An Introduction to the BC Council on Admissions & Transfer and the BC Transfer System

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Presentation Overview

- The BC Transfer System
  - History, trends, cultural context, transfer mechanisms

- Council
  - History, Membership, Governance, Committees, Work Plan

- Provincial Articulation Committees
  - Mandate, Structure

- System Activities
  - Policies, Research, Outreach
BC Transfer System: History

- Developed in 1960s based on the California model

- Initially a binary Transfer System model:
  - specific sending colleges and receiving universities

- Transfer began as a self-regulated system

- BCCAT formed in 1989 to coordinate system

- Now a multi-directional Transfer System model:
  - complex degree-granting environment
  - high levels of student mobility
  - all member institutions (public and private) send and receive

http://bccat.ca/system/history/
BC Transfer System: Student Transfer

1989

Colleges & Institutes

Transfer Students

Research Universities

2013

Colleges & Institutes

Teaching Universities

Research Universities

Transfer Students

Transfer Students
BC Transfer System: Degree Granting

1989

3 of 22 Baccalaureate Degree Institutions

- 3 Public Universities
- 15 Public Colleges
- 4 Public Institutes

2012

30 of 38 Baccalaureate Degree Institutions

- 4 Public RI Universities
- 7 Public TI Universities
- 11 Public Colleges
- 3 Public Institutes
- 6 Private Colleges
- 4 Private Universities
- 1 Private Institute
- 1 Non-BC Public University
- 1 Non-BC Public College
BC Transfer System: Key Trends

1. Changes in institution mandates and roles
   - Greater number of public and private degree-granting institutions

2. Greater student diversity: social, economic, and demographic
   - Immigrant and first generation post-secondary learners
   - Aboriginal/Indigenous/First Nation
   - International
   - Part-time

3. More complex student mobility patterns

4. More student education planning variables
   - Urban and rural demand for programs and seats
BC Transfer System: Cultural Context

- Institutions are autonomous and self-governing
- No standardized or common core curriculum in academic areas
- Considerable cross-sector discussion and collaboration
- Expectation by students and parents that credit transfer is possible
- Development of a range of innovative transfer mechanisms:
  - Course to course articulation agreements (85,000+) facilitated by faculty articulation committees (68)
  - Block transfer agreements (900+)
  - Provincially regulated Associate Degree frameworks in Arts and Science
  - Degree partnerships with guaranteed admission pathways (50+)
  - Flexible Pre-major agreements in traditional disciplines / programs
Transferring Credit

**What Transfers?**
- Individual courses
- Dual credit secondary courses (AP/IB)
- Associate Degrees
- Diplomas and Certificates (block transfer)

**What Doesn’t?**
- Courses with low grades
- Courses taken too long ago
- Equivalent courses taken twice
- Courses failed
Articulation Agreements between Sectors

BC Colleges & Institutes

Teaching-Intensive Universities (TIU’s)

17,000
1,070
14,700
1,270
10,300

Research-Intensive Universities (RIU’s)

19,600
620
460

Source: BC Transfer Credit Evaluation System 2012
Transfer Mechanisms: Associate Degrees

- Developed to ensure quality of university transfer programs and later used as transfer vehicles.
- A provincial credential providing 60 credits (2 years) of transfer credit at receiving institutions.
- Courses used in Associate Degrees must transfer to RIUs.
- Under provincial review in 2013.

  bccat.ca/system/associatedegree Review/

Associate of Arts Degree
- Requirements include Arts courses, English, Mathematics, Science, Social Sciences, and Humanities.

Associate of Science Degree
- Requirements include Science courses, English, Mathematics, Arts.

  bctransferguide.ca/associate/requirements/
Transfer Mechanisms: Flexible Pre-Majors

- **Problem**: Student has chosen a major and plans to transfer. However, different receiving institutions have different pre-major requirements.

- **Solution**: Articulation committee develops a Flexible Pre-Major agreement that allows students to complete lower level requirements at participating institutions and directly enter the major program at participating receiving institutions.

