

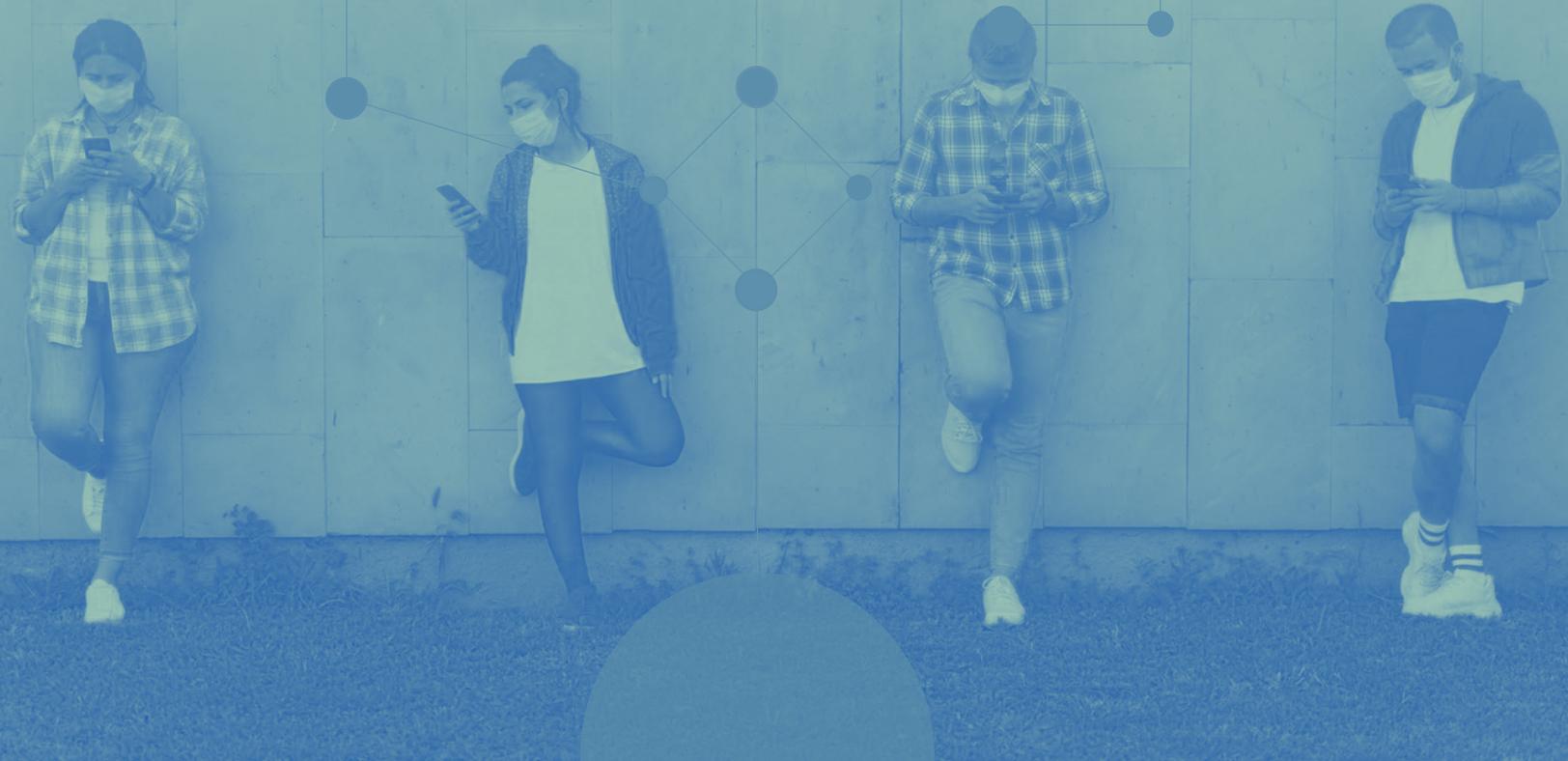


BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL  
ON ADMISSIONS & TRANSFER

2020-21  
ANNUAL REVIEW

# CONNECTIONS

■ Supporting educational pathways  
as a collaborative community





*There is perhaps no better example of successful cross-system integration than our post-secondary credit transfer system, overseen by the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT)...*

*Over the last 30 years, BCCAT has been instrumental in developing a highly efficient, evolving transfer system that is a world standard and the envy of other jurisdictions within Canada and abroad.*



**- Max Blouw, President, Research Universities' Council of BC (RUCBC)**



# CONNECTIONS

## *Supporting educational pathways as a collaborative community*

BCCAT's top priority is 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.

