

DETERMINING EQUIVALENCY

FOR COURSES
COMPLETED AT
INSTITUTIONS
OUTSIDE BC

BACKGROUND

The determination of external equivalencies—the consideration of transfer credit outside the established network of articulation agreements—typically requires special, case-by-case review. However, given that many institutions in the BC Transfer System (BCTS) now receive as many transfer requests from outside BC as they do from within the province (or more), external equivalencies need to be considered part of the normal business of admissions, rather than exceptions to in-system frameworks of comparability.



This report contextualizes and summarizes a Fall 2024 survey commissioned by BCCAT's Transfer and Articulation Committee (TAC) to explore BCTS member institutions' policies and practices for determining external equivalencies. The resulting environmental scan reflects both the diversity and similarities among BCTS institutions' policies and workflows in evaluating external equivalency requests and highlights opportunities to build upon existing efficiencies.

KEY FINDINGS

~40% of transfer credit requests arrive from **outside BC**

19% Domestic
12% International

53% of institutional respondents identified a **lack of specific policy information** for external requests



83% of institutional respondents identified the **same assessor(s)**, regardless of request origin



TOP 3 CHALLENGES IN ASSESSING EXTERNAL EQUIVALENCY REQUESTS

- missing/unclear documentation
- verifying institutional accreditation
- lack of resources

86% of institutional respondents know that **external equivalencies can be published in the Transfer Credit System...**

...but only 46% confirmed that their institutions were doing so

RECOMMENDATIONS

**FOR INSTITUTIONS TO LEVERAGE AND EXPAND
LOCALIZED AND SYSTEM-WIDE SUPPORTS IN
DETERMINING EXTERNAL EQUIVALENCIES**

1 REVIEW EXTERNAL TRANSFER REQUESTS AS A SEPARATE WORKFLOW CATEGORY

to monitor their quantity and distribution
accurately and ensure that appropriate
resources are available



3 CONSULT WITH CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE AD HOC REVIEWERS

to develop additional resources and
training opportunities



1

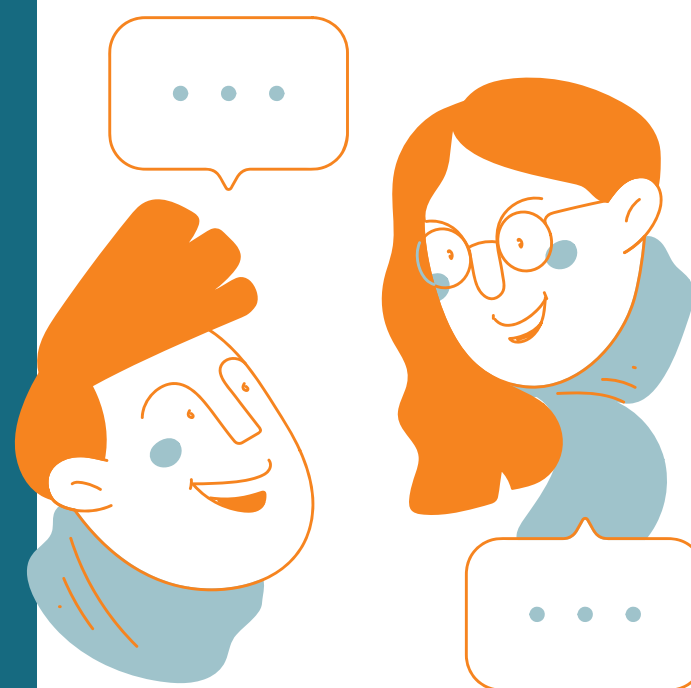
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2 CREATE OR CLARIFY PUBLIC- FACING POLICY LANGUAGE

that outlines, step-by-step, the
procedures/guidelines for assessing
external transfer requests for equivalency



4 APPLY BC TRANSFER SYSTEM TECHNOLOGY

by publishing external equivalencies in the
BC Transfer Guide and referring to
Transfer Credit System information to
assess external transfer requests

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THE FULL REPORT**

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