- **Agreements** developed in English, Psychology, Anthropology, Sociology, Computing Education, Economics.

bccat.ca/pubs/FPMFinalReport.pdf
Council

- History, Membership, Governance, Committees, Work Plan
Council History and Mandate

- Founded in 1989
- Provides system leadership by enabling articulation, transfer, and admission arrangements
- An “arms-length” agency of the Ministry of Advanced Education
- No direct regulatory authority
- Respects institutional autonomy
Council Membership

- 2 Co-Chairs (including Executive Director)
- 10 senior administrators from public post-secondary institutions
- 4 faculty/staff from colleges/institutes/universities
- 1 student representative
- 1 representative from school superintendents association
- 1 representative from private post-secondary sector

Representatives from not of the system...
Council’s Approach

- **Student Focused**
  - Principles and services focus on student experience and planning

- **Consultative & Proactive**
  - Relationships with educators ensure relevant expertise informs BCCAT

- **Trusted & Thorough**
  - System data, analyses, and resources are objective, valid, and useful

- **Visible & Collaborative**
  - Web services are visible, well-used, and shared with system partners

- **Adaptable & Responsive**
  - Resources adapt to the needs of students and institutions
Standing Committees of Council

- **Admissions**
  - Examines issues pertaining to capacity, demand, and student mobility
  - Recommends policies and practices that facilitate admission processes for direct entry and transfer students

- **Research**
  - Recommends to Council a research agenda which supports the mandate and objective
  - Provides guidance to research undertaken by other committees

- **Education Planner Advisory**
  - Provides recommendations and direction regarding the Education Planner website
  - Comments on site enhancements, management, and marketing

- **Transfer & Articulation**
  - Provides advice on transfer and articulation policies and practice
  - Oversees articulation committees and projects designed to improve or enhance transfer
Key Components of Council Work

Articulation
- Enable inter-institutional relationships—sending and receiving agreements and policy
- Complement course transfer—Associate Degrees, Flexible Pre-Majors, course grids, matrices
- Enhance interprovincial transfer—learning outcomes, quality assurance

Admissions
- Advocate for transfer spaces
- Support K-12 to PSE transitions
- Promote program partnerships

System Research
- Research student transfer, admissions, mobility, and success
- Examine mobility patterns—Student Transitions Project collaboration
- Determine why students move

Communications
- Bccat.ca, bctransferguide.ca, educationplanner.ca
- Research and system issues publications
Provincial Articulation Committees

- Mandate, Structure
Provincial Articulation Committees

Exist “with the purpose of expanding education opportunities for students by facilitating students’ transfer of credits from one institution to another.”

- Represent the range of programs offered within the BC Transfer System (68 committees—academic, professional, applied, trades, developmental)
- Operate under the oversight of the Council’s Transfer & Articulation Committee
- Representatives from each institution offering a program meet once per year at member institutions
- Have no legal status and do not have the authority to direct institutions or make decisions on their behalf
- Discuss transfer, curriculum, assessment, pedagogy, program changes
- Share institutional information, apply for grants, work on projects

A forum for conversations that may not otherwise occur...
System Activities

- Policies, Research, Outreach
Council-Approved Policies

- Principles and Guidelines for Transfer (updated 2010)

- **BC Transfer System**
  - Membership in the BC Transfer System (2012)
  - Membership of Private Institutions in the BC Transfer System (2012)
  - Membership of Alberta Institutions in the BC Transfer System (2012)
  - Use of BCCAT Logos by BC Transfer System Members (2012)

- **Other**
  - Recording Block Transfer Agreements with PCTIA-Accredited Institutions (2008)
Research on Transfer Student Success

BCCAT research consistently shows . . .

- **BC transfer students . . . are just as successful at university as are direct entrants, and have the grades to prove it**
  
  Lambert-Maberly (2009), *BC College Transfer Students Admitted to UBC*

- **. . . transfer students are able to graduate with approximately the same number of credits as secondary school students, accounting for both total credits . . . as well as credits completed at receiving institutions**
  
  Pendleton (2011), *Credits to Graduation*

“It seems unlikely . . . that another entity would have the credibility that BCCAT has enjoyed with the institutions. . . . the issues addressed by BCCAT research would not have been addressed had the Council not existed.”

