

*Engaging Post-Secondary
Partners in Transfer
and Mobility Issues*

engage



Enabling the Transfer System

BCCAT is leading a system-wide consultation on the discussion paper titled “*Enabling the BC Transfer System*”. This discussion paper outlines processes, opportunities, and constraints, for “enabling” BC Transfer System institutions to enhance transfer credit information in the BC Transfer Guide, making it more reflective of institutional practices and student mobility. The aim is to increase the availability of transfer credit information for students so they may better plan their pathways across institutions, where appropriate to their educational needs and goals.

The discussion paper mainly centres on the issues around enabling all institutions to send and receive

in the BC Transfer Guide and to determine the scope of their role in the BC Transfer System. Other discussion points focus on the issues of maintenance and resources that would be involved with such a change.

BCCAT has received significant feedback to date having met with different stakeholder groups throughout the fall. Overall, respondents have indicated clear support for this initiative. The next step is to review the feedback over the winter with a goal of making recommendations to Council in spring 2012.

For more information on the discussion paper, please visit bccat.ca/consultation.

In This Issue

Enabling the Transfer System	p.1
Beyond BC	p.2
Research in Review	p.2
New Resources	p.3
Web Updates	p.3
Council News	p.4
BCCAT Then and Now	p.4

Coming Soon: New Features for Education Planner

BCCAT is in the process of a significant re-development of EducationPlanner.ca that introduces a variety of new features. Currently development plans include a simpler design, a mobile application, new methods to search for programs, and a variety of interactive and engaging tools to assist students with post-secondary planning. The redesigned site will be launched in spring 2012.

Research in Review

The Time it Takes

Prepared by Tracy Lavin, *Directions Evidence and Policy Research Group*

Newsletter: bccat.ca/pubs/rr_timeittakes.pdf

Full Report: bccat.ca/pubs/timeittakes.pdf

This newsletter summarizes the findings from a study using longitudinal data from the Student Transitions Project (STP) to examine the educational outcomes of a cohort of 23,500 students in fall 2003 who were eligible to transfer to a research university the following year. The findings focus on enrolment and credential outcomes for these students over a seven-year period. In that time frame, 73% of the cohort had completed a credential at some type of BC public post-secondary institution, with 5% of the cohort still enrolled. Most had completed bachelor's degrees or higher, with research and teaching-intensive universities providing the majority of degrees. Private and out-of-province institution destinations and credential completion are not known.

Following Their Footsteps

Prepared by Joanne Heslop, *Student Transitions Project (STP) Manager*

Newsletter: bccat.ca/pubs/rr_footsteps.pdf

Full Report: bccat.ca/pubs/footsteps.pdf

What happens to students who move from research universities to other BC public post-secondary institutions? Using STP data, the "Following Their Footsteps" study tells us just that. The study reveals that 6,143 students moved from a research university to some other institution, representing 27% of annual student movement between institutions, from 2007-08 to 2008-09. The research also tracks the student mobility of 20,422 new students to research universities over a six-year period, ending in 2008-09. While nearly two-thirds of these students remained at the university for the duration of their stay (ranging from one to six years), 37% of the cohort left to attend another BC public post-secondary institution. Of those who left, 36% subsequently returned to the university by 2008-09. The institutions and programs that students moved from and to and credential completion rates are also provided in the study.

Beyond BC

BCCAT plays a significant role in promoting and supporting transfer policies and practices across provincial jurisdictions. The following are key examples of recent activities.

Western Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer (WestCAT)

The Western Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer (WestCAT) is a voluntary consortium whose purpose is to encourage and facilitate inter-provincial access, mobility, and transfer of credits for students moving among British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. Its work is guided by the principles stated in the Council of Ministers of Education (CMEC) *Ministerial Statement on Credit Transfer in Canada* (2009) and is compatible with the mandate and role of the Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer (PCCAT). This year the annual meeting was hosted by the Province of Manitoba in Winnipeg on September 22. Manitoba is on the verge of making considerable gains in its development of a transfer system for its colleges and universities. BCCAT staff participated in the meeting to discuss information and resource sharing across the four jurisdictions and efforts to increase student mobility. BCCAT will host the next meeting in fall 2012.

Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer (PCCAT)

The Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer (PCCAT) held its Annual General Meeting and Conference at McGill University from June 20-22, 2011. BCCAT staff members participated in the event. (See pccat.ca/pccat-2011meetings for details.)

A major development at the meeting was the adoption of formal terms of reference for PCCAT. These include the formation of a Founding Council and a commitment to develop proposed bylaws in support of a formal organization. Members of the Founding Council are Mr. Ron Woodward, Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer (Chair); Ms. Kathleen Massey, McGill University (Vice Chair); Mr. Tim Brunet, University of Windsor; Mr. Philip Belanger, New Brunswick Council on Admissions and Transfer; and Dr. Robert Fleming, British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer. A structural plan for PCCAT as a legal entity will be presented for ratification at the next meeting in Ottawa in June 2012.

Meanwhile, PCCAT is conducting a survey of all English and French universities in Canada to determine for the first time the extent of inter-provincial mobility and transfer among post-secondary institutions. The Research Subcommittee of PCCAT is directing the project. (Two BCCAT staff members serve on the subcommittee.) The project is being sponsored by several organizations, including the Council of Minister of Education, Canada (CMEC). The survey was sent to all registrars' offices at Canadian universities in late October. A final report will be completed in spring 2012.



Web Updates

Expansion to Education Planner

Students now have increased access to information on approved BC apprenticeship training programs, due to a recent expansion in Education Planner. The expansion involved adding 150 programs offered by 36 private training providers.

