

Credit Transfer in Ontario: What's Next?

Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities
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Highlight the importance of credit transfer in the context of current priorities for the Ontario postsecondary education system

Effective credit recognition and transfer is a key feature of an accessible, sustainable and high quality postsecondary education (PSE) system.

- A province-wide credit transfer system helps:
 - Improve quality learning experiences for students;
 - Build on individual institutional strengths;
 - Build more sustainable business models.

- Credit transfer is integral to Postsecondary Education (PSE) Transformation:
 - **Differentiation** – a differentiated system requires a well organized, comprehensive and consistent credit transfer system to ensure access to the entire continuum of academic opportunity.

Ontario has made significant progress in improving student mobility and credit transfer opportunities between colleges and universities in the province.

- Since the launch of the Credit Transfer Initiative in 2011, we have collectively:
 - Created more than 800,000 transfer opportunities for students from 1,200+ pathways – more than quadruple what was available in 2011;
 - Launched ONTransfer.ca, Ontario’s authoritative source for credit transfer information;
 - Made credit transfer information publicly available for all 44 PSE institutions, with a best practices Operational Framework to follow;
 - Improved the availability of transfer information at colleges and universities, both online and in print;
 - Provided dedicated credit transfer supports – with many students now having access to dedicated transfer advisors, orientation programming and/or other social / academic support services.

Where do we go from here?

Together, MTCU and PSE partners must continue to make a made-in-Ontario credit transfer system a priority – one that enables learners to easily navigate PSE choices to achieve their goals with minimal duplication of learning.

- The \$73.7M investment in the Credit Transfer Initiative accelerated work on credit transfer, and allowed Ontario to ramp up towards a mature, province-wide transfer system.
- As we look ahead to the next priorities for driving the system forward, our approach to credit transfer continues to be grounded in:
 - Student-centred learning;
 - Saving students time and money spent on postsecondary education;
 - Fostering a strong institutional culture of collaboration and credit transfer.

MTCU is interested in accelerating system-level activities so credit recognition and transfer is more systematic for students.

- Scalability is important. We need to maximize the reach of pathways and other credit transfer innovations that remove barriers to student transfer.
- Examples of current initiatives that can be scaled up to PSE system-level:
 - **Course and Program Mapping** – development of college / university sector-wide pathways in foundational and highly-subscribed program areas.
 - **Operational Framework** – best practices in institutional credit transfer assessment and communications to better support student educational planning.

MTCU will also focus on improving the availability of robust, system-wide indicators and data on credit transfer to better understand transfer student needs and outcomes.

- To support the development of transfer policies and opportunities continually responsive to student needs/interests, the ministry is currently working with the sector and ONCAT to implement a Credit Transfer Accountability Framework.
- The Framework is looking to establish indicators in the following areas:
 - Credit Transfer Activity
 - Student Success
 - Student Experience
 - Pathways
 - Supply & Demand

Credit transfer is crucial for supporting Ontario students in reaching their education goals.

- Creating a “made-in-Ontario” credit transfer system that puts students first will require the commitment of government, institutions and key postsecondary stakeholders.