This Annual Review takes a look at the ways BCCAT has worked this past year to strengthen collaboration and connections vital to enabling learner access and mobility.

BC's post-secondary community faced remarkable challenges in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

As we hunkered down, everything went online. The pivot to online learning profoundly impacted us all. As course delivery went virtual, educators and students often found themselves navigating an uncertain, new territory.

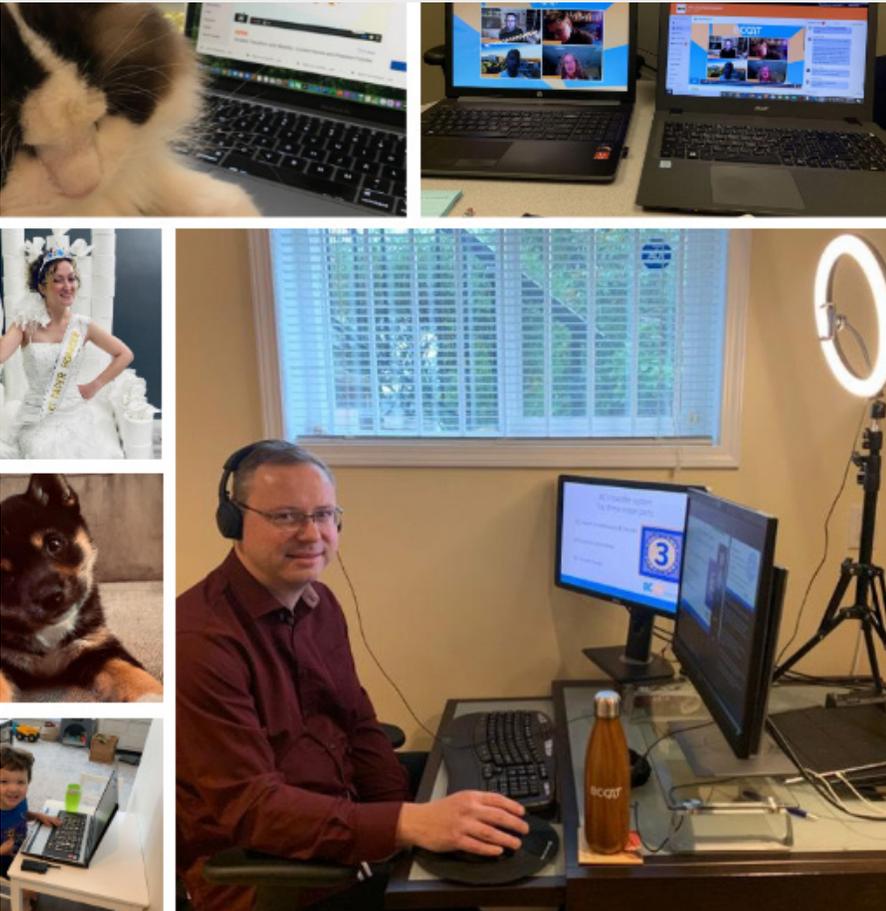
BCCAT recognizes the extraordinary efforts made by our post-secondary partners to accommodate students, addressing key policies and practices to minimize the impact of COVID on post-secondary student journeys. In facing these challenges, virtual communities emerged and our connectedness became ever more vital.

BCCAT's top priority is 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. This includes:

- **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 communications** with the public and across the system to address emergent critical issues and developments in support of learner access and mobility.

# COMMUNITY

*Connecting as a growing, collaborative transfer community*



BCCAT's [Joint Annual Meeting \(JAM\)](#) brings together individuals from across BC's post-secondary, articulation, and administrative community to connect, share, and learn about transfer and mobility.

**JAM 2020**, the first held online, was unlike any other. The virtual format opened the event to a significantly wider audience.

TOP: Tracey Kinney (Kwantlen Polytechnic University) introduces her furry companion, and Willy Aroca (Vancouver Community College) shows JAM from his perspective. MIDDLE: The three winners of the Pandemic Photo Contest. Congrats to Ashley de Moscoso (University of Victoria), Queen of the Toilet Paper Hoarders; Audra Holloway (Northern Lights College), introduces her beloved pup; and Terin Woo (Douglas College) shares a sweet and familiar scene, perfectly summing up everyday life in 2020. Mike Winsemann (Director, Transfer & Technology, BCCAT) sets up for JAM 2020.