This makes it easier for students in all parts of British Columbia to find apprenticeship programs in or near their hometowns at a time when we really need our young people to enter skilled trades careers."

*- Kevin Evans,
CEO of the Industry Training Authority*

New Transfer System Resources

New Members' Resource Book

Prepared by Finola Finlay, former Associate Director (Transfer & Articulation)
bccat.ca/pubs/newmembersbook.pdf

The *New Members' Resource Book* was designed as an orientation guide for new member institutions. ("New member institutions" are those private institutions admitted to the BC Transfer System by having one or more programs reviewed by the Degree Quality Assessment Board and given Minister's Consent to offer a degree program.) This booklet sets out the norms and culture of the BC Transfer System, and clarifies the rights and obligations of membership. For this reason, it is a useful resource for all BC Transfer System members (both current and prospective).

Admissions Practices at BC Post-Secondary Institutions (An Overview)

Prepared by Nick Heath, Nicholas Heath Consulting Services Inc.
bccat.ca/pubs/AdmissionsOverview.pdf

This resource provides an overview of admissions practices common across BC post-secondary institutions. It features "Issues and Challenges" that admissions staff may encounter on a range of topics plus some "Practices to Consider." It is hoped that it will be of value to those who regularly work in the admissions field along with others who would like a better understanding of admissions process and practice.

Flexible Pre-Majors (Final Report)

Prepared by John FitzGibbon, Associate Director (Transfer & Articulation), and Jennifer Orum, former Special Projects Coordinator, in consultation with the Flexible Pre-Majors Working Group
bccat.ca/pubs/FPMFinalReport.pdf

This publication constitutes the final report of the Flexible Pre-Majors Working Group, which met from January to June 2011. It is intended as a reference and guide for articulation committees and institutions interested in examining the use of a Flexible Pre-major (FPM) as a means of enhancing student transfer. The report provides background information on what a FPM is and how they are being implemented across the province and includes a number of forms and charts for easing this process. It also identifies key issues highlighted by the Working Group in the areas of institutional decision-making and approval, communication, and student advising and offers a number of recommendations in these areas.

BC Transfer Guide: Recent Developments

Block Transfer, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate transfer information is now electronically updated and searchable by institution and discipline. This information is also more readily accessible on the BCTransferGuide.ca home page.

BC's four research universities (SFU, UBC, UNBC, and UVic) are now listed as both senders and receivers in the BC Transfer Guide. This means that users can view transfer agreements between research universities and from research universities to other institutions. [Previously, users were only able to view how courses transfer into research universities from colleges, institutes, and teaching universities.] This is an important step forward in supporting multi-directional student mobility in BC.

Council News

BCCAT welcomes the following newly-appointed members to the Council:



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



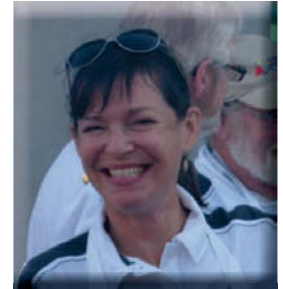
Mr. Steve Cardwell
Superintendent and CEO,
Vancouver School District



Mr. Paul Dangerfield
Vice-President of Education,
Research and International,
BC Institute of Technology



Ms. Kristine Smalcel Pederson
Assistant Provost, University
of Northern BC



Dr. Kate Sutherland
Senior Advisor to the
Provost, Thompson Rivers
University

We are also delighted that **Dr. Neil Coburn** (Vice-President, Education & Students, Selkirk College) has been re-appointed for a second three-year term.

Finally, we extend our thanks and appreciation to the following outgoing members (see below) for their considerable contributions to the work of the Council throughout their terms of service. We are especially indebted to Dan Birch (former Co-Chair) for his leadership during a number of significant transitions in BCCAT administration.

- **Dr. Dan Birch**
Vice-President Emeritus, Academic & Provost,
University of British Columbia
- **Mr. John DeGrace**
former Registrar, University of Northern British Columbia
- **Ms. Roberta Dunlop**
Senior Lecturer, Earth Sciences, Simon Fraser University
- **Mr. Tom Grant**
Superintendent of Schools, Coquitlam Board of Education
- **Ms. Heather Schneider**
Regional Dean, Central Okanagan, Okanagan College
- **Ms. Kasara Toth**
(former BC transfer student representative)

See bccat.ca/about/council for further information about the council.

BCCAT Then and Now

On September 30, 2011, the Council convened its 100th meeting since it was first established (in 1989). To commemorate the occasion, the following guests were invited to share their experiences and perspectives on the history of BCCAT:

- **Dr. Dan Birch** (former Council Co-Chair and Vice-President Emeritus, Academic & Provost, UBC)
- **Dr. John Dennison** (former Council Co-Chair and Professor Emeritus, Administrative, Adult & Higher Education, UBC)
- **Ms. Finola Finlay** (former Associate Director, Transfer and Articulation, BCCAT)
- **Dr. Frank Gelin** (Executive Director Emeritus, BCCAT)

The speakers touched on a variety of themes, including:

- *the Council's vital role as a steady and responsive agency in addressing the needs of an ever-changing post-secondary system.*
- *the considerable advances in student mobility research and the value of taking a system-wide research approach to support institutional planning; and*
- *the importance of engaging system stakeholders in consultation when developing policy, and making recommendations that are supported by evidence-based research;*

A paper summarizing these reflections is available at bccat.ca/pubs/thenandnow.pdf. For further details on the history of the BC Transfer System, see bccat.ca/system/history.



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