

# 2018-19 RESEARCH PLAN



## CURRENT PROJECTS

### → Transferability and Articulation of Post-Secondary Credit

*British Columbia's credit transfer system is highly evolved and diverse, reflecting the province's varied post-secondary programs, and the flexible pathways by which students access them. Current research priorities support the continuous improvement of specific transfer mechanisms, capture successful articulation practices, and support the development of articulation and transfer processes for specific types of courses. Much of this research includes surveys of transfer methods and models in other jurisdictions to ensure that BC's Transfer System and BC students continue to benefit from successful practices elsewhere.*

- Flexible Pre-Majors: Policy and Communications**  
 This study will review North American literature and practice on developing major pathways and suggest ways of improving current BCCAT policy and communications in this area. ([Transfer and Articulation Committee](#))
- Trades to Academic / Academic to Trades Transfer Pathways in BC**  
 This research will consist of an environmental scan of available pathways between training/apprenticeship in Red Seal trades and post-secondary credit programs at the certificate, diploma, associate degree and degree levels. The primary focus will be on pathways in and out of BC institutions. ([Transfer and Articulation Committee](#))
- Block Transfer Agreements: Implementation and Communication**  
 This project will aim to capture the range of institutional practices pertaining to the definition, implementation and communication of block transfer agreements at BC Transfer System institutions. Objectives will include producing a literature review, creating an inventory of nomenclature, and analyzing existing practices for implementing, recording, tracking and communication of these agreements. ([Admissions Committee](#))

## →Capacity, Demand, Student Mobility and Student Success

Research on student mobility patterns, and the experiences of transfer students allows Council, and its partners to better understand student demand, and to ensure the effectiveness of the BC Transfer System in supporting student access. Current projects survey transfer students to better understand their decision-making, explore elements of system capacity, measure transfer student success, and explore new methods of assessing credit transfer between Canadian provinces.

- **Increasing the Availability of Transfer Data**

For a number of years, BCCAT has worked with BC Transfer System members and government to develop a data source that captures transfer credit granted at most BC public post-secondary institutions. Currently, the work focuses on improving data consistency and reliability, and sharing the data with articulation committees and other system-level groups in order to better understand credit mobility in the province. [\(Admissions Committee\)](#)

- **Dual Credit Students in the BC Post-Secondary System: Experiences and Performance**

This research builds on a previous study<sup>1</sup> of the South Island Partnership, which offers dual credit programming to students on southern Vancouver Island. The goal of the project is to describe the experiences and performance of students completing at least one dual credit course in an academic area and transitioning to post-secondary studies. [\(Research Committee\)](#)

- **Provincial Transfer Credit Mobility by Discipline**

This project continues to make available to articulation committees discipline-specific data on the movement of credit and the number of students moving from one institution to another using articulation agreements as the basis of transfer. [\(Transfer and Articulation Committee\)](#)

- **Credits to Graduation**

This project aims to revisit previous research on "credits-to-graduation"<sup>2</sup> while capturing the increased range of degree completion options in the BC post-secondary system, and will incorporate aggregate data sources linked to institutional data. This work is being conducted by BCCAT staff with the assistance of registrars and institutional research offices at participating institutions. [\(Research Committee\)](#)

- **Surveying Mobile Students in BC Post-Secondary Institutions**

In early 2012, BCCAT commissioned BC Stats to survey over 1,600 students to learn about students' educational goals and motivations for changing institutions, and their transfer experiences.<sup>3</sup> This project is aimed at updating that survey, introducing new data on issues germane to today's transfer students. [\(Research Committee\)](#)

- **BC Transfer Students Profile and Performance Report (2013/14-2017/18)**

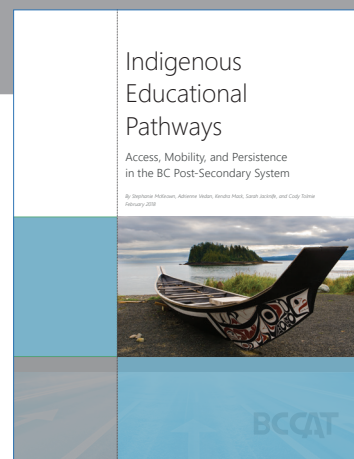
BCCAT has produced Transfer Student Profile and Performance reports for over 25 years.<sup>4</sup> The reports compare the demographics and the performance of transfer and direct entry students at large receiving universities within the BC Transfer System. [\(Research Committee\)](#)

→→→ CHECK IT OUT

### Indigenous Educational Pathways:

Access, Mobility, and Persistence in the BC Post-Secondary System

[bccat.ca/pubs/Indigenous\\_Pathways.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/Indigenous_Pathways.pdf)



<sup>1</sup> See [bccat.ca/pubs/dualcredit\\_may2017.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/dualcredit_may2017.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> See [bccat.ca/pubs/rr\\_creditstograduation.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/rr_creditstograduation.pdf) and [bccat.ca/pubs/creditstograduation.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/creditstograduation.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> See [bccat.ca/research/projects/survey](http://bccat.ca/research/projects/survey)

