

Newsletter

SPRING 2004

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL ON ADMISSIONS & TRANSFER

BCCAT'S EXPANDED MANDATE

Over the last months, BCCAT has embarked upon an expanded mandate, including a focus on admissions and public/private articulation. BCCAT is addressing admissions issues because opportunities for students to move among and be admitted to institutions are integrally linked to their ability to transfer credit. BCCAT is focusing on public/private articulation because recent legislative changes make it possible for greater numbers of private institutions to offer degrees in B.C. and students in those institutions will be requesting transfer to public institutions.



BCCAT Now Responsible for Opening Doors

As part of its increased focus on admissions, BCCAT expressed interest in managing Opening Doors as an important resource to help students plan their education paths and careers. In January 2004, BCCAT assumed responsibility for the Opening Doors website, funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education and formerly managed by the Centre for Education Information (CEISS). Opening Doors is an online education planning resource that includes a searchable database, verified by institutions, of over 1,500 undergraduate programs offered by 27 public post-secondary institutions in B.C. Users can compare details about programs, such as admission requirements, tuition fees, start dates, program descriptions, and more, and they can access information on student finances and on-campus student services.

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BCCAT has contracted with Linda Parry and Associates for content management and with Bayleaf Software Inc. for technical support services. An Opening Doors Advisory Committee has been formed and met in March 2004 to approve its Terms of Reference and discuss the 2004/05 Work Plan. BCCAT is planning a number of enhancements to the Opening Doors resource in 2004/05, including linking Opening Doors at the program level with Work Futures (www.workfutures.bc.ca) at the occupational profile level. Check out this valuable resource at www.openingdoorsbc.com.

Admissions Committee Update

The Admissions Committee of Council has been formed and includes 11 members from post-secondary institutions and 2 representatives from the secondary school system. For a list of committee members, please visit www.bccat.bc.ca/council/admissionsCommittee.html. The Committee has met twice to finalize its Terms of Reference and 2004/05 Work Plan for Council consideration. **The mandate of the Committee is to provide expert advice to BCCAT by examining issues pertaining to capacity, demand, and student mobility** and recommending policies and practices that facilitate the admission process for direct entry and transfer students within the B.C. post-secondary system. The work of the Committee will evolve within the context of a decentralized system of autonomous institutions, each with its own governance and decision-making processes.

The Committee's objectives with respect to admissions include disseminating comparative information, initiating research, examining issues related to online learning and secondary/post-secondary transitions, and providing advice on how all institutions might share information on enrolment planning and forecasting. The Work Plan involves a variety of research projects, including an examination of current and potential applications of the Personal Education Number (PEN) and of the feasibility of expanding studies on applications, admissions, and registrations to include a larger set of post-secondary institutions.

Public/Private Articulation Update

As a first major step in expanding the B.C. Transfer System to include more private institutions, BCCAT consulted with all current member institutions of the Transfer System. Based on that consultation, the Council passed a motion at its March 2004 meeting to accept for admission to the B.C. Transfer System private

or out-of-province *degree-granting institutions* provided that:

- the institution has undergone the Degree Quality Assessment Board processes with a positive outcome (go to: www.aved.gov.bc.ca/degree-authorization/);
- the Minister has given consent to the institution to offer a degree program in B.C.;
- the approval to request articulation is only for those degree programs with ministerial consent; and
- the institution agrees to accept and abide by the Principles and Guidelines for Transfer and other norms of the B.C. Transfer System.

BCCAT will provide more information in the coming months on the processes appropriate to this kind of transfer. In the meantime, contact Finola Finlay, Associate Director, if you have questions.

New Transfer Guide Coordinator joins BCCAT

BCCAT has decided to bring the function of managing the Online Transfer Guide in house to result in greater stability and security for the website, which is relied upon by students and institutions. Mike Winsemann began work on February 2, 2004, as BCCAT's new Transfer Guide Coordinator. He will also coordinate activities related to Opening Doors. Mike has a strong background in technology applications and in advising. Prior to joining BCCAT, he was employed as the Coordinator for IT and Reporting for the Admissions Office at UBC. He also spent four years working with the International Student Initiative at UBC, where he was responsible for all of their technology related initiatives, as well as for advising students. Before graduating from UBC in 1997, Mike was a transfer student, so he has experienced transfer first-hand.



What do we know about the flow of applicants to universities and university colleges in B.C.?

A *Working Paper: Analysis of Applications, Admissions, and Registrations of Applicants to B.C. Universities and University Colleges from Secondary Schools, Colleges, and University Colleges in B.C., 2002/03* was completed in March 2004 by the SFU Office of Analytical Studies and BCCAT. The *Working Paper* describes a study in which unduplicated headcount data was used to determine how many applicants applied to, were qualified for, received an offer from, and actually registered at five universities and five university colleges in B.C. The study included applications from secondary school and transfer students. The *Working Paper* can be found at

www.bccat.bc.ca/pubs/applicants0203.pdf

How much does it cost to articulate?

"*Articulation Costing, Phase II*," a report prepared by J. Jarvis & Associates for BCCAT, seeks to answer this question. This report - the first of its kind - considers the costs involved with articulation, both to individual institutions and to the post-secondary system as a whole. Although not intended as a definitive study, **this report yields information useful for identifying specific and general costs associated with the articulation of courses and the work of articulation committees.** It is available at www.bccat.bc.ca/publications/artcosting.pdf.

Research and Publications

Besides the working paper and report described above, other recent publications include:



Special Report: Articulation Committees Move Transfer in New Directions (February 2004)

www.bccat.bc.ca/pubs/sr_newdirections.pdf

Articulation Committee Handbook: 4th Edition www.bccat.bc.ca/pubs/handbook04.pdf and *Articulation Committees: Their Essential Role in an Effective Transfer System* (April 2004) www.bccat.bc.ca/pubs/committees.pdf

Transfer in British Columbia: What Does the Research Tell Us? (April 2004) www.bccat.bc.ca/pubs/rr_apr04.pdf

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SUPPORTING BC'S
EDUCATION SYSTEM

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