

# Guiding Principles



## Transfer Credit Awarded

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**Document History**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Ver.</b>
Shawn Pick	Sept 01 2021	1.0

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# 1. Document Usage

## 1.1 Document Purpose

The Guiding Principles document has been developed for Transfer Credit Awarded (TCA) provincial data collection in Alberta. This document provides the vision, goal, guiding principles, and data questions and measure that inform the TCA data. Details regarding the terms and definitions are located in the [TCA Data Dictionary](#) and the data standards/elements are located in the [TCA User Guide](#).

## 1.2 Audience

The primary audience for Guiding Principles is:

- The institutions/stakeholders required to provide and/or understand TCA data.
- The ACAT Secretariat/Advanced Education, who facilitate TCA data standards and the system.

## 2. TCA Foundations

**2.1 TCA Vision:** To measure the average number of transfer credits being awarded for unique students in Alberta's Transfer and Pathways System, and begin to address Alberta's transfer credit awarded provincial information data gap to support learners.

**2.2 TCA Goal:** For the Alberta Government/ACAT and Alberta LPS institutions to work together to confirm provincial definitions and data questions, standards, and processes for transfer credit awarded (TCA) data that will be implemented for annual institution TCA data collection in Alberta and provide institutions with a mechanism for data access.

### 2.3 TCA Data Guiding Principles:

- Informing institution participation, data sharing, and best practices in Alberta's Learner Pathways System (LPS) that can guide future goals for the transfer system in Alberta.
- Supporting institution knowledge regarding transfer students as they move through the transfer system and identifying specific contexts and pathways for transfer.
- Identifying potential transfer data gaps and supporting transparent student access to transfer decisions in support of their academic goals

### 3. TCA Data Questions

TCA data questions have been informed by and collaboratively developed with Learner Pathways System member institutions. The data questions and system measure for success demonstrate key questions that are planned to be analyzed for the TCA data set. Further refinements may occur to these questions over time, including by the Ministry.

TCA Data Questions	
<b>1. Overarching TCA data question</b>	<p>What is the number of transfer credits awarded to unique students by institution and by the Alberta Transfer System?</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total number of transfer credits</li> <li>• Total number of unique students</li> </ul>
<b>2. TCA data set comparison data question - TCA and LPS</b>	<p>What courses have received transfer credit awarded at a “To” institution and do/do not also have publicly accessible transfer decisions information available on Transfer Alberta?</p> <p>Example: Unique From/To Course combinations awarded TCA and that have LPS transfer decisions (by “To” Institution)</p>
<b>3. TCA data set comparison data question - TCA and LERS</b>	<p>What percentage of unique students who moved between institutions also received transfer credit and/or PLAR credit?</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What percentage of the unique students represented in the Student Mobility Reports (tracked by ASN for LERS publicly funded institution enrolment data) were also awarded transfer credit and/or PLAR credit at receiving (“To”) institutions (tracked by ASN for TCA data for transfer credit awarded and PLAR credit awarded) and in the Alberta Transfer System?</li> <li>• Total # Unique Students in TCA and in LERS (with same “To” Institutions (Providers))/ # Unique Students who moved (continued at a new institution) in LERS             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Also Filter by LERS Program ID</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Not to be used as a system measure.</li> </ul>

## TCA Data Questions

<b>4. TCA System Measure for Success</b>	<p>Completion rates for students within post-secondary in Alberta who moved to another institution(s) and received Transfer Credit Awarded (TCA) in comparison to students who moved and did not receive TCA.</p> <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Completion rates are based on institutions' LERS data. TCA credit is based on TCA data. The two data sets would be connected/filtered based on student ASN.</li><li>• Measure would include students who moved and completed their credential in the sector/system and received TCA and those who moved and did not receive TCA.</li><li>• Measure would be analyzed by system and not by individual institution to include consideration of FROM and TO PSIs for a student in the TCA data and not only the TO PSI where the student moved to and completed their credential (to more accurately include all institutions involved in a student's transfer pathway).</li><li>• Data caveats are in effect and acknowledged.</li></ul>