

2023 – 24 Annual Review

BCCAT

Growing with BC's transfer ecosystem

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

BCCAT acknowledges the unceded territory of Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations, on which the BCCAT office is situated.

BCCAT is committed to working respectfully with Indigenous peoples under the guidance of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and in response to the Calls to Action set out by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. In keeping with the Council's mandate, we are committed to moving forward together with post-secondary partners to foster an environment that supports and enables post-secondary access and pathways for Indigenous students.



Hon. Lisa Beare
Minister of Post-Secondary
Education and Future Skills

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

"Over the years, BCCAT has played a crucial role in fostering a dynamic transfer pathway system in collaboration with our dedicated post-secondary partners. This partnership has facilitated transitions for students across institutions, saving them both time and money while pursuing their educational goals."

"As we celebrate this significant anniversary, it is important to acknowledge the invaluable work of BC's transfer ecosystem in supporting learner access and mobility, as well as the dedication and collaboration of this important partnership for our province."

"Thank you to all involved in this important work! We are eager to celebrate this milestone of 35 years of success and the contributions made to support more people benefiting from the transfer process."

INTRODUCTION

Growing with BC's transfer ecosystem

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the BC Council on Admissions & Transfer (BCCAT). In 1989, the Council was established with a mandate to facilitate admission, articulation, and transfer arrangements among BC post-secondary institutions for the benefit of students. In fact, BC was the first jurisdiction in Canada to create a Council with this specific directive.

BC's post-secondary transfer system has expanded and evolved remarkably over the years.¹ Students today are increasingly mobile as more institutions grant a greater range of credentials. Findings from the [Student Transitions Project \(STP\)](#)² have revealed significant changes in student mobility patterns between institutions, from uni-directional (from colleges or institutes to universities) to what is now clearly multi-directional (across, and even *within* post-secondary sectors).

The success of BC's integrated transfer network is largely due to the dedicated and collaborative efforts of many across BC's post-secondary institutions, who work every day to support and improve learner access and mobility.

Stephanie Boychuk (Instructor, Adult Basic Education, Vancouver Island University, and 2023 winner of the [Rising Star Award](#)),³ views BC's transfer community as an evolving ecosystem; one that thrives because of its complexity, diversity, and interconnectedness; comparable in some ways to the dynamics of a forest ecosystem. Through this lens, we can see all the individual parts (individuals, institutions, articulation committees, etc.) contributing to the functioning of the whole network, and ultimately supporting post-secondary student journeys, our chief objective.

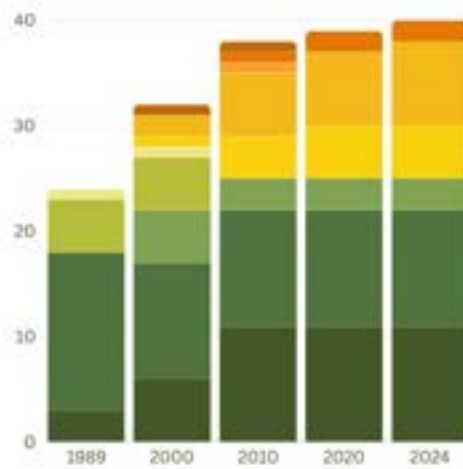
It is instructive to review key changes through the evolution of BC's transfer landscape, while taking a look at current and emerging developments. This report presents an overview of recent projects and activities, and some reflections on the strengths of this community as we continue the vital work of supporting and advancing learner access and mobility.

Stephanie Boychuk, 2023 winner of the Rising Star Award, views BC's transfer community as an evolving ecosystem; one that thrives because of its complexity, diversity, and interconnectedness; comparable in some ways to the dynamics of a forest ecosystem.

¹ For more information about the history of BCCAT and the BC Transfer System, see bccat.ca/system/history.

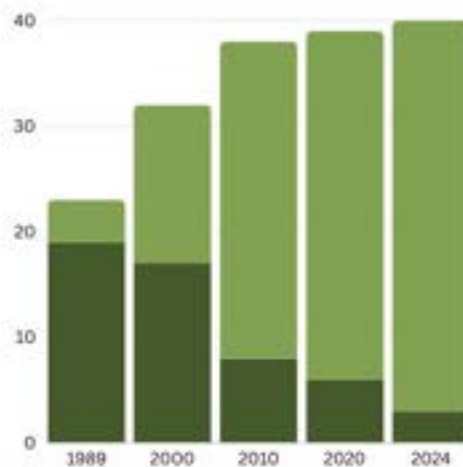
² See page 14 for details regarding STP's historic work, including an overview of 20 years of learner mobility research.