John Waterhouse (2010), *An Assessment of BCCAT Research*
Recent Research Highlights

- Student Transfer, Success, and Mobility: A Synthesis of Research (2013)
- The Mosaic of Post-Secondary Institutional Attendance (2012)
- Collaboration with the Student Transitions Project
  - Simultaneous Enrollment in Multiple BC Public Post-Secondary Institutions (2012)
  - Post-Secondary Student Mobility (2012)
  - International Students in BCs Education Systems
  - Post-Secondary Credential Completion of BC Grade 12 Graduate

www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student_transitions/
Student Mobility Trends:
Student Transitions Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># Mobile Students</th>
<th># Continued at Same Institution</th>
<th># New Students</th>
<th># Unique Credit Registrants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005/06</td>
<td>49,521</td>
<td>155,616</td>
<td>80,537</td>
<td>262,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>49,604</td>
<td>164,392</td>
<td>80,782</td>
<td>271,323</td>
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<td>2007/08</td>
<td>52,690</td>
<td>170,650</td>
<td>78,280</td>
<td>278,228</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>55,222</td>
<td>177,450</td>
<td>80,370</td>
<td>289,098</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>55,556</td>
<td>188,655</td>
<td>81,867</td>
<td>302,203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>55,901</td>
<td>196,319</td>
<td>79,767</td>
<td>308,624</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
55,900 unique headcount students (18% of 308,600 unique Academic Credit Course Registrants) followed a mobile pathway to their institution of registration in 2010/11:

- 36,000 moved to a new PSI
- 21,300 returned to a PSI they previously left

Mobile pathways include ‘moves’ to a new PSI and ‘returns’ to a previously attended PSI.

Includes direct mobility from the previous year (2009/10) and re-entering stop outs from earlier years.

Note: Students may take multiple pathways between one or more institutions in one or more regions. The sum of pathways will result in double-counting of unique students.
Student Pathways for All TIUs (2009/10): Where did they come from? Where do they go next?

Total Exit: 23,171 (32%)
Grand Total Credentials Awarded in 2009/2010: 10,901 (see note c)

Source: The Student Transitions Project
BCCAT Website: bctransferguide.ca

- 85,000+ course, 900 block, and 50+ degree program agreements updated dynamically
- All agreements are guaranteed
- Searchable databases
  - Course-to-course
  - Block transfer
  - Program-specific
  - Advanced Placement
  - International Baccalaureate
- Almost 1M unique visitors in 2012
- Transfer Help and FAQ
Transfer Credit Evaluation System (TCES)

- Each institution has a TCES account and Transfer Credit Contact person
- Institutions make and receive articulation requests through the TCES, which tracks and records them
- Results of agreements are published on the BC Transfer Guide
- Course updates and maintenance of agreements is automatic
- Driven by a MS Sequel Server relational database
- Institutions can connect via web service and pull data from the BC Transfer Guide
- TCES acts as a course outline repository
- TCES can be modified to be adopted in other jurisdictions
BCCAT Websites: bccat.ca

- News and emerging Issues
- Research reports
- Policy and discussion papers
- Handbooks and Practice Guides
- Information to facilitate BC Transfer System
- Resources for Articulation Committees

bccat.ca/publications
Resources and Guidebooks

- Articulation Committee Companion, 2011 [under review]
- How to Articulate Handbook, 2013
  - Online Articulation Information Centre in development
- New Members Resource Book, 2010
- Best Practice Guide for Receiving Institutions, 2008 [under review]
BCCAT Website: educationplanner.ca

- Searchable database of 2,100+ programs in BC
  - Public and private institutions, apprenticeships, and graduate programs
- Saves students from navigating 30+ websites
- Links to institutional websites
- Personalized learning and career plan tools
- Save and share information through social media
- Over 1M unique visits in 2012
BC Transfer System

- The most comprehensive and adaptive credit equivalency system in Canada
- A fully automated online network of guaranteed multi-directional credit equivalencies
- Significant savings for students and government by facilitating cost-efficient graduation
- Effective in mitigating student attrition and facilitating multiple student pathways to credential completion
- Enables credit equivalency across public and private post-secondary member institutions

“Not coincidentally, BC and Alberta have the most highly developed transfer systems in the country, and the British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT) could be a model for ONCAT.”

Trick et al. (2012), Academic Reform: Policy Options for... Education in Ontario
Questions and Discussion

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