# JAM 2020

■ A total of 370 registrants participated in a variety of collaborative activities:

- Set up and joined in discussion threads
- Uploaded articles of interest
- Submitted questions to speakers
- Met together in virtual meeting rooms
- Entered photos for the “Pandemic Photo Contest”

■ The theme “Transfer & Articulation in a Time of Pandemic” focused on issues we are all facing these days, including:

- The impact of COVID on transfer
- Challenges and opportunities for teaching and learning
- Trends and implications for micro-credentials on transfer and admissions

# JAM 2020 HIGHLIGHTS



**Describe the impact of Covid-19 on your institution? Total. Total impact. At NIC we've been guided in all of this impact and change by the ongoing mission of fostering student success.**

- Diane Naugler, Dean, Business & Applied Studies, North Island College, speaking as part of a JAM 2020 panel discussion on the impact of Covid-19 on transfer.

"This was one of the best virtual conferences I've attended. The shorter sessions and time in between to take a break from the screen (and focus on a different screen) were really helpful."

"I thoroughly enjoyed these sessions. I am new to the group and it was a non-intimidating introduction to the JAM. Thank you organizers for the well-run JAM!"

JAM 2020 session videos are available on [BCCAT's YouTube Channel](#), and on the [BCCAT website](#).



# ARTICULATION COMMITTEES

[BC's 65+ articulation committees](#) are essential to the functioning of the BC Transfer System. Committee discussions are vital for addressing key curricular and transfer issues and developments. They help to build respectful relationships and pave the way to creating pathway solutions that work for students.

This year, the articulation community and academic staff provided important feedback on key issues, including those related to potential implications for articulation of courses when changes are made in delivery or assessment formats. (BCCAT's long-standing position is that the method of delivery should not affect articulation decisions.)

BCCAT facilitates articulation committees in a variety of ways: staff members provide orientation sessions referencing key information and resources and they participate in meetings whenever possible. There are often opportunities at JAM to provide guidance and support as well. (See this [JAM 2020 session video](#) on how to effectively conduct online meetings.)

The pivot to online platforms has proved challenging for many, including articulation committees. Approximately 2/3 of the articulation committees met online either in the Spring or Fall, with most preferring Zoom as their meeting platform. Several committees chose to meet more frequently, or asynchronously to maintain connection and networks. BCCAT supports articulation committees in operating their own Moodle sites to manage their resources, with hosting provided by a post-secondary partner. Moving forward, we expect to have a new and more robust platform in place by fall 2021.

## Articulation Committee Project (ACP)

[Articulation Committee Project \(ACP\)](#) funding supports committee-led research projects on transfer-related issues and initiatives. Funding was available in 2020, but no projects were proposed. BCCAT continues to invite applications for funding for new projects in 2021.

## RISING STAR AWARD: CONGRATULATIONS

# TAMARA SWEET



Congratulations to Tamara Sweet, Registrar Services Officer, Articulation at the University of Northern BC, and winner of BCCAT's Rising Star Award in 2020! The Rising Star Award recognizes "an individual who, while early in their career, demonstrates exceptional leadership and accomplishment in the area of transfer and articulation within the BC Transfer System."

Tamara is being acknowledged for her exemplary dedication to improving transfer for students at UNBC and across the province as a whole. Check out [this video](#) celebrating Tamara and sharing a bit of her story.

For more information see [www.bccat.ca/about/awards](http://www.bccat.ca/about/awards)

# BCCAT YOUTUBE VIDEOS

BCCAT provides a range of videos on our [YouTube channel](#). Check out our playlists, including [JAM 2020 session videos](#), and the [“Transfer Stories” series](#). In addition, you’ll find a resource designed for students: a [short, animated clip](#) about post-secondary transfer in BC.



In May 2021, we launched a new video series. [“The Research Factor”](#) offers quick, concise overviews of BCCAT research findings.



In the [debut video](#): Anna Tikina walks viewers through findings from the **“Transfer Students Profile and Performance”** report.

# TECHNOLOGIES

## *Connecting to support pathways for diverse, mobile students*

BCCAT delivers technologies and resources, facilitating institutional transfer decisions and the publication of transfer information to the BC Transfer Guide for the benefit of student access and mobility.

The Council makes it a priority to address the needs of a diverse, mobile student population, to ensure that the BC Transfer System continues to expand and sustain educational pathways for students as they move forward in their journeys.

[BCTransferGuide.ca](https://www.bctransferguide.ca) is an integral, online resource offering extensive information on a wide range of transfer pathway options. At [BCTransferGuide.ca](https://www.bctransferguide.ca), students can check out transfer agreements for courses they have completed (or plan to complete). They can learn the basics and benefits of transfer, explore a wide range of transfer options, and map out their own transfer pathways.