³ See page 8 for further information about Stephanie's award and her story.



BC Transfer System Member Institutions

(1989 - 2024)



BC Transfer System Member Institutions

with Bachelor's Degree Granting Authority

(1989 - 2024)



Student Directions (1989)



Student Directions (2024)



STUDENT MOBILITY SUCCESS

+400k credits are transferred each year (between public post-secondary institutions, or "PSIs")

+55k students move between public PSIs, annually

+45% of degree graduates attended >1 public PSI

79% of BC transfer students receive all or most of their requested transfer credit

COMMUNITY

Growing together in support of sustainable learner mobility

THE VITAL ROLE OF ARTICULATION COMMITTEES

BC's 65 articulation committees play a vital role in BC's transfer ecosystem. These subject-specific committees are comprised of representatives from all post-secondary sectors and disciplines. Approximately 1,500 representatives meet regularly to address articulation issues and curricular developments. These formal and informal interactions help to foster respectful relationships that facilitate learner access, transfer, and mobility.

BCCAT supports articulation committees throughout the year, providing information and resources (such as the ["Articulation Committee Guide"](#) and the ["How to Articulate" handbook](#)), attending meetings, answering queries, and more.

Articulation committee meetings present a valuable opportunity to share information and to address emerging issues and developments. This year, popular topics included:

- post-pandemic effects on student wellness;
- AI and ChatGPT; and
- new Transfer Credit System (TCS) technologies.

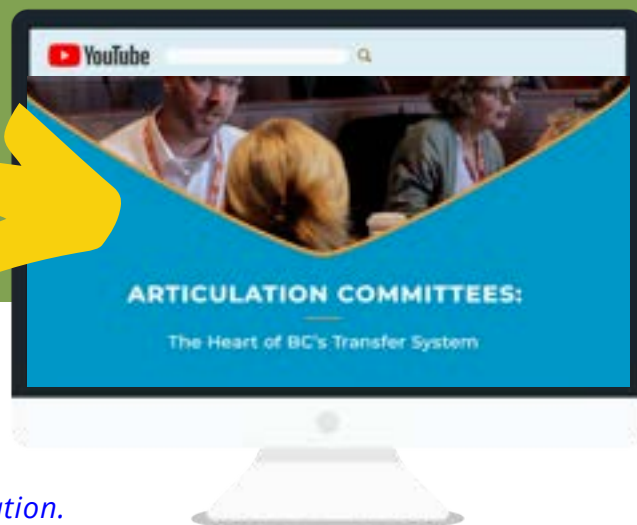
Check out this brief introductory video at youtube.com/@bccat_org.

For more information, see bccat.ca/articulation.

DID YOU KNOW?

BC's longest-standing articulation committee (now known as the "BC Committee on Undergraduate Program in Mathematics and Statistics", or BCcupms) first met in December 1967 at UBC, with 10 attendees. The chair, Ralph D. James (then Head of UBC's Math Department) clarified that he had called this meeting because "he felt it imperative that the colleges and universities be aware of each other's programs, of the changes being contemplated and of the particular problems of each institution."

For more information, see <https://bccupms.ca/about/>.





"I always love networking with peers in the industry. We don't often get occasions like this. The in-person sessions were well-facilitated, and all sessions were interesting... Each session presented on the current landscape of transfer credit in BC, but also globally.

I would give the 2023 BCCAT JAM 100/100! Thank you so much.

Feedback from a JAM 2023
in-person attendee

JAM 2023

Building the Big Picture of Student Mobility

Every year, BCCAT hosts the Joint Annual Meeting (JAM). This event brings higher education, articulation, and administrative personnel together to connect, share, and learn about issues impacting student transfer and mobility.

This year's JAM drew 375 online and in-person registrants from BC and beyond to focus on *"Building the Big Picture of Student Mobility"*.

