

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

1. What do you believe is the most successful aspect of post-secondary pathways, admissions and transfer in Alberta?
2. What do you believe is the greatest challenge related to post-secondary pathways, admissions and transfer in Alberta?

Please send your responses/thoughts to [acat@gov.ab.ca](mailto:acat@gov.ab.ca) and include "Spotlight April 2014" in your subject line. Responses may be anonymously and informally shared with Council and stakeholders to inform work related to admissions and transfer.



ALBERTA COUNCIL  
ON ADMISSIONS & TRANSFER

The purpose of this monthly communication, launched in June 2013, is to share items of interest related to admissions and transfer in Alberta. All issues of *Spotlight* are posted at [www.acat.gov.ab.ca/](http://www.acat.gov.ab.ca/).

## ACAT'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY (1974–2014)

Developing the new, identifiable branding and clear visual identity, as illustrated to the right, for the Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer (ACAT) Council and Transfer Alberta reflects learner pathways and student mobility, admissions and transfer, lifelong learning and growth. The new branding also reflects the relationship among Council, the transfer system, and the systems' web presence on Transfer Alberta.



## WHAT WE ARE DOING

ACAT works cooperatively with stakeholders and the Government of Alberta to support learner pathways and mobility, including effective transferability of courses/programs that foster smoother transitions from secondary to post-secondary, and amongst and out of post-secondary. Learner pathways include by-program and by-course institution transfer agreements, collaborative programs, dual credit, bridging programs, university transfer, high school upgrading, PLAR, International Baccalaureate, and Advanced Placement.

Strategic priorities in ACAT's 2013–2016 *Action Plan* include ACAT leadership regarding initiatives (e.g., access to technology, tools, and information/research) that support the goals and priorities of articulation committees, admissions practices, learning outcomes, communication, governance, and an accessible system for all learners.

Key current ACAT work includes: ACAT and Transfer Alberta website/tool management and planning for website redesign; Transfer Alberta Mobile Application development; incorporation of transfer agreements in Transfer Alberta under the Non-Alberta Transfer System Member Agreements policy; SharePoint website development for key stakeholders; 13 program area Articulation Committee meetings and activities; 3 Council Sub-committee activities (Learner Pathways, Admissions, and Articulation); Contact Person facilitation of transfer agreements and system activities; pan-Canadian collaboration and initiatives (PCCAT, WestCAT, CAPLA quality assurance project); support for the Provincial Dual Credit Strategy and PLAR; and completion of three new Student Mobility Reports focused on student enrolment flow and tracking for publicly funded institutions and Alberta's six sectors in Campus Alberta, with more reports planned.

Current student mobility information in Alberta also includes:

**System-level Student Mobility:** In 2011, over 265,000 full-time and part-time students were in the post-secondary system in 26 publicly funded institutions in Alberta. In 2012, approximately 155,000 (just under 60%) of these students continued in the system, with approximately 16,500 of those students demonstrating system mobility by continuing at a new institution.

**Institution Transfer Agreements:** Currently, there are more than 77,000 institution transfer agreements (including just under 33,000 active agreements) made available to students via Transfer Alberta.

**Graduate Outcomes Survey, Transfer Graduates Report:** Results from the last four biennial surveys (2003-04, 2005-06, 2007-08, 2009-10) indicate that between 88 and 90 per cent of transfer graduates surveyed were satisfied with the transfer credit received.

## QUICK LINKS

- ◆ [ACAT](#) (Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer)
- ◆ [CAPLA](#) (Canadian Association for Prior Learning Assessment)
- ◆ [PCCAT](#) (Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer)
- ◆ [TRANSFER ALBERTA](#)
- ◆ [WestCAT](#) (Western Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer)

## WHO WE ARE

ACAT was established in 1974 and is currently comprised of up to 17 voting and 3 non-voting members. It serves as an advisory body responsible for advice and oversight regarding learner pathways and mobility within the Advanced Learning System, with a focus on post-secondary admission and transfer. ACAT was developed as an alternative to affiliation agreements with universities. It operates under a Ministerial Order and the *Alberta Public Agencies Governance Act*, with the support of the Minister responsible for Innovation and Advanced Education and with the cooperation of Alberta's post-secondary institutions and stakeholders.

The Alberta Transfer System is currently comprised of 39 post-secondary institutions (26 publicly funded, 4 out-of-province, 5 Indigenous, 4 private not-for-profit) offering transferable courses/programs across the system via Transfer Alberta. The system is facilitated by Council, a government Secretariat, institution Contact Persons, Articulation Committees, and system stakeholders. Post-secondary institutions work collaboratively to support student mobility and learner pathways, including transfer agreements, dual credit and Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR).

## CAMPUS ALBERTA HIGHLIGHTS

Seven Northern Alberta post-secondary institutions (Athabasca University, Grande Prairie Regional College, Keyano College, Lakeland College, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, Northern Lakes College and Portage College) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for increased seamless transfer, student mobility and student access to quality education programming in remote areas.