**400,000+**  
# of credits transferred each year (recognized by BC public PSIs)

- Course-to-Course
- Block Transfer
- Degree Partnerships
- Advanced Placement
- International Baccalaureate
- Associate Degrees

**240,000**  
Guaranteed BC course equivalencies

**301,000**  
Total equivalencies (both BC and external)

**1,400**  
Block Transfer Agreements & Degree Partnerships



# BCTRANSFERGUIDE.CA GETS BIGGER!

“

*This project is part of BCCAT's ongoing efforts to improve upon British Columbia's premiere transfer system. Thank you for your contributions to our collective success in supporting BC students.”*

– Robert Fleming (BCCAT Executive Director & Co-Chair) & Tony Loughran (Executive Lead, Governance, Legislation and Corporate Planning, Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training)

”

Students are now able to explore inter-provincial and international transfer decisions published on the BC Transfer Guide.

[BCTransferGuide.ca](https://www.bctransferguide.ca) now includes transfer equivalencies to seven BC post-secondary institutions (PSIs) from PSIs across the country, and the globe, in addition to transfer agreements among BC Transfer System members.

As a result, students from all over the world are now able to search for transfer decisions on the BC Transfer Guide to identify the credit they may receive at the BC PSIs for learning obtained outside of BC.

This expansion continues the work of facilitating student mobility, by reducing barriers and promoting pathways to access quality, post-secondary education in British Columbia.

To date, Douglas College, Okanagan College, The University of Northern British Columbia, the University of British Columbia – Vancouver and Okanagan campuses, Vancouver Island University, Coast Mountain College, and North Island College have added their pan-Canadian and international course-to-course transfer agreements to the BC Transfer Guide.

This has resulted in the addition of over 61,000 equivalencies from 452 institutions in 33 countries now publicly available to future BC transfer students, allowing for a richer advising conversation between these PSIs and future students.

We thank the onboarded post-secondary institutions and the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training for continuing to facilitate student mobility and our province's transfer-friendly culture - another reason why BC is the ideal destination for students from across Canada and the world.

## TRANSFER CREDIT SYSTEM (TCS) IMPROVEMENTS

The Transfer Credit System (TCS) facilitates transfer agreements across post-secondary systems, publishing transfer information to the BC Transfer Guide database. Users of the TCS provide valuable feedback enabling continued improvements of the system.

In 2020, we released an enhanced version, with increased flexibility for users in editing and maintaining transfer agreements. The system is undergoing further improvements which will feature a dashboard to better manage articulations, a reciprocity feature to recommend reverse transfer opportunities, and the ability to add course attributes to transfer agreements that will provide expanded information about transferable courses and how they may relate to program and other institutional requirements.

**MAY 2021**  
**BCCAT**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL  
ON ADMISSIONS & TRANSFER

**BCTRANSFERGUIDE.CA GETS BIGGER!**

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As a result, students from all over the world are now able to search for transfer decisions to identify the credit they would receive at the onboarded BC PSIs for learning obtained outside of BC.

This expansion continues the work of facilitating student mobility, by reducing barriers and promoting pathways to access quality, post-secondary education in British Columbia.

We thank the onboarded post-secondary institutions and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills, & Training for continuing to facilitate student mobility and our province's transfer-friendly culture - another reason why BC is the ideal destination for transfer students from across Canada and the world!

**ONBOARDED**

UBC DOUGLAS LAS  
MOUNTAIN COLLEGE UNBC  
VIU  
NIC

**NEXT?**  
If your institution is interested in being a part of this initiative, please contact tcsen@bccat.ca

**BENEFITS**

**All Students**

- Access to equivalencies from around the world into seven BC PSIs
- Improves consistency of transfer credit evaluation for all students
- Promotes accessibility and flexibility for incoming transfer students

**BC Post-Secondary Institutions**

- Use of BCCAT technologies to manage Canadian & international equivalencies
- Transparency in evaluation of non-BC courses
- Reduces duplication of work
- Centralized database for all articulation data
- Technology to connect & display transfer data on the PSI website

**BC Transfer System & BC**

- Model for other transfer bodies to further expand transfer pathways
- Provides collaborative opportunities for developing a national transfer system
- Positions BC as THE destination for transfer students across the world

**+61,000** new transfer equivalencies  
**452** institutions  
**33** countries

social: bccat.org @bccat.org @bctransferguide

[For more information, check out this one-page update](#)