Both online and in-person attendees participated in a variety of ways, listening in on sessions, submitting questions, joining in discussion, and sharing comments, perspectives, and photos.

Over two days, the 20 sessions ranged from operational to broader topics of wider interest: for example,

- [Generative AI, ChatGPT, and Student Transfers](#)
- [A Glimpse into the Future of Micro-Credentials](#)
- [Reaching out to Prospective Post-Secondary Students: Innovative US Models](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

BCCAT hosted the very first "Joint Annual Meeting" on November 6, 2009. Participants expressed their enthusiasm and appreciation for this new opportunity to interact and better understand the different roles, challenges, and perspectives across BC's transfer community.



Pictured above: (Top Row, L-R): Dezene Huber (University of Northern British Columbia) smiles for the camera, and Jennifer Kook (BCCAT) shares an update about the Pathways tool development project. (Bottom Row, L-R): Sam Saini (University of British Columbia) and Margaret Heldman (Langara College) participate, and Adina Dropol (BCCAT) welcomes in-person registrants. Photo Credits: Eyes Multimedia

For more information, see bccat.ca/articulation/jam.
You can also explore videos of the JAM 2023 sessions
at youtube.com/@bccat_org.

Congratulations

Stephanie Boychuk

2023 Rising Star!

At JAM 2023, Stephanie Boychuk (Instructor, Adult Basic Education, Vancouver Island University) was presented with BCCAT's *Rising Star Award* in recognition of her extraordinary leadership, vision, and commitment in helping to move the Adult Basic Education (ABE) Steering Committee forward at a challenging time, despite being relatively new to the world of articulation.

Stephanie was selected to sit on the ABE Steering Articulation Committee due to her dedication to facilitating articulation. Her leadership skills were immediately evident, and before long she was elected as Co-Chair of the committee.

Although a self-confessed "policy wonk", Stephanie sees policies and processes as the essential underpinning of the important work of articulation, but not the ultimate focus. In Stephanie's view, successful committees understand that their primary goal is to work together in support of students.

Through respect and trust, shared objectives, and collaboration, committees address substantive conversations that open the way to enabling and improving transfer pathways. For further information about Stephanie and her award, see bccat.ca/about/awards.



BC's Vibrant Post-Secondary Ecosystem

Stephanie Boychuk paints a compelling picture of a healthy, functioning post-secondary ecosystem. Like trees (from their invisible but vital root system, to trunk, branches and leaves), every part of an institution contributes to student life, learning, and development.

A vibrant post-secondary ecosystem may be compared to a well-established forest, with all of its complexity, diversity, and inter-connectedness. Similarly, BC's transfer community flourishes where there are deeply rooted connections, shared resources, and strong communication and collaboration.



TECHNOLOGIES

Delivering technologies that connect, support and inform

285,538

BC Course-to-Course (C2C) Equivalencies

82,571

External (Pan-Canadian & International) C2C Equivalencies*

1,667

Block Transfer Agreements

37,524

Active Courses (with 1 or more articulations)

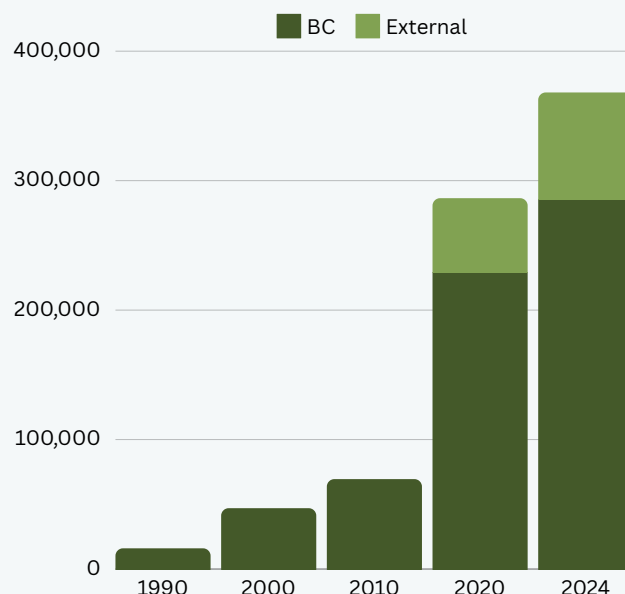
29,369

Total Updates (4/1/23 – 3/31/24)

*External equivalencies are records of previously awarded credit. These equivalencies do not guarantee credit in the same way as formal articulations between BC Transfer System members.

