

Collaboration, Transfer, and Admissions in Quebec

For PCCAT, June 10, 2008

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The Quebec postsecondary system increasingly facilitates collaboration among its institutions on a number of levels. These include the existence of committee structures to facilitate collaboration, the use of new technology, collaborative academic programming, policy development, and some shared admission practices.

Organizational structures:

CREPUQ, a university-led organization which includes representation from every university in the province, helps to coordinate collaboration among the universities. There are a number of committees, many also with broad university representation, which deal with matters addressing the above themes. The registrars' sub committee is one such group. There are equivalent committees in the realm of vice presidents academic, principals/rectors/presidents, medical admissions, recruitment and so on. For details about CREPUQ, please visit this site:

[Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec](#)

The educational system within Quebec is designed to facilitate transfer between the Cegeps and the universities. Students who have completed two years of Cegep then go on to complete three year university programs as a matter of normal practice. While not wanting to oversimplify the issue, it is worth noting that the recognition of Cegep studies as being equivalent to one full year of university study is not widespread across Canada and yet it should be.

Four year university programs, where they exist, are designed primarily for students who have studied outside of Quebec. For the most part, students who have graduated from grade 12 in Quebec (ie from private K-12 schools) are not admitted to universities in Quebec unless they complete one year of Cegep. Students from outside Quebec with Grade 12 completion are admitted to four-year programs at Quebec universities. Some universities which have exclusively 3 year degree programs require students to complete one year of university or one year of Cegep.

Technology:

One of the single most effective means that has been put in place to facilitate transferability is the following:

Inter University Transfer (IUT) or the 'Authorisation d'études hors établissements':

The goal of the agreement underpinning this system is to allow students registered as regular students in one Québec university (the home university) to follow, within the framework of their program of study, one or more courses of their choice, for valid reasons, at another Québec university (the host university). The agreement does not supercede institutional regulations, which the student is subject to at both the host and home institutions. For information about this system, which has replaced the paper-based 'letter of permission' process, please visit this site:

<https://dbs.crepug.qc.ca/mobilite-cours/4DSTATIC/FRAccueil.html>

In using this system, students authorize the universities to transfer their credits after the completion of their studies. No paper is exchanged. The system has been well-received by students and the universities.

Electronic Transcript Sharing/Transmissions électronique des relevés de notes:
In addition, in 2008 four universities have agreed to pilot the introduction of a transcript-sharing system, with CREPUQ acting as the hub. Transcripts will be shared in a secure manner using PDF formats. This will eliminate the need for mailing paper copies among those institutions. It is expected that the remaining institutions will adopt the system subsequent to the completion of the 2008/09 pilot. Some institutions are considering using this new system as a means to manage inter-university collaborative degrees.

Collaborative Academic Planning:

Various types of university partnerships have been established to develop and offer joint degree programs, regional extension programs, collaborative and associated programs within the province. In addition, many exchange and some cotutelle programs exist or are being developed with international universities.

Some universities and Cegeps have developed DEC/Baccalaureate options for students which essentially allow the students to complete both credentials in a compressed period of time.

Policy Development and Admission Practices:

Quebec universities use the '*R-score*' as a means to consider the Cegep pool of applicants for undergraduate admission, rather than using an average of the earned grades. This score was designed as a means to 'level the playing field' for the evaluation of applicants. The formula is reflective of several factors beyond just an average of the students' grades.

A similar score is in development for Quebec university applicants (to other Quebec universities). It is planned that this score will be used for admission to the province's medical schools and it may be used for a variety of other programs in future.

The medical schools across the province are also working towards the adoption of a shared interview method for use in the consideration of medical school applicants.

Bologna Accord: Work is underway at many institutions to do more to implement the principles of the Bologna Accord in both graduate and undergraduate admission and credit recognition. The recent AUCC call to action has spurred this increased activity.

Centrally developed exchanges:

The universities, through CREPUQ, have developed over 500 exchanges with institutions in many countries around the world. Details of the program are available here: http://echanges-etudiants.crepuq.qc.ca/Accueil.php3?id_article=202

In addition to the centrally developed exchanges, each institution has bilateral agreements with universities world-wide.