**452**  
Institutions

**33**  
Countries

**61,000+**  
New Transfer  
Equivalencies

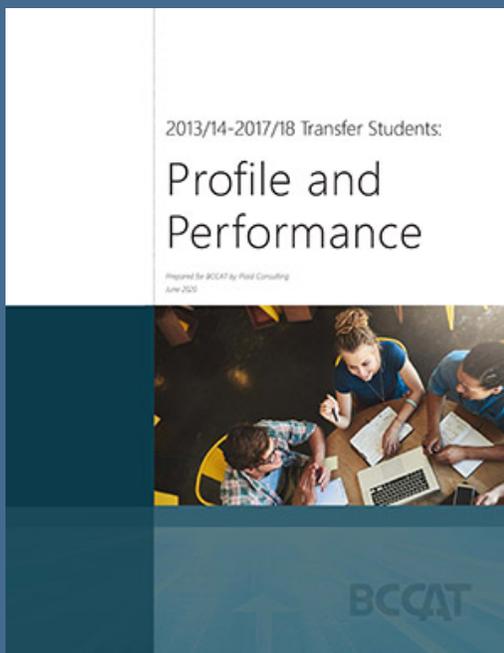
# RESEARCH

*Connecting to inform and advance our shared understanding*

BCCAT works collaboratively with post-secondary partners on developing 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.

## BC TRANSFER STUDENTS PROFILE AND PERFORMANCE (2013/14-2017/18)

by Plaid Consulting



“

*While the educational journeys of transfer students differ from those of direct entry students in a number of ways, most performance trends seen in data from direct-entry students are echoed in data from the transfer student population.*

”

This report examines transfer student pathways and performance from BC Transfer System institutions into BC's public research-intensive universities. On average, transfer students represent about one-third of all student population at these universities in a given academic year. The results of this study support the findings of previous similar reports published over nearly 30 years.

[Report](#)  
[Infographic](#)  
[Summary \(2-Minute Read\)](#)

# HOW DO TRANSFER STUDENTS PERFORM?

Transfer students perform as successfully as direct-entry students, overall.\*

## Typical GPA Trends during Studies

— Transfer Students  
— Direct Entry Students



## FAST FACTS BC TRANSFER STUDENTS

36%

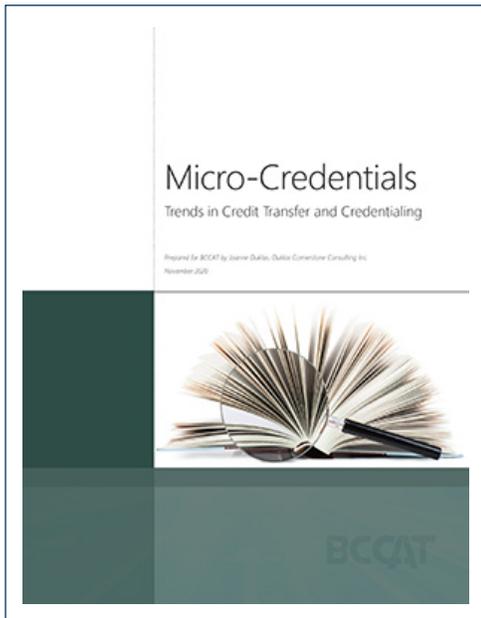
Transfer students constitute more than 1/3 of all students admitted in a year at the 6 universities (on average).

72%

72% of transfer students admitted in the 2013/14 academic year completed a baccalaureate degree by the end of the 2017/18 academic year.

48.6

Transfer students carry (on average) 48.6 credits - equivalent to more than 1.5 years of full-time study.



- [Report](#)
- [Infographic](#)
- [Presentation Video](#)
- [Summary \(2-Minute Read\)](#)

## MICRO-CREDENTIALS: TRENDS IN CREDIT TRANSFER & CREDENTIALING (2013/14-2017/18)

by Joanne Duklas

The subject of micro-credentials has been drawing considerable interest in recent years, in alignment with intensified concerns for identifying new methods for delivering, assessing, and credentialing skills and competencies.

This report looks at current micro-credentialing practices, motivations, and perspectives at Canadian higher education institutions and beyond. The environmental scan, the pan-Canadian survey, and the expert interviews highlighted the need to establish shared definitions that fit the purpose intended for the credential.

“Overall, 41% of surveyed Canadian institutions reported having plans to adopt micro-credentials in the near future.”