[BCTransferGuide.ca](https://bctransferguide.ca) is the “go-to” resource for students planning their post-secondary transfer pathways in BC. The site has expanded dramatically over the years due to a significant increase in transfer equivalencies (including pan-Canadian and international agreements) and a wide variety of new transfer pathway options and resources.

Transfer Equivalencies in the BC Transfer Guide (1990 - 2024)



This year, BCCAT created and began to implement the “BC Transfer Guide Course Inclusion Policy” setting out the eligibility criteria for courses to be included in transfer agreements in the BC Transfer Guide. This policy is available online at bccat.ca/system/policies.

BC Transfer Guide Course Inclusion Policy



Jean Maltesen, Dean, Academic & Career Preparation, Vancouver Island University

BCCAT supports the post-secondary journeys of adult learners, providing access to information on course equivalency and transfer for programs such as Adult Basic Education (ABE), English as an Additional Language (EAL), and Accessible Education and Training (AET).

Robust articulation processes ensure course outcomes and transfer equivalencies are up-to-date and easily accessible at BCTransferGuide.ca, enabling learners to explore and plan their transfer pathways, supporting access and mobility for those who may have had difficulty accessing post-secondary when previous learning was not recognized.

Congratulations to BCCAT for excellent oversight and for ongoing facilitation of the admissions and transfer processes in BC. BC's transfer system has been (and continues to be) remarkable!



FOR MORE INFO:

Explore these videos at
youtube.com/@bccat_org



Did You Know?

Video series looking at key developments throughout the history of BCCAT and the BC Transfer System, such as the evolution of BCTransferGuide.ca.



“Transfer To”

Video series introducing flexible transfer pathways available at BC's post-secondary transfer institutions. Videos currently available:

- Capilano University
- Coast Mountain College
- Douglas College
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- Simon Fraser University
- Thompson Rivers University
- Trinity Western University
- University of British Columbia
- University of Northern British Columbia
- University of the Fraser Valley
- Vancouver Island University

Program Pathways

Work continues on the development of a program pathway building tool, in partnership with the Northern Consortium post-secondary institutions (PSIs). The Pathways tool will connect course equivalency data in the Transfer Credit System (TCS) with program-level course requirement information. It will also facilitate pathway development by identifying and resolving equivalency gaps between programs where they needn't exist.

This digital resource will provide institutional partners with a repository for pathway agreements, a technology-supported workflow with automated change management and notification functionality, and the ability to publish substantive course-level program transfer pathway information on the BC Transfer Guide and related websites to identify bridging and laddering opportunities and progression gaps for students and PSIs.

This tool is currently in the testing phase. This work aligns with the Ministry's digital services initiative by using the existing TCS management platform & cross-utilizing data, leveraging tools and processes already embedded and utilized by PSIs in our transfer system.



Learn more about this project at bccat.ca/technology/pathways/.



Check out this session video from JAM 2023 for an overview of recent developments regarding BCCAT's technologies, available at youtube.com/@bccat_org.

For more information about BCCAT technologies, see bccat.ca/technology/overview/.



RESEARCH

Growing in our understanding of issues impacting access and mobility

Evidence-based research is a key component of BCCAT's mandate, informing policy, planning and processes in the BC Transfer System. Well-grounded research informs our understanding on issues surrounding learner access and mobility, and the functionality of the system, illuminating the way forward for BC's transfer community.



Accessible Admissions

Fostering accessible, equitable, and inclusive admissions through disability justice

*Prepared for BCCAT by J. Hardwick;
F. Whittington-Walsh; Z. Jaffer;
and K. Watson.*

This report summarizes a comprehensive environmental scan of 38 BC Transfer System post-secondary institutions' admissions processes. It presents both current best practices in the system and opportunities to advance equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization (EDID) supports attached to institutional admissions policies and practices, with a focus on the removal of systemic barriers commonly faced by learners with disabilities.

In centering disabled learners' admissions experiences, this project reviews, through an intersectional

lens, the application of accessible design; clear policies, processes, and definitions; multiple means of assessment; and other supports within the BC post-secondary admissions context.