<sup>4</sup> See [bccat.ca/pubs/ProfileReport\\_May2015.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/ProfileReport_May2015.pdf)

## → Admission Processes for Direct Entry and Transfer Students

*Admissions policies and practices have a significant impact on credit transferability and the transfer experience. Research projects focus on identifying successful admissions policies and processes that maximize access to post-secondary education for both transfer students and those transitioning directly from high school.*

- **English Language Proficiency Standards for Admission and First Year English**

This project will include a review of admission and first-year English course pre-requisites specific to non-native speakers of English at all BC Transfer System member institutions. Given the context for this environmental scan (e.g., the pending changes to the English Language Arts curriculum and literacy assessment in the graduating years' curriculum in BC secondary schools) the results of the study will be timely and of interest to all BC Transfer System members and relevant articulation committees. *(Transfer and Articulation Committee)*

- **Patterns in Mid-Program Transfer**

This project will focus on students who, in the process of completing a credential at a single institution, were awarded transfer credit for one or more courses at another institution - whether or not they were formally approved as visiting students. This exploratory study will analyze characteristics of these credit transfers to inform possible future research.

*(Transfer and Articulation Committee)*

- **Application of Credit to Multiple Undergraduate Credentials**

This project will focus on collecting and analyzing institutional policies and practices of applying earned credits to multiple undergraduate credentials. The scope will include selected Canadian, North American, and European post-secondary institutions, and will focus on undergraduate credentials including certificates, diplomas, associate degrees and three- and four-year baccalaureate degrees. Objectives include publication of a literature review, collection and analysis of published policies in related areas, typologizing these policies or improved clarification, and identifying areas for future research.

*(Admissions Committee)*

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### Being Seen, Being Counted:

Establishing Expanded Gender  
and Naming Declarations

[bccat.ca/pubs/BeingSeen.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/BeingSeen.pdf)

### Being Seen, Being Counted:

*Establishing Expanded Gender  
and Naming Declarations*

Prepared for the British Columbia Council on Assessment and Transfer  
by the British Columbia Association of Transfer and Articulation  
Committees (BCCAT) in 2017



Developed by the  
**BCCAT**

# FUTURE PROJECTS

*In developing and prioritizing research projects for future years, the following areas will be considered:*

## 1. Transfer and Articulation Policies and Processes

- Foster effective and efficient articulation processes through sharing practices and undertaking environmental scans
- Survey and support articulation and partnerships for innovative courses/ blocks
- Assess implications of open educational resources for articulation
- Outline credit banks and credit accumulation mechanisms in other jurisdictions
- Analyze the impact of course and program indigenization on articulation and transfer
- Describe and compare competency-based articulation processes
- Assess the impact of regulatory bodies on articulation
- Integrate existing and potential articulation agreements into the program review process

## 2. Credentials and Pathways

- Assess the implications of badges and other micro-credentials for transfer, articulation, access and mobility, and transcription.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of associate degree, flexible pre-major and block transfer pathways
- Describe the impact of post-degree credentials on articulation
- Survey and share successful examples of laddering and degree pathways

## 3. Extra-Provincial Credit Mobility

- Describe, assess and support extra-provincial credit and credential evaluation and recognition
- Analyze international student mobility within the BC Transfer System
- Survey examples of credit transfer for international field schools

## 4. Supporting Student Access, Mobility and Success

- Identify educational planning needs of various groups of learners, including indigenous students, mature students and international students
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the BC Transfer System in supporting student access and persistence
- Capture mobile student motivations, decision-making, expectations and experiences.

## 5. Demographics and Metrics

- Develop and apply transfer student success metrics, including employment outcomes
- Analyze supply and demand for educational programs and describe the implications for transfer and admissions policies and practices
- Analyze patterns of student mobility and persistence
- Increase understanding of mobility between private and public institutions in the BC Transfer System
- Assess the impact of demographic shifts on student program choice and mobility patterns
- Assess the impact of living costs on student program choices, and student mobility patterns

## 6. Policies and Processes Related to Access, Credit Assessment, and Admissions

- Describe and compare approaches to calculating grades and GPAs for transfer students for the purposes of admission, academic standing, merit awards and other purposes
- Assess transcription practices and their impact on credit transfer
- Describe and share transfer credit assessment practices, including recognition of prior learning, advanced standing and course exemption
- Describe and share policies and programs supporting transfer student persistence and success
- Support credit transfer in centralized application processes
- Survey policies and practices in recognition of prior learning, credit recognition, advanced standing, and course exemption
- Assess the implications of hybrid and fully-online programming for student access and mobility

## 7. High School Transitions

- Analyze high school performance, graduation and admission requirements, and post-secondary success
- Survey other jurisdictions that utilize secondary-exit and post-secondary entrance examinations
- Survey successful practices in dual credit programs
- Analyze patterns of dual credit student transition to post-secondary

*Your guide through* **BCCAT**  
*post-secondary education*

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