



June 28, 2021

Ms. Shannon Baskerville
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training
PO Box 9884, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9T6

Email: AEST.DeputyMinister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Baskerville:

On behalf of the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT), we are pleased to present BCCAT's [2020-21 Annual Review, *Connections: Supporting Educational Pathways as a Collaborative Community*](#).

In 2020, BC's post-secondary community faced remarkable challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. BCCAT's top priority has been to ensure that learners and post-secondary institutions continue to benefit from BC's network of flexible learning pathways during this critical time and going forward. Key activities include the following:

- collaborating with partners to ensure learners continue to benefit from transfer pathways during the pandemic;
- enhancing technologies to optimize credit transfer processes and make credit transfer pathways more intuitive and accessible to learners;
- conducting research examining the impacts of the pandemic on post-secondary learners and institutions to guide post-pandemic policy and practice in the post-secondary system;
- facilitating discussion and enquiry into issues of importance to the post-secondary community—such as micro-credentials and online course delivery—to help guide development of policy and practice; and
- supporting communication with the public and across the system to address emergent critical issues and developments in support of learner access and mobility.

This Annual Review takes a look at the ways BCCAT has worked to strengthen collaboration and connections vital to enabling learner access and mobility. Some highlights from the report are provided below.

BC's Mobility Rates and Credit Transfer: BCCAT research, along with research undertaken by the Student Transitions Project (STP), provides valuable information on student mobility and credit transfer in BC. For example:

- Over **15%** of all students in academic programs at BC public post-secondary institutions transfer to another BC public post-secondary institution each year (about **55,000 students** annually).
- **400,000+ credits** are recognized for transfer by BC public PSIs each year.

1. Community

Articulation Committees: BCCAT facilitates and coordinates BC's **65+ faculty articulation committees**. These committees are essential to the functioning of the BC Transfer System. Committee discussions are vital for addressing key curricular and transfer issues, building the respect and understanding necessary to create pathways that work for

students. This year, committees met online, and provided important feedback on key issues, including potential implications for course articulation where changes are made in delivery or assessment formats.

JAM 2020: Every year, the [Joint Annual Meeting \(JAM\)](#) brings together BC post-secondary faculty and administrators, along with transfer partners from other jurisdictions. JAM 2020 was the first-ever online event hosted by BCCAT, and the new format opened the event to a much wider audience, drawing 370 registrants. The theme was “Transfer & Articulation in a Time of Pandemic”. The program included sessions looking at the impact of COVID on transfer, challenges and opportunities for teaching and learning, and trends and implications of micro-credentials on transfer and admissions. A video of JAM 2020 highlights and session videos are all available at [BCCAT’s YouTube channel](#).

2. Technologies

BCTransferGuide.ca Expansion: BC’s transfer-friendly culture is well established and widely acknowledged. This year, we made a major step forward by expanding the BC Transfer Guide significantly, adding transfer equivalencies to seven BC public post-secondary institutions (PSIs) from PSIs across Canada and around the world. To date, we have added **61,000 new equivalencies** from **452 institutions** in **33 countries**.

This expansion continues the work of facilitating student mobility, reducing barriers and promoting pathways to access quality post-secondary education, making BC the ideal transfer destination for students from across Canada and the world. Over the next couple of years BCCAT will be working with the other eighteen BC public post-secondary institutions to include national and international equivalencies in the BC Transfer Guide.

BC Transfer Guide: [BCTransferGuide.ca](#) is an integral, online resource offering extensive information on a wide range of transfer options. At BCTransferGuide.ca, students can explore course equivalencies and map out their own transfer pathways. To date, the site offers **301,000 total course equivalencies** (BC and external) and **1,400 Degree Partnership and Block Transfer agreements**.

3. Research

BCCAT works collaboratively with post-secondary partners to develop an annual [Research Plan](#). Project areas focus on topics impacting student transfer, mobility, access, and admissions. Research findings help to shape our shared understanding and inform policies and processes that better support post-secondary student journeys.

2013/14-2017 Transfer Students: Profile & Performance Report: This [report](#) provides a useful window into BC’s transfer students to the six Research Universities Council of BC (RUCBC) institutions. For example, the findings indicate that, overall, transfer students perform just as well as those who enter their degree programs directly from high school, reinforcing the high level of educational quality across the BC system. Other highlights show that:

- transfer students constitute more than **36%** of students admitted in a year;
- transfer students carry more than **48.6** credits (on average) when they transfer;
- **72%** of transfer students admitted in the 2013/14 academic year completed a baccalaureate by the end of the 2017/18 academic year; and
- over **70%** of transfer students admitted completed a baccalaureate degree within 5 years, with a Grade Point Average comparable to those who entered university directly from high school.

Other recent reports which have received keen interest from our post-secondary partners:

- [Academic Dual Credit Students: Experiences & Performance in the Post-Secondary System](#)
- [Micro-Credentials: Trends in Credit Transfer & Credentialing](#)
- [Credits to Graduation](#)

4. Collaboration

BCCAT works together with post-secondary partners to advance student access and mobility within BC and across provincial and international borders. This includes collaboration with institutional partners, sector groups, and organizations within BC, and across the world.

BC:

- Collaboration with [EducationPlannerBC](#) on research, policy and technology initiatives supporting post-secondary access, inclusivity and diversity, and educational pathways in BC.
- Collaboration with [BCcampus](#) and articulation committees to share resources on alternate ways to offer lab components of Science courses, including access to a detailed inventory of materials for online labs.
- Facilitation of system discussion and analysis on issues related to micro-credentials, particularly relating to admissions and transfer.
- Guidance and support for the work of the Student Transitions Project (STP) as it looks at how STP data may inform future analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on student retention system-wide in BC.

Canada / International:

- Meeting regularly with provincial counterparts across Canada, particularly Alberta and Ontario, to compare developments on educational policy and practice accommodations to mitigate impact on mobile students.
- Participating as a founding member of the [Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer](#) (PCCAT) and CATCan (a network of Canadian transfer counterparts).
- Participating in the work of the [ARUCC national network](#) to create a digital data exchange network across Canada. In 2020, ARUCC launched [MyCreds](#), a web-based national, bilingual credential wallet for post-secondary learners and graduates. This network has become increasingly pertinent in supporting many institutions seeking to develop electronic transcript exchange capacity while working remotely.

BCCAT Council, committees, and staff members consider it a privilege to facilitate BC's transfer community in support of student access and mobility. The challenges of the pandemic have underscored the importance of this work and of the strength of our connectedness. We look forward to continued collaboration 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 Retired President, Okanagan College

cc: Ms. Nicola Lemmer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Post-Secondary Policy and Programs (AEST)
Mr. Tony Loughran, Executive Lead, Governance, Legislation and Corporate Planning (AEST)
Mr. Ben Ferrel, Acting Executive Director, Post-Secondary Digital Policy & Programs (AEST)