The resulting analysis of accessibility elements in play at some BC institutions situates potential short-term, long-term, and transformative recommendations for more elective and inclusive admissions pathways that serve all learners. For access to the report, related infographics and videos, go to [bccat.ca /publication/AccessibleAdmissions](https://bccat.ca/publication/AccessibleAdmissions).

2023-24 Research Highlights



Direct Admissions

Increasing Access to Post-Secondary Education Through Proactive Admissions

Prepared by Dr. Elle Ting, Research & Projects Officer, BCCAT

This report provides a brief overview of the background, research, and implementation of direct admissions in the US. While direct admissions remains a new and largely experimental approach to admissions, it shows promise in making higher education more accessible, particularly for systemically marginalized and historically underserved students.

bccat.ca/publication/DirectAdmissions



Course Outlines in the BC Transfer System

Designing Content and Format to Facilitate Course Transferability

Prepared by Dr. Fiona A.E. McQuarrie, Special Projects Officer, BCCAT

This report examines and compares course outlines at BC Transfer System member institutions, and provides recommendations for course outline content and format to facilitate requests for transfer credit.

bccat.ca/publication/CourseOutlines



Online Delivery Trends

Online, Hybrid, and Multi-Access Learning and Teaching in British Columbia: Post-Pandemic Trends and Intentions

Prepared for BCCAT by George Veletsianos, Valerie Irvine, and Nicole Johnson

This project undertakes an analysis of the evolving nature of online, hybrid, and multi-access learning within the BC post-secondary education system.

bccat.ca/publication/OnlineDeliveryTrends



Professional Regulation and Transfer

Exploring the Impact of Professional Regulation on Transfer Activity in the BC Transfer System

Prepared by Dr. Fiona A.E. McQuarrie, Special Projects Officer, BCCAT

This report examines the types of professional regulation in BC that interact with institutions and programs in the BC Transfer System, and assesses the extent to which professional regulation affects transfer activity within the BC Transfer System.

bccat.ca/publication/ProfessionalRegulation

Learn more about BCCAT research at bccat.ca/research/overview.

Explore BCCAT's publications at bccat.ca/publications.

Check out this quick overview of recent publications and resources, at bccat.ca/resources/AllAboutPubsResources2024.pdf.

Student Transitions Project

STP: 20 Years On

The [Student Transitions Project \(STP\)](#) was formed as a partnership between the Ministries of Education and Advanced Education and public post-secondary institutions, linking student data across education systems to answer questions on student mobility. BCCAT began collaborating with the STP in late 2005 on transfer-related research looking at admissions.

STP has collected 20 years of student data from BC's K-12 and public post-secondary education systems. The three-page infographic covers the highlights of enrolment, transitions, mobility, credentials completed, and changes in enrolment. The infographic is accompanied by a map of BC public post-secondary institutions by region and institution type.

View/Download:

- Infographic bit.ly/3JGTtXh
- Map bit.ly/3JEMdLj

20 YEARS OF STP DATA



18.2 M Enrolment Records



868 K Grade 12 Graduates



2.8 M Post-Secondary Students



1.3 M Credentials Awarded



970 K Credential Recipients



445 K Bachelor's Degrees Awarded



62% Students switched institutions within 20 years of First Enrolment*

* (among 21,538 immediate entry students of 2002/03)



PARTNERSHIPS

Nurturing collaborative transfer partnerships

BCCAT collaborates with transfer partners within BC and beyond to support and advance intra- and inter-provincial learner mobility.

Provincial

Collaboration continues on the Digital Services Strategy initiatives led by BC's Ministry of Post-Secondary Education & Future Skills. As part of this initiative, BCCAT is undertaking the Program Pathways project (see p. 10) to develop a pathway building tool that will connect course equivalency data with program- level course requirement information.

BCCAT also continues to work with the provincial Indigenous Policy & Engagement Branch, Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association (IAHLA), and key contacts regarding the transferability of Indigenous Language Fluency degree programs and articulation relationships between IAHLA schools and BC Transfer System member institutions.

