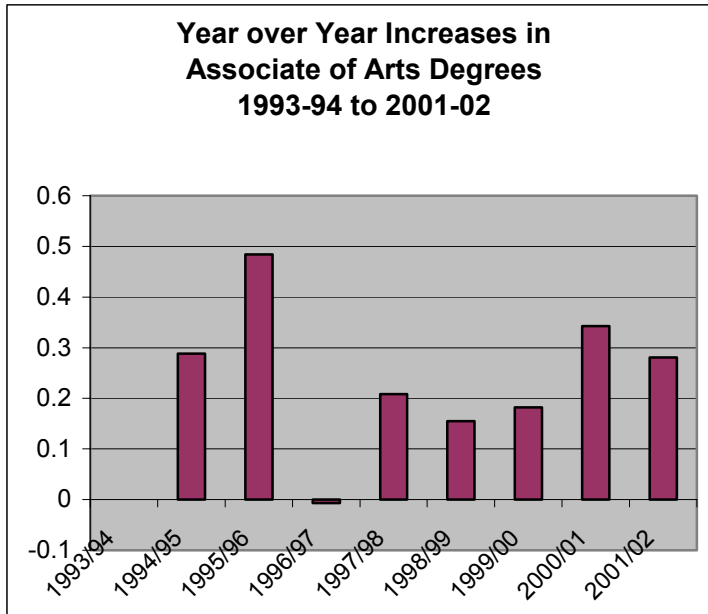


Graph 3

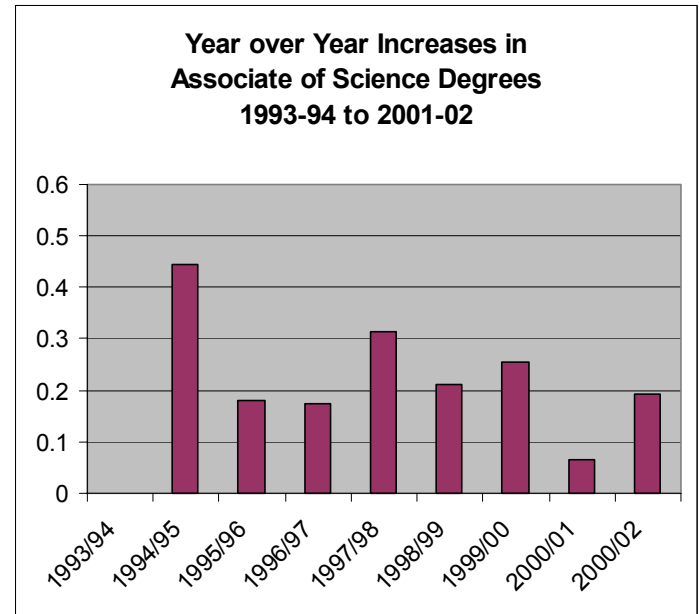


With the exception of one year (Associate of Arts degrees: the interval between 1995/96 & 1996/97), the total number of degrees has increased each year (Graphs 4 & 5). Annual increases range from 15% to 48% for the Associate of Arts degree and from 6% to 44% for the Associate of Science degree.

Graph 4



Graph 5



Tables 2 and 3 below indicate the total number of Associate of Arts degrees and Associate of Science degrees awarded by each institution in the period 1993/94 to 2001/02 (in descending order by number of degrees). Douglas College has the highest overall number of Associate of Arts Degree graduates in the nine year period, followed by Capilano College and Kwantlen University College. The largest number of Associate of Science Degree graduates come from Camosun College, followed by Capilano College, and Douglas College.