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

by Plaid Consulting  
April 2016



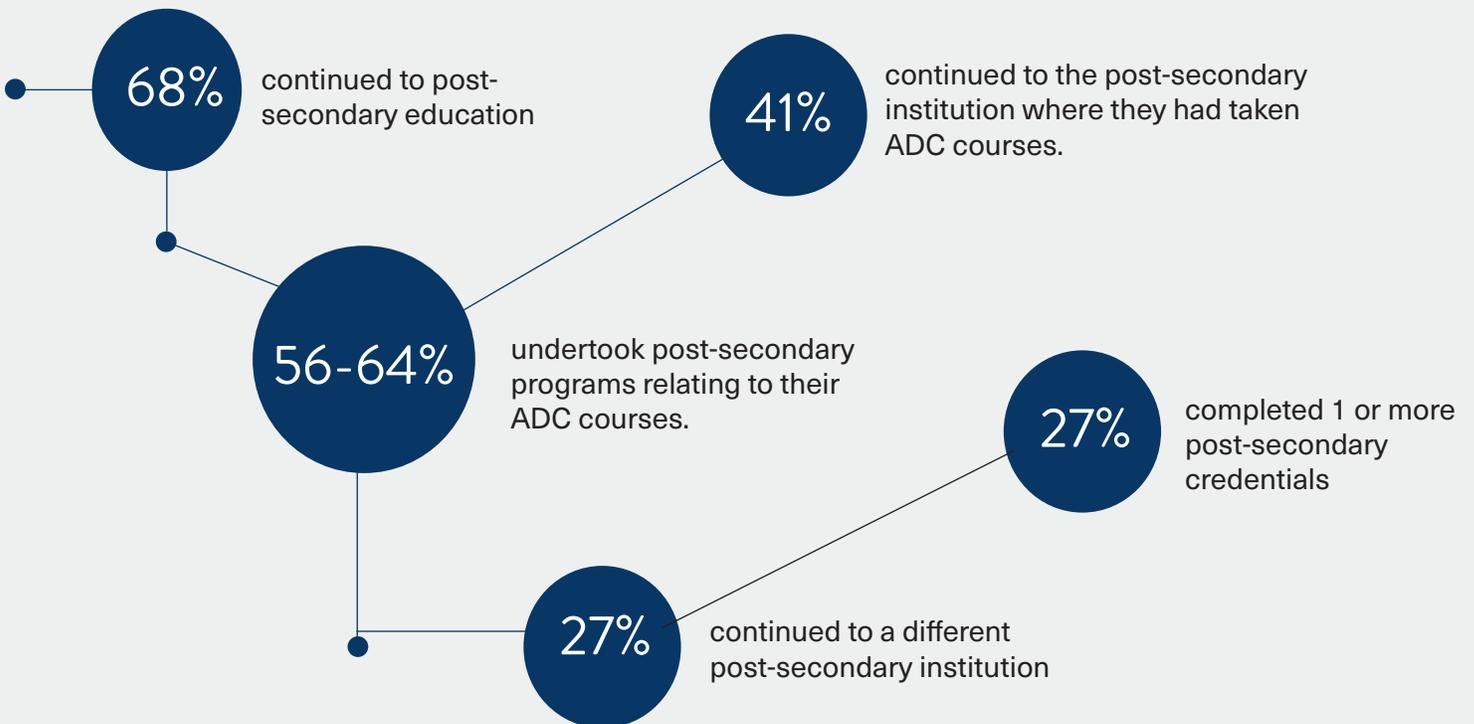
[Report](#)  
[Infographic \(4-Pages\)](#)  
[Summary \(2-Minute Read\)](#)

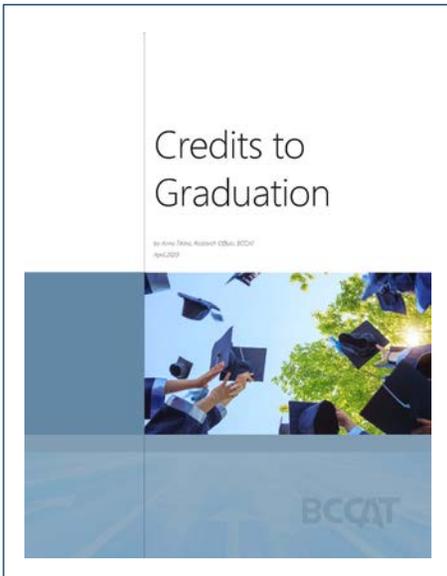
# ACADEMIC DUAL CREDIT STUDENTS: EXPERIENCES AND PERFORMANCE IN THE BC POST-SECONDARY SYSTEM

by Plaid Consulting

In BC, dual credit programs allow for credit to be granted at both a secondary school and post-secondary institution for completion of a course. This report used a variety of methods to gather rich insights into the experiences and academic performance of students who completed one or more academic dual credit courses, and continued to post-secondary studies at one of four BC public post-secondary institutions.