Inter-Provincial


BCCAT is an active member of the [Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer \(PCCAT\)](#), and CATCan, a network of Canadian "CATs" (BCCAT's counterparts in other provincial jurisdictions). BCCAT is also helping with preparations for the jointly hosted [2024 ARUCC⁴ PCCAT conference](#) to be held in Calgary on June 23-26, 2024.

BCCAT is currently collaborating with the [Ontario Council on Articulation & Transfer \(ONCAT\)](#) to explore shared technologies and practices.

DID YOU KNOW?

In June 2006, a small group of transfer credit professionals (including BCCAT representatives) met "to explore the possibility of establishing a pan-Canadian association on credit transfer." Stated objectives included:

- (a) learning about credit transfer activities within jurisdictions,
- (b) establishing a professional networking mechanism for sharing issues and best practices, and
- (c) building momentum for a pan-Canadian network to support credit transfer professionals. As a result, the Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions & Transfer (PCCAT) was formed.



⁴ BCCAT also works in partnership with the [Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada \(ARUCC\)](#) and is a signatory of the [Groningen Declaration Network](#).

WITH APPRECIATION

A note of thanks to BC's transfer community

The work of BCCAT would not be possible without the dedicated efforts and commitment of thousands of individuals across BC's post-secondary transfer community, from senior administrators, registrars and admissions professionals, to faculty, transfer credit practitioners, and articulation committee members. Whatever the contribution--whether consultation, research, articulation, policy discussions or student support--our thanks go out to you for all you bring to this vibrant, ever-evolving transfer ecosystem.

From Our Co-Chairs



Angus Graeme, BCCAT
Co-Chair & Retired President,
Selkirk College

"It is an honour for me to join the committed and hardworking council, staff, and volunteer teams at BCCAT who steward and manage what I believe to be the leading post-secondary admissions, transfer, and student pathways system in Canada. The collective success of our system will continue to be measured by the degree to which institutions collaborate, partner, and support students to achieve their educational and career goals.

With 35 years of remarkable progress and an inspiring future ahead, BCCAT will continue to set a high standard of collaboration, partnership, and excellence in admissions and transfer. Congratulations to the council, staff, volunteers and member institutions!"



Robert Fleming, BCCAT
Executive Director
& Co-Chair

"For the past 35 years, the BC Transfer System has been a key feature of BC's post-secondary system. Fundamental to the success of the transfer system is the collaboration of thousands of professional faculty and staff dedicated to enhancing educational access and transfer pathways for learners across BC and beyond. Working closely with post-secondary partners, BCCAT has responded to shifting system and learner needs through policy and practice research, coordination of articulation activities, and technological innovation.

As we reflect on the history of BCCAT and BC's evolving transfer ecosystem, we applaud the many who have contributed over the years, for the benefit of learners. We look forward to continued collaboration as we support learners pursuing diverse educational journeys."

WELCOME NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS



Jennifer Kirkey

Instructor, Faculty of
Science, Douglas College



Grant McMillan

University Registrar,
Trinity Western University



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUTGOING MEMBERS



Dorys
Crespín-Mueller

Associate Vice-President,
Integrated Planning &
Effectiveness Thompson
Rivers University



Gerda Krause

Dean, Faculty of Science,
Langara College



Kriston Rennie

Dean - Faculty of
Indigenous Studies, Social
Sciences & Humanities,
University of Northern
British Columbia



Lisa Collins

Associate Vice-President,
Students, BC Institute of
Technology

*"The transfer system in BC is the best transfer
system nationwide. We have a lot to celebrate in all
of our achievements, and a great deal of that is
really related to all of the people who are connected
to this community to make it work."*

Sam Saini, Associate Registrar, Undergraduate Admissions
and Student Recruitment & Advising, University of British Columbia



LINKS FOR INFO

Council & Committees

bccat.ca/about/council

bccat.ca/about/committees

BC Transfer System (BCTS) BCTS History

bccat.ca/system/overview/

bccat.ca/system/history

Articulation & Articulation Committees

bccat.ca/articulation/

bccat.ca/articulation/committees

Joint Annual Meeting

bccat.ca/articulation/jam

Research

bccat.ca/research/overview

Technology

bccat.ca/technology/overview/

BCCAT Transfer Awards

bccat.ca/about/awards

Engage e-newsletter

bccat.ca/about/news/#engage

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