



June 29, 2020

Ms. Shannon Baskerville  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training  
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Dear Ms. Baskerville:

On behalf of the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT), we are pleased to present BCCAT's 2019-20 Annual Review, *Transfer Stories: Supporting Student Journeys*. (The [full report](#) and [infographic summary](#) are available at [bccat.ca/about/annualreview](http://bccat.ca/about/annualreview).)

This document outlines key projects and activities undertaken this past year, against the backdrop of reflections offered by students, faculty, professional staff, and others regarding transfer in BC. These stories highlight the ongoing necessity for flexible pathway options to support access, mobility, and success for BC's post-secondary students. They also underscore the important role of BC's transfer network in working together to make these pathways possible. To hear/view/read these stories and reflections, check out:

- A brief video commemorating BCCAT's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary [bccat.ca/about/news](http://bccat.ca/about/news)
- "Friends of BCCAT" – testimonials about BCCAT and the BC Transfer System [bccat.ca/system/history/friends](http://bccat.ca/system/history/friends)

The common denominator throughout the story of transfer in BC has been the resilience and adaptability of BC's transfer community despite significant shifts in the post-secondary landscape. Currently, COVID-19 presents many challenges, and BCCAT acknowledges the extraordinary efforts of BC Transfer System institutions to proactively support current and incoming students, and to minimize the impact of the pandemic on their post-secondary experiences. We have developed a web page (see [bccat.ca/systemnews](http://bccat.ca/systemnews)) to facilitate information-sharing and coordination across institutions and professional bodies, and have been consulting with BC's articulation committees and many other system groups and agencies on key transfer-related issues. We are also collaborating with BCCampus and others to share and distribute resources to support online learning environments. This [summary](#) outlines some key activities we are undertaking to support system partners.

At the 2019 Joint Annual Meeting (JAM), the Minister, Hon. Melanie Mark, offered a message to those gathered, noting:

*"The transfer system and institutions have evolved considerably over the years –and mobility through credit transfer has never been more important in facilitating student access and success."*

The Council's mandate—to facilitate admission, articulation, and transfer arrangements among BC post-secondary institutions for the benefit of students—guides BCCAT's priorities and projects. This Annual Review presents highlights, as outlined below.

## 1. BC Transfer System

BCCAT facilitates and coordinates BC's 65 discipline-specific articulation committees. These committees play an essential role in the BC Transfer System, meeting regularly to discuss transfer-related matters and maintain the respect and understanding required to address challenges and improve educational pathways for students.

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Every year, the Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) brings together BC post-secondary faculty and administrators, along with transfer partners from other jurisdictions. This year, the theme focused on “Diversity and Flexibility in the BC Transfer System”. (For information regarding the 2019 JAM event, including presentations and video highlights, see [bccat.ca/articulation/jam](http://bccat.ca/articulation/jam).)

BCCAT’s Transfer Innovation (TI) funding program was first launched in 2000 to support the creation of new transfer pathways. After an extensive review this year, it has been relaunched as the [Articulation Committee Project \(ACP\) funding program](#), supporting articulation committee research and transfer initiatives.

## 2. Information Services

[BCTransferGuide.ca](http://BCTransferGuide.ca) continues to draw high numbers of users, both existing and new. This year, the site attracted **560,491 active engagement sessions** and **286,064 new users**. After a recent external review, the site has undergone enhancements to improve navigability, search functionality, and clarity, and plans for more substantial improvements are currently underway.

BCCAT also provides system resources for information, communication and training purposes. (See the “Media Toolkit” at [bccat.ca/about/news](http://bccat.ca/about/news) for access to a range of materials, including the “Find Your Path” viewbook.)

The **Transfer Credit System (TCS)** continues to expand as we add course-to-course agreements from post-secondary institutions nationwide and internationally. As a result, this transfer information will be widely available at [BCTransferGuide.ca](http://BCTransferGuide.ca). As well, preparations are underway to launch a new, improved version of the TCS (“TCS Atomic”) to allow for more effective data management and efficient workflows.

