

## Transfer Credit Awarded Pilot Scope, Caveats, and Definitions

### Pilot Data Scope:

**All transfer credit-related data fields are:**

- on a student level (per student)
- for data collected during the admissions process
- for transfer credit awarded at a receiving ("to") institution for undergraduate students
- for program students who are either new to the institution (first enrolment in the institution in a specific program during the academic year of reporting)
- for the time/academic year(s) specified for the pilot (once confirmed)
- in alignment with identified common transfer credit practices at institutions (e.g., generally comparable for 80% of course content (for specified course-by-course transfer credit), course credit hours, minimum grade required, resources, and stale-dating (as applicable)).

**Exception:** "Transfer credit transcribed" data fields are an exception to the data scope description. Transfer credit transcribed can be by the total amount of transfer credit given or by the courses for which transfer credit was granted. The "PLAR credit transcribed" data field is also an exception to the data scope description. PLAR credit transcribed has its own definition regarding PLAR credit awarded.



## Pilot Data Caveats:

The following is understood regarding TCA pilot data:

### Transfer Credit and Admissions Processes:

- The transfer credit shown in the data is as awarded upon admission and documented on transcripts, and may not necessarily be as applied towards a credential. For example, students may change institutions or not complete a program.
- Admissions processes vary, with some PSIs assessing transfer credit towards a student's program and others assessing at an institutional level.
- At this time, "credit" is defined differently depending on the institution, and may not be a universal definition across all collected data. A definition for Transfer Credit Awarded and for Credit was consistently applied in the pilot.
- Requirements used to meet admission requirements are considered separate from course prerequisite requirements.
- For this pilot, we are excluding students on Letters of Permission, and students on Study Abroad.
- "To" institutions (Receiving institutions) are labeled as "Providers" in these reports.

### Data Submissions:

- Institution data is submitted by academic year for each submission year for TCA data and not the date/calendar year. (E.g., If an institution is awarding transfer credit in January 2020 for a course offering that a student took in September of 2016, this credit would be reported in the 2019/2020 submission, not in the 2020/2021 submission.)
- Some students had transfer credit awarded during more than one academic year, so these individuals appear more than once in the data.
- A data crosswalk was created for "From Institution" codes (names) for pilot data.
- AP and IB course code locations may not be consistently identified as "3" (international), with some coded as "1" (Alberta) in the pilot data.
- At times, institution data available means that not all pilot schools are represented in all reports.



TRANSFER ALBERTA



## TCA Pilot Definitions

**Transfer Credit Awarded:** Formal credit granted that could be used toward a credential or at an institutional level for work completed at another recognized institution. Credit is at a student level and granted during the admissions process by the receiving (“to”) institution in alignment with identified common transfer credit practices at institutions.

(Note: Transfer credit awarded data excludes both PLAR credit awarded data and instructional credit that is awarded to students who are currently enrolled in a course(s) at the receiving (“to”) institution.)

**Students who have been Awarded Transfer Credit:** Students who have been granted transfer credit at a receiving (“to”) institution.

(Note: Definition is for the purposes of this pilot, focusing on provincial transfer credit, and understanding that institutions’ definitions for “transfer student” will vary. See Pilot Data Scope and Caveat.)

**Course-by-Course Transfer Credit:** Transfer credit awarded for a course(s) at one institution based on coursework that was completed at another institution.

**Specified Credit:** A type of transfer credit awarded when learning outcomes for individual courses are deemed sufficiently equal to specific courses at a receiving (“to”) institution, with transfer credit being granted for specific courses.

**Unspecified Credit:** A type of transfer credit awarded when learning outcomes from prior course work are not equivalent to the learning outcomes for courses available at the receiving (“to”) institution. Credit granted is associated with a year level, requirement type, or an area of study (e.g., BIO 2XX) as opposed to a specific course.

**Credit:** The numerical value assigned to a course by a post-secondary institution, normally based upon the number of classroom/contact hours per week. Credit valuation should align with your institution’s definition of credit value in its PAPRS records.

**Admissions Process:** The process that takes place after a student applies to a program leading to a provincially approved or designated credential and before they begin taking courses in the program.

**Program Students:** Students enrolled in a credentialed program or university transfer.

**PLAR credit awarded** – Formal credit granted for informal, non-formal, or experiential learning that could be used toward a credential or at an institutional level. The context of the learning is not key to the process as the focus is on learning outcomes. Credit is at a student level and granted during or after the admissions process following assessment (e.g., written challenge exam, oral exam or interview, performance assessment, product assessment, portfolio assessment). Credit is granted by the receiving (“to”) institution in alignment with identified PLAR assessment practices at institutions.

(Note: PLAR credit awarded data excludes both Transfer credit awarded data and instructional credit that is awarded to students who are currently enrolled in a course(s) at the receiving (“to”) institution.)



TRANSFER ALBERTA

