



## Exploring Students' Motivations for Credit Accumulation

### Background

BCCAT has undertaken studies assessing the number of credits that transfer and direct entry students complete to graduate with a degree (Credits to Graduation projects 2010, 2020). These quantitative studies have found that both transfer and direct entry students collect, on average, more credits than required for their degrees. The reasons may vary, and include post-secondary exploration, or the pursuit of additional programs/ credentials through concurrent studies. Building on the earlier quantitative studies, the proposed study attempts to explore qualitatively the reasons why students collect more credits than required for their credential(s).

### Purpose/ Goal

To explore the motivations, experiences and perceptions of upper-level transfer and direct entry students regarding the credits they complete at BC Transfer System institutions – particularly those beyond the strict program requirements for their chosen credential(s).

### Scope

The study will focus on a select number of BC Transfer System institutions. Those submitting proposals should include a discussion of how these public post-secondary institutions would be identified and invited to participate.

### Objectives

The objectives of the study include:

1. To identify and recruit participating institutions.
2. To gather student experiences and the reasons why direct entry and transfer students complete the number of credits they do (particularly those credits beyond the strict program requirements), and
3. To identify areas for future research and, if appropriate, the development of institutional practices.

### Timeline

Completion date for this project will be February 2021.

### Budget

Proposals in the range of \$18,000 to \$23,000 will be considered. This range is inclusive of all hourly charges, travel and associated costs, and GST.

[Proposal Template for Research Projects](#)