

2019-20 RESEARCH PLAN



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, learner circumstances, and areas of innovation.

-> **Quantifying Block Transfer and Degree Partnership Pathways in the BC Transfer System**

In addition to using existing data sources to describe the volume, characteristics, and trends of block transfers and degree partnerships, this study will attempt to describe current business practices and to identify strategies that could improve the existing data and our understanding of this important type of mobility. The project will also generate an environmental scan of successful business practices for documenting block transfer and degree partnership students which may be useful to institutions that wish to strengthen their data on student pathways.

(Admissions Committee)

-> **Micro-credentials: Trends in Credentialing and Credit Transfer**

This study will review literature on micro-credentialing and credit transfer in various jurisdictions, catalogue available information on micro-credentials published online by BC Transfer System members, and interview faculty and staff to capture institutional practices and perspectives on the prospects of delivering and recognizing micro-credentials.

(Research Committee)

-> **Transfer Policies for Students with Historical Learning**

This project will review the transfer and program credit policies for students who are seeking to transfer and build upon learning five or more years after their last registration. This project will involve an environmental scan of current institutional policies, and produce a report on the findings. *(Transfer & Articulation Committee)*

-> **Transfer Practices within the Registrar's Office**

This study will focus on the transfer policies within the Registrar's offices, to identify the practices and procedures used to articulate and award transfer credit within BC Transfer System institutions. The focus of the report will investigate whether Registrars' offices have been empowered to award transfer credit, whether all articulation requests are routed through faculty, and under what circumstances transfer award decisions are made.

(Transfer and Articulation Committee)

-> **Examining the Extent of Unarticulated Courses and Courses at Differing Year Levels**

This study will examine the scope of courses that are offered at BC Transfer System institutions that have either not been previously articulated, or have been awarded credit at a year level that differs from the offering at the home institution. *(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 communicating 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 measure transfer student success, and inform discussion of new data sources and related policies to support research on student mobility into the future.

-> **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 study¹ 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)*

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

BCCAT has produced Transfer Student Profile and Performance reports for over 25 years.² 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)*

-> **Credits to Graduation**

This project aims to revisit previous research on “credits-to-graduation”³ 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 Data Governance Policy Models**

The study will scan existing legislation, policy, and practices governing the collection, storage, security, sharing, public and institutional reporting, and analysis of student data, as many of these data sources are key to understanding learner pathways and success. Based on these findings, key emerging issues in BC will be identified. *(Research Committee)*

¹ See bccat.ca/pubs/dualcredit_may2017.pdf

² See bccat.ca/pubs/ProfileReport_May2015.pdf

³ See bccat.ca/pubs/rr_creditsstograduation.pdf and bccat.ca/pubs/CreditstoGraduation.pdf

-> Surveying Mobile Students in BC Post-Secondary Institutions

With the assistance of BC's public post-secondary institutions, and BC Stats, over 4500 students were surveyed regarding their experience moving between post-secondary institutions. Respondents provided information on their goals, decision-making, experience, and level of satisfaction. The results will be released to participating institutions this fall, and a public report will be released in 2020. (*Research Committee*)

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.

-> Trends in Competency-Based Credentials within the Admissions Process

This project seeks to summarize current and emerging trends in the incorporation of competency-based credentials in the post-secondary admissions process, in BC and elsewhere, and to identify areas for future research which would support the development of policy and practices at BC Transfer System institutions. (*Admissions Committee*)

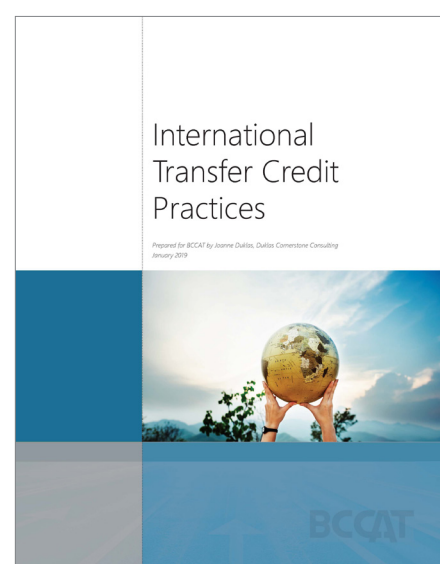
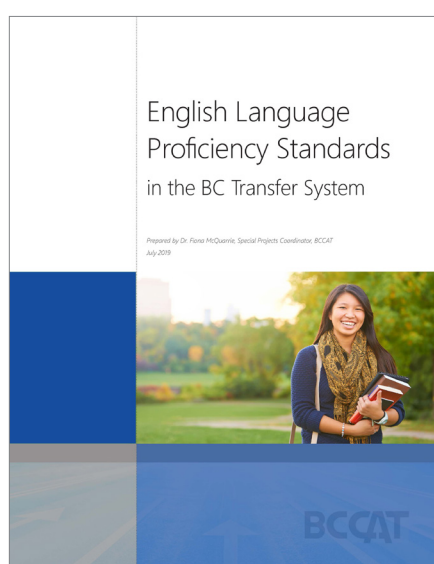
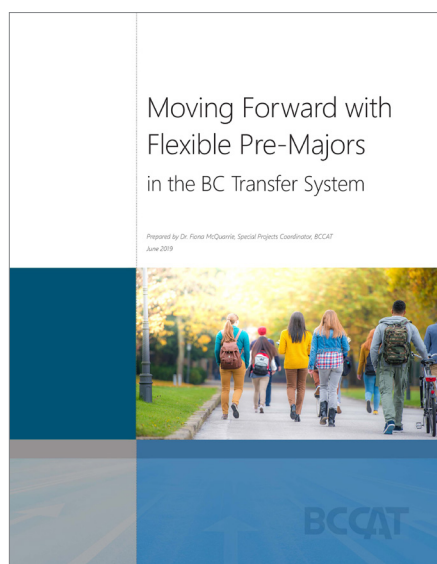
FUTURE PROJECTS:

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

| PROJECT AREA | PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION |
|---|---|
| Transfer and Articulation Policies and Processes | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 |
| Credentials and Pathways | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 |
| Extra-Provincial Credit Mobility | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 |
| Supporting Student Access, Mobility and Success | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. |

| PROJECT AREA | PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION |
|--|---|
| Demographics and Metrics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 |
| Policies and Processes Related to Access, Credit Assessment, and Admissions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe and compare approaches to calculating grades and GPAs for transfer students for 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 |
| High School Transitions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 |

Check out these recent research publications at bccat.ca:



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

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709 – 555 Seymour Street, Vancouver BC Canada V6B 3H6 | bccat.ca | bctransferguide.ca | 604 412 7700 | info@bccat.ca