

2019

# SURVEY OF MOBILE STUDENTS

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MOBILITY

While the BC Transfer System was originally conceived in the 1960s and 1970s around a college-to-university transfer pathway, it has since evolved to support mobile students' increasingly diverse patterns and directions of transfer.

The 2019 Survey of Mobile Students provides a snapshot of the various ways learners move through the system and pursue their goals through transfer. Analyzing where and how mobile students transfer provides insight into what motivates them to move.

## TRANSFER TYPES



Mobile students move through the BC transfer system in different ways: depending on their needs and preferences, they may complete a single move between institutions (by far the most common scenario), or they may make multiple moves through different institutions. Using data from the Student Transitions Project (STP), the 2019 Survey identified and explored the journeys of six distinct transfer types.

76%

of mobile students are  
**TRADITIONAL**  
and make only  
**ONE MOVE**  
from sending institution to  
receiving institution

II 4%

**STEP-OUT**  
movers go to  
another institution  
for 1 SEMESTER  
then return

◀ 6%

**RETURNERS** go  
back to their original  
institution after > 1  
semester away

▶▶ 7%

**SERIAL** movers  
transfer 2+ times  
through a series  
of different  
institutions

▶▶▶ 4%

**REPETITIVE**  
movers transfer 3+  
times between the  
same 2  
INSTITUTIONS

▶▶▶▶ 3%

**HIGHLY MOBILE**  
students make  
multiple moves  
through 3+  
INSTITUTIONS

# MOBILITY PATTERNS

Mobile students follow three general mobility patterns through the BC transfer system: linear, lateral, and reverse. These patterns reflect what institution type(s) or sectors students move between.

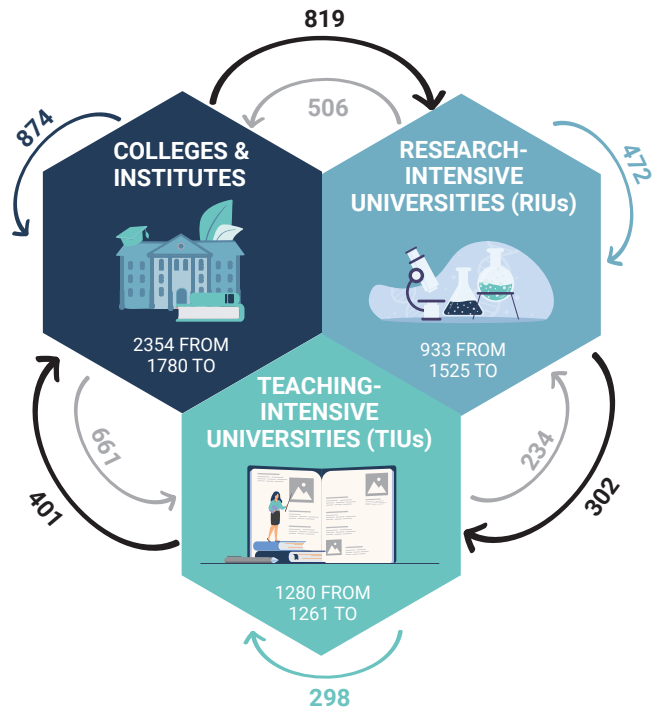
Between 2012 and 2019, lateral mobility became more common than reverse, and TIUs and RIUs (teaching-intensive universities and research-intensive universities) increased their share of movers.



<b>LINEAR</b>	from a college or institute to a research-intensive or teaching-intensive university (RIU or TIU)	<b>39%</b>
<b>LATERAL</b>	within the same sector (e.g., college to institute, TIU to RIU)	<b>36%</b>
<b>REVERSE</b>	from a TIU or RIU to a college or institute	<b>25%</b>

## PATTERNS OF BC STUDENTS MOBILITY (2019)

N=4,566 RESPONDENTS



Interested in learning more about the 2019 Survey of Mobile Students? [Check out the infographic series!](#)