Degrees by Institution

Table 2
Associate of Arts Degrees
Total by Institution – 1993/94 to 2001/02

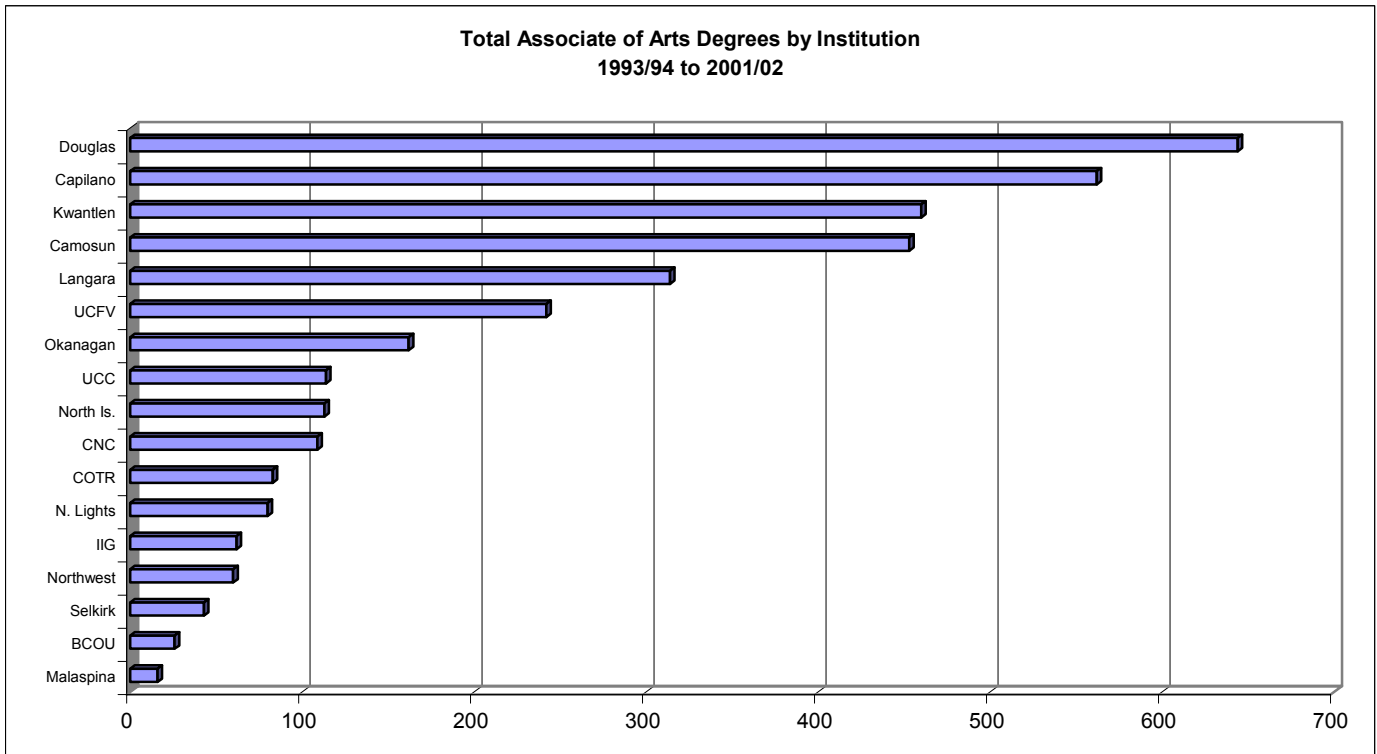
Institution	Total Degrees
Douglas College	644
Capilano College	562
Kwantlen UC	460
Camosun College	453
Langara College	314
UC of the Fraser Valley	242
Okanagan UC	162
UC of the Cariboo	114
North Island College	113
College of New Caledonia	109
College of the Rockies	83
Northern Lights College	80
Institute of Indigenous Gov't.	62
Northwest Comm. College	60
Selkirk College	43
BC Open University	26
Malaspina UC	16
Total	3,543