## FAST FACTS ACADEMIC DUAL CREDIT (ADC)





[Report](#)  
[Newsletter \(4-Pages\)](#)  
[Summary \(2-Minute Read\)](#)

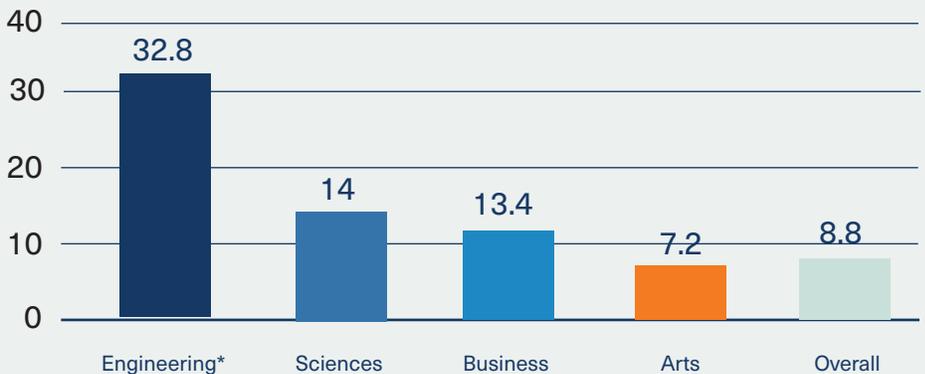
# CREDITS TO GRADUATION

by Anna Tikina, BCCAT

The number of credits completed to earn a baccalaureate degree continues to be an important criterion for measuring the effectiveness and efficiency of transfer between post-secondary institutions. This study compared the total number of credits completed for a baccalaureate degree by 2015/16 direct entry and transfer graduates at several large public universities in BC.

## Transfer Students' Average Difference in Total Credits

For Graduation from Direct Entry Students by Degree Program Area



\*There was significant variability in the averages of the number of credits among Engineering pathways. The overall program area average should be interpreted with caution.

“While transfer students graduated with a somewhat higher number of credits than the direct-entry students, the overall small differences reflect a high alignment of articulated courses.”

# FAST FACTS MOBILITY RATES AND TRANSFER CREDIT

- 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).

Source: Student Transitions Project

- Almost ¼ of transfer students enter research universities via private BC Transfer System institutions.

Source: Transfer Students Profile & Performance Report

- On average, transfer students make up over 1/3 of the annual admissions at BC's Research Universities.

Source: Transfer Students Profile & Performance Report

- 400,000+ credits are recognized for transfer by BC public PSIs each year.

Source: Transfer Credit in the Central Data Warehouse Project

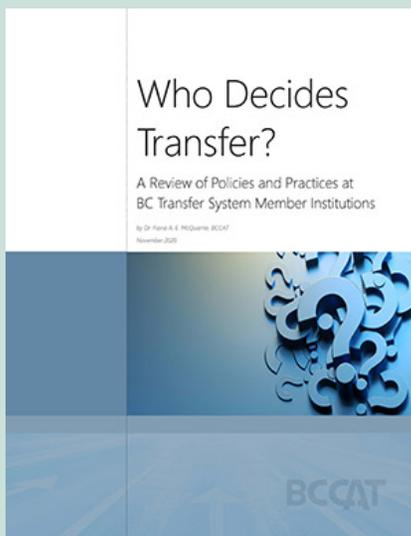
- Transfer students carry (on average) 48.6 credits - equivalent to more than 1.5 years of full-time study.

Source: Transfer Students Profile & Performance Report

- Over 70% of transfer students admitted to BC Research Universities completed a baccalaureate degree within 5 years, with a Grade Point Average comparable to those who entered university directly from high school.