This year, we refreshed [BCCAT.ca](http://BCCAT.ca); it now features a new design and layout, and offers improved search functionality to access BCCAT research and publications, and better access to articulation committee information and resources.

## 3. Research

Research is a major component of BCCAT’s mandate and is integral to the evolving contexts of transfer in BC. The Council’s research agenda focuses on key questions that help us better understand and inform post-secondary policy and practice related to learner mobility and student experiences. A few highlights are provided below:

- [Credits to Graduation](#): A study comparing the total number of credits completed to obtain a baccalaureate degree by transfer students and by students admitted directly from high school at several large public universities in BC.
- [Applying Credit to Multiple Credentials](#): An examination of situations where students seek to apply credits to multiple credentials that are “lateral” (e.g. where a student with a diploma completes a second diploma) or “reverse” (e.g. where a student with a social work degree seeks to earn a certificate in addictions.)
- [Academic Dual Credit Students](#): A study building on a 2017 project that looked at dual credit programs at four BC post-secondary institutions. This study focuses on the experiences and performance of Academic Dual Credit (ADC) students, utilizing provincial and institutional data, survey responses from over 700 current and former ADC students, and interviews with key personnel.
- [Stepping Out](#): An examination of mid-program transfer patterns of BC post-secondary students that “step out”, seeking to earn transfer credits at another (“host”) institution, while continuing in a program at their first (“home”) institution.

To learn more about BCCAT research and current projects, see [bccat.ca/projects/research](http://bccat.ca/projects/research) and [bccat.ca/projects](http://bccat.ca/projects). BCCAT publications are available online at [bccat.ca/search/publications](http://bccat.ca/search/publications). (Also see the attached document, *2019-20 Publications and Resources*, for your information.)

#### 4. Post-Secondary Partners

BCCAT continues to expand our activities with post-secondary partners to advance student access and mobility within and beyond BC. The Council works with institutional partners, sector groups and organizations within BC and across Canada and the world, to share and leverage resources, and to explore key areas for collaboration.

BCCAT's Transfer Awards (see [bccat.ca/about/awards](http://bccat.ca/about/awards)) recognize those who demonstrate exemplary leadership in the BC post-secondary system. This year, Debbie Lin and the UBC Student Communications Team were presented with the Leadership Award, in acknowledgement of the vision, collaboration, and dedication that went into the development of UBC's [Transfer Credit Search Tool](#).

This project led the way for BCCAT to work with other institutions to expand the Transfer Credit System (see above) by incorporating transfer agreements with post-secondary institutions outside of the BC Transfer System, making this information available at [BCTransferGuide.ca](http://BCTransferGuide.ca). This allows us to deepen and broaden our support of student mobility and access, and provides users within and outside of BC access to extensive transfer information.

BCCAT continues to collaborate with other provincial jurisdictions to advance student mobility within and across borders. BCCAT participates as an active member of the [Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer](#) and with the [Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada \(ARUCC\)](#) and the [Groningen Declaration Network \(GDN\)](#) on key projects and initiatives, such as the [ARUCC National Network](#), a collaboration focused on developing a secure, electronic data exchange network among post-secondary institutions to enable learners in accessing and distributing their official documents in support of mobility in their learning and careers.

We at BCCAT, including the Council, standing committees, and staff team, all count it a privilege to facilitate BC's transfer community in support of student access and mobility. We look forward to continuing this important work as we collaborate with system partners and the Ministry in the coming year and beyond.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Rob Fleming  
Co-Chair and Executive Director



Mr. Jim Hamilton  
Co-Chair, and President, Okanagan College

cc:

Tony Loughran, Executive Lead, Governance, Legislation and Corporate Planning Division  
Jamie Edwardson, Executive Director, Corporate Planning, International and Quality Assurance Branch  
Nicola Lemmer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Post-Secondary Policy and Programs and Division Responsible for Learner Support

Encs.