Table 3
Associate of Science Degrees
Total by Institution – 1993/94 to 2001/02

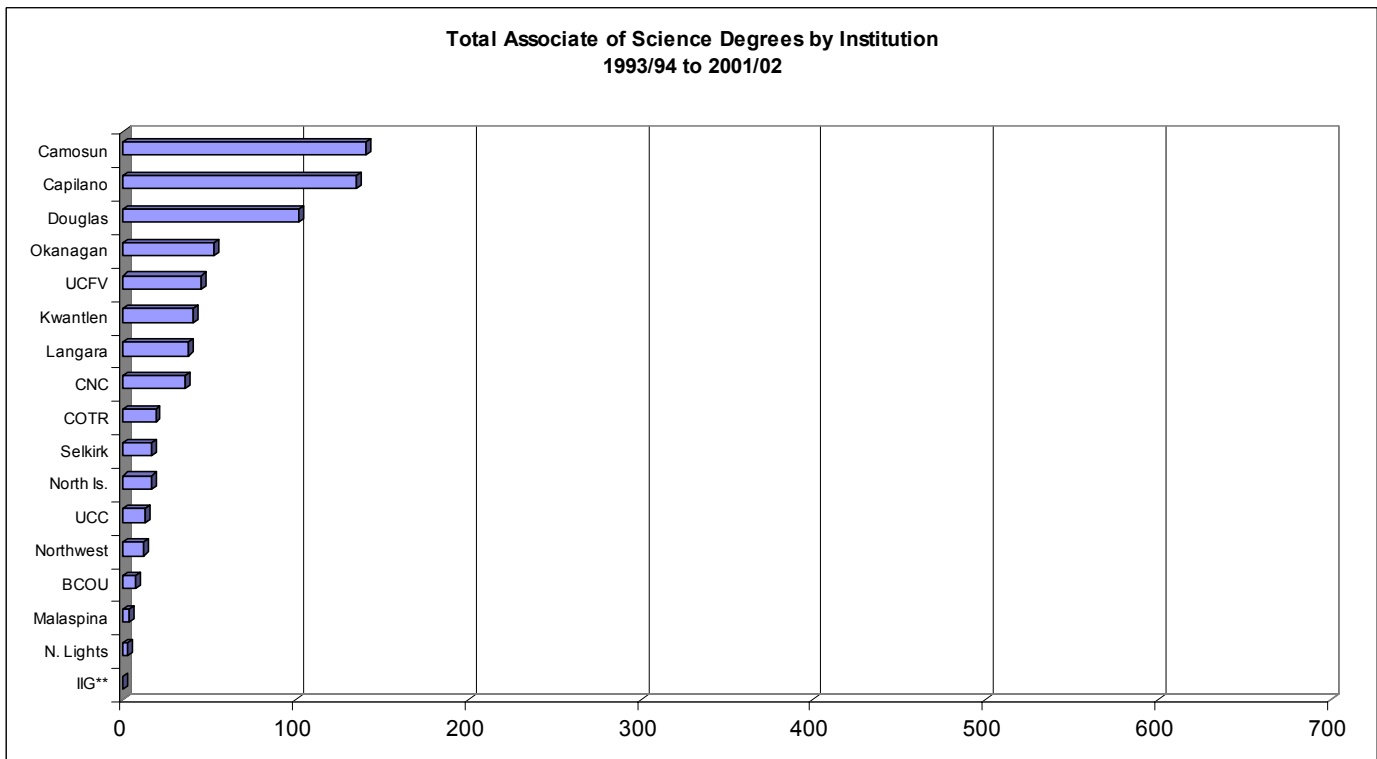
Institution	Total Degrees
Camosun College	141
Capilano College	135
Douglas College	102
Okanagan UC	53
UC of the Fraser Valley	45
Kwantlen UC	41
Langara College	38
College of New Caledonia	36
College of the Rockies	19
North Island College	17
Selkirk College	17
UC of the Cariboo	13
Northwest Comm. College	12
BC Open University	7
Malaspina UC	4
Northern Lights College	3
Institute of Indigenous Gov't.*	0
Total	683

Note: * IIG offers Associate of Arts degrees but not Associate of Science degrees.

Graph 6



Graph 7



The total number of graduates by institution in the period 1993/94 to 2001/02, are represented in Graphs 6 and 7 (previous page).

Tables 4 and 5 detail the annual number of associate degrees awarded by institution. The average number of associate degrees conferred annually per institution has increased five fold between 1993/94 and 2001/02. This holds true for both the Arts and the Science credential.

In general, the largest colleges (Camosun, Capilano, Douglas, and Langara) confer the greatest number of degrees. The exception to this is Kwantlen University College which takes third place in the number of Associate of Arts degrees conferred overall (ahead of both Camosun and Langara); and the university colleges Okanagan, Fraser Valley and Kwantlen, which confer a larger number of Associate of Science degrees than does Langara College. With the exception of Associate of Arts degrees awarded in 1994/95, Malaspina University-College offers very few Associate of Arts degrees annually (and the least overall), even less so than that awarded by the smallest colleges. Northern Lights College and Malaspina University-College award the fewest number of Associate of Science degrees.

In general, the smaller colleges confer the fewest associate degrees, particularly in the sciences. This likely reflects their inability to offer a sufficient range of second year science courses to enable students to meet the curricular requirements of the credential. However, their students can complete an associate degree by taking a combination of courses at both their home institution and another B.C. public institution.