Source: Transfer Students Profile & Performance Report

## OTHER REPORTS OF INTEREST:



### WHO DECIDES TRANSFER?

*A Review of Policies and Practices at BC Transfer System Member Institutions*

by Fiona McQuarrie, BCCAT

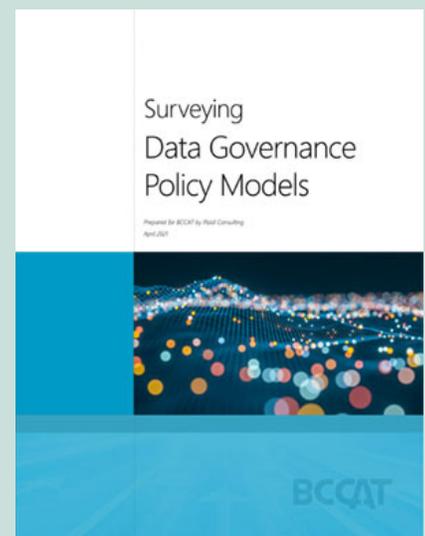
[Report](#)



### BLOCK TRANSFER & DEGREE PARTNERSHIPS

by Paul Merner & Michael Bennett

[Report Summary \(2-Minute Read\)](#)



### SURVEYING DATA GOVERNANCE POLICY MODELS

by Plaid Consulting

[Report Infographic \(4-Pages\) Summary \(2-Minute Read\)](#)

# COLLABORATION

## *Connecting with post-secondary partners to expand access and mobility*

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.

This year, a major focus of collaborative projects and activities was on the impact of COVID-19 on student transfer and mobility.



- Ongoing 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 providing access to an inventory of available educational resources for online labs (by discipline).
- Facilitation of discussion and enquiry on issues related to micro-credentials, particularly relating to admissions and transfer.
- Guidance and support for the work of the [Student Transitions Project](#) as it looks at how STP data may inform future analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on student retention system-wide in BC.

- 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 for years to come.

- Participating as an active 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 national, web-based, bilingual credential wallet for post-secondary learners and graduates. This network has been designed to support Canada's post-secondary community and has become increasingly pertinent as many institutions are adapting to maintain transcript exchange capacity while working remotely.



# IT TAKES A COMMUNITY...

We've all heard that "it takes a village to raise a child". It's also true that it takes a community to support educational pathways for students, within and across regions. We extend our sincere appreciation to all of our post-secondary partners, including those who participate within BC's post-secondary transfer community, and our inter-provincial and global partners as well.

Special thanks and very best wishes also go to the following outgoing members of the Council for their valuable contributions to the work of the Council throughout their membership terms:

- **Tami O'Meara** (Dept. Head, Student Access & Support & Counsellor, Selkirk College)
- **Carolyn Russell** (Executive Director, Global Engagement, University of Victoria)
- **Steve Roe** (previously Dean of Academic & Professional Programs, Northern Lights College)



Last but not least, we wish to express hearty congratulations to Jim Hamilton (Council Co-Chair and President of Okanagan College) as he retires after 41 years of work in education and over 16 years serving as a college president.

This past year included formal recognition of his contributions over that time. Westbank First Nations honoured him in a virtual blanketing ceremony for his work and commitment towards reconciliation. This was followed in early 2021 by the University of British Columbia conferring on Jim the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, for his service and contributions as one of the province's longest serving academic leaders.

Jim will continue to lead and support the Council going forward, but we hope this new chapter brings fresh adventures, replete with grandchildren, dogs, and fishing.

## LINKS FOR INFO:

<b>News &amp; Resources</b>	<a href="https://bccat.ca/about/news">bccat.ca/about/news</a>
<b>Publications Search</b>	<a href="https://bccat.ca/search/publications">bccat.ca/search/publications</a>
<b>About the Council</b>	<a href="https://bccat.ca/about/council">bccat.ca/about/council</a>
<b>About Committees</b>	<a href="https://bccat.ca/about/committees">bccat.ca/about/committees</a>
<b>BC Transfer System</b>	<a href="https://bccat.ca/system">bccat.ca/system</a>
<b>Articulation Committees / JAM</b>	<a href="https://bccat.ca/articulation">bccat.ca/articulation</a> & <a href="https://bccat.ca/articulation/jam">bccat.ca/articulation/jam</a>
<b>Annual Review</b>	<a href="https://bccat.ca/about/annualreview">bccat.ca/about/annualreview</a>
<b>Research Projects</b>	<a href="https://bccat.ca/projects">bccat.ca/projects</a> & <a href="https://bccat.ca/projects/research">bccat.ca/projects/research</a>
<b>System News</b>	<a href="https://bccat.ca/systemnews">bccat.ca/systemnews</a>
<b>Engage e-newsletter</b>	<a href="https://bccat.ca/about/engage">bccat.ca/about/engage</a> - <i>don't forget to subscribe!</i>

An aerial photograph of a person walking on a path, with a large curved path leading through a field. The image is overlaid with a blue tint.

# BCCAT

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL  
ON ADMISSIONS & TRANSFER

BC Council on Admissions & Transfer: Expanding pathways for students  
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