

# BC Provincial Associate Degree Review – Implementation Plan

*(finalized after system consultation and endorsed by the BC Council on Admissions & Transfer, December 2013)*

## 1. Admissions Pathways *(Recommendations 1.1 & 1.2)*

BCCAT to provide research, information, and outreach in support of associate degree initiatives facilitating flexible pre-major integration, collaborative programs, and priority access options. This will involve BCCAT working with BC Transfer System institutions in:

- Developing materials explaining the purpose and structure of associate degree credentials to support institutions in advising students.
- Identifying transfer admissions priority opportunities for associate degree students.

## 2. Curriculum & Articulation Requirements *(Recommendations 2.1, 2.2 & 3.1)*

BCCAT to form a consultative working group with registrars and deans to renew requirements, definitions, and practice guidelines for implementation in fall 2014. This will involve:

- Revising the language on curricular requirements for the associate of arts degree and the general definitions for both the associate of arts and science degrees.
- Revising the articulation requirement guidelines for associate degrees.

## 3. New Associate Degree Credential Option *(Recommendations 4.1)*

BCCAT to establish system steering committee to oversee consultation, development of guidelines, and curriculum for a third associate degree option to be considered by Council for implementation in 2015. This will involve:

- Establishing terms of reference to guide consultation with students, employers, and post-secondary stakeholders on the development of a third associate degree option focusing on career/professional, interdisciplinary, and applied fields.
- Consulting with BC Transfer System member institutions on curricular requirements and block transfer expectations / practices for a third associate degree option.

## 4. Pre-Baccalaureate Credentials *(Recommendations 5.1-5.3)*

- BCCAT to facilitate discussions between the Ministry, BC Transfer System institutions, and other stakeholders regarding (a) the roles of diploma and certificate credentials, and (b) development of a communication strategy regarding associate degrees as transfer pathways and workplace preparation credentials.
- BCCAT to consult with educators, advisors, and registrar office staff to identify and implement changes on the BC Transfer Guide and other websites to more clearly and easily identify associate degree programs, pathways, and relevant curriculum.

## 5. Research/Communications *(Recommendations 6.1 & 6.2)*

- BCCAT to work with system groups and institutions to publish periodic reports on associate degree student performance and career outcomes, beginning in 2015.
- This will involve developing research programs to gather data and conduct analyses on (a) success and performance, and (b) career outcomes.