While one would expect the largest institutions to confer the most associate degrees, this is not always the case, as is borne out by the low numbers at Malaspina and the relatively high numbers at the Institute of Indigenous Government (IIG), for example. Other factors which may be equally important in determining students' uptake on the credential include: breadth and depth of academic course availability; the perceived value of the Associate Degree as an exit credential; promotion of the credential by the institution in literature and through advising; local availability of other academic credentials (a function of both geography and spaces available); and proximity to institutions such as SFU and UNBC which offer priority admission for associate degree holders.

This analysis does not explore the proportion of academic students who pursue the Associate Degree. Examining the number of associate degrees as a proportion of an institution's FTE university transfer population could perhaps be undertaken in future, assuming valid comparative data is available. This would enable a more meaningful comparison across institutions.

It is difficult to attribute any change in the number of associate degrees conferred with the developments of 2000. These included more flexible curricular requirements for the credential and a transfer policy for associate degree graduates guaranteeing them 60 credits upon successful admission to a degree granting institution. A future associate degree report can perhaps consider these developments along with any other related policy changes that may occur.

Table 4
Associate of Arts Degrees Awarded by Year & Institution 1993/94 to 2001/02

Institution	93/94	94/95	95/96	96/97	*97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	Inst. Total
BCOU	0	1	4	4	5	1	3	5	3	26
Camosun	0	24	37	36	59	67	64	59	107	453
Capilano	26	38	50	39	56	50	71	109	123	562
CNC	16	13	8	11	16	13	10	12	10	109
COTR	12	8	6	16	17	6	2	8	8	83
Douglas	4	8	40	39	48	57	97	154	197	644
IIG	0	0	0	3	5	13	19	8	14	62
Kwantlen	9	22	37	25	32	50	74	86	125	460
Langara	20	18	26	23	23	29	31	56	88	314
Malaspina	0	9	1	2	1	0	2	1	0	16
North Is.	13	4	13	13	6	11	11	18	24	113
N. Lights	7	3	7	10	6	5	11	17	14	80
Northwest	2	3	12	10	9	2	3	12	7	60
Okanagan	21	23	14	23	24	28	9	9	11	162
Selkirk	5	4	6	7	4	3	1	2	11	43
UCC	4	5	8	5	16	23	24	14	15	114
UCFV	10	9	16	17	15	37	35	57	46	242
Total	149	192	285	283	342	395	467	627	803	3,543
Aver./Inst.	8.8	11.3	16.8	16.6	20.1	23.2	27.5	36.9	47.2	208.4

Notes: * 1997/98 figures published in 1998 were preliminary. Those presented here are final figures.
 ** IIG was designated as a public institute in 1995, therefore no Associate of Arts degrees were conferred before 1996/97.

Table 5
Associate of Science Degrees Awarded by Year & Institution 1993/94 to 2001/02

Institution	93/94	94/95	95/96	96/97	*97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	Inst. Total
BCOU	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	7
Camosun	0	9	10	14	24	22	21	12	29	141
Capilano	6	8	8	12	12	19	15	35	20	135
CNC	4	4	4	0	5	3	8	3	5	36
COTR	3	2	1	1	1	5	2	3	1	19
Douglas	0	1	6	4	3	8	23	26	31	102
IIG**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kwantlen	2	1	2	2	4	6	7	8	9	41
Langara	1	4	2	1	1	4	4	4	17	38
Malaspina	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	4
North Is.	0	0	0	2	3	3	1	4	4	17
N. Lights	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
Northwest	2	0	3	3	0	1	0	1	2	12
Okanagan	5	3	4	10	11	7	7	2	4	53
Selkirk	0	1	2	0	4	2	4	2	2	17
UCC	2	2	0	2	0	0	2	2	3	13
UCFV	1	4	3	3	3	3	11	9	8	45
Total	27	39	46	54	71	86	108	115	137	683
Aver./Inst.	1.7	2.4	2.9	3.4	4.4	5.4	6.8	7.2	8.6	42.7

Notes: * 1997/98 figures published in 1998 were preliminary. Those presented here are final figures.
 ** IIG does not offer the Associate of Science Degree, therefore the average number of degrees per institution excludes IIG.