



PCCAT/CPCAT

The Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions & Transfer
Consortium pancanadien sur les admissions et les transferts

Report release

ARUCC PCCAT TRANSCRIPT AND TRANSFER CREDIT NOMENCLATURE STUDY

AN EXAMINATION OF CURRENT PRACTICES AT CANADIAN POSTSECONDARY
ORGANIZATIONS

June 18, 2014

The Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions & Transfer and the Association of Registrars of the Universities & Colleges of Canada are pleased to announce the release of the report of phase one of the **ARUCC/PCCAT National Project Transcript Guidelines and Transfer Credit Nomenclature Study:**

http://www.arucc.ca/projects/documents/arucc_pccat_15_jun_2014_english.pdf

Increasing numbers of Canadian students are, by design and by choice, studying at multiple postsecondary institutions, optimizing their resources, educational experiences and outcomes. At the same time, many higher education institutions are struggling to support this important migration, undermining the goal to promote student mobility. As noted in the report:

It is generally understood that student mobility through credit recognition, transfer and admission to successive education levels is a cost-effective and efficient way to promote access to postsecondary education.... Unfortunately, differences in transcript practices and credit transfer terminology often cause confusion and misunderstanding for both individuals moving across and within provincial boundaries and for the institutions that receive them, limiting recognition of previous studies whether between schools or progression through to graduate studies. (Report, 2014)

The National Project was developed to address these challenges in a multi-phase approach. The phase one report recommendations centre on foundational issues such as addressing the need for a common language and practices and the need to address the implications of relatively recent changes, including the growing prevalence of electronic student data exchange. Michael Sekulic, University Registrar at MacEwan University notes,

When there is a question about what should or shouldn't be on a transcript, I turn to the ARUCC National Transcript guide.

The ARUCC and PCCAT Transcript and Transfer Credit Nomenclature Study is the first step in bringing this important reference up to date and expanding its scope to address contemporary transcript and transfer credit questions and issues.

The six recommendations included in the report will guide the as-yet-to-be-funded next phase of the ARUCC PCCAT project and include calls to:

- 1) Enhance the 2003 ARUCC Transcript Guide, now 11 years out of date;
- 2) House the new Guide accessibly, ensuring its greatest visibility and use;
- 3) Develop the first-ever national Transfer Credit Glossary to create a shared language among institutions to support the fair evaluation of transfer credit;
- 4) Develop a sustainable and complementary communications plan to ensure regular awareness and broad usage of the tools;
- 5) Establish a national awards program to recognize and validate promising practices to bring external validation and visibility to models of interest throughout the country; and,
- 6) Support the development and adoption of electronic transcript exchange standards, being mindful of the opportunities presented by international opportunities such as the Groningen Declaration, which focuses on exchanging student data internationally to enhance student mobility, globally.

The next steps of this important project will include securing the funding to address each of the recommendations of the report.

Broad and ambitious goals to promote student mobility are inspiring but can only be accomplished by putting into place the mechanisms that will support the fair and consistent interpretation of credentials.

“Increasing student mobility and ongoing changes to university transcript data create a greater need for awareness of transcript and transfer credit nomenclature practices in Canada. Access to this information in the ARUCC-PCCAT National Report will present many benefits to our colleagues...” Clara Spadafora, Senior Manager, Academic Records, McGill University

Once in place, a contemporary transcript guide and first-ever national transfer credit nomenclature repository will provide the tools necessary to advance these important student mobility goals.

To learn more about how to support the project, contact:

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National Project Steering Committee

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