

Inclusion of British Columbia Institutions in the Alberta Transfer System: Policy and Process

Background:

The Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer (ACAT) has established an effective relationship with the British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT). Recognizing there is a significant amount of student mobility between the two provinces, ACAT identified a need to examine how BC post-secondary institutions might gain entrance into the Alberta Transfer System.

The purpose of this document is to propose the conditions and process under which Council would entertain an application from BC institutions for inclusion in the Alberta Transfer System. At this time, this policy applies to BC post-secondary institutions because,

- (a) it is likely that due to geographical proximity transfer of students between the two provinces will be high and,
- (b) this policy builds upon the transfer relationship established between the two provinces in the BC/Alberta Transfer System Protocol (<http://www.transferalberta.ca/pdfs/BCCCAT-ACATTransferProtocol.pdf>).

ACAT Position:

In order to benefit learners, there is a need to maximize their ability to access information about available transfer opportunities including opportunities that are available outside the Alberta borders. A clear policy and assessment process promotes the fair and consistent treatment of BC institution applications, rather than basing decisions on exceptions.

This policy also reflects ACAT's commitment to removing barriers to post-secondary student mobility among Canadian jurisdictions as outlined in the *Pan-Canadian Protocol on the Transferability of University Credits* (<http://cmec.ca/postsec/transferabilit.en.stm>).

Any decision to include a BC institution should be based on evidence that:

- a. its inclusion provides valuable advice to Alberta students about transfer options not now recorded in the Alberta Transfer Guide, and
- b. significant transfer activity exists involving Alberta students and institutions.

Contact the ACAT Secretariat (acat@gov.ab.ca) for more information about the completion of the Alberta Transfer System Membership Questionnaire (https://acat.alberta.ca/media/1114/ats_admissionquestionnaire_nd.pdf).