



Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer (ACAT)

JURISDICTIONAL UPDATE – JUNE 2009

The mission of the Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer (ACAT) is to support evolution of Campus Alberta by being a catalyst for beneficial change and an advocate for learners in the areas of post-secondary admission and transfer.

ACAT also plays an active role in the implementation of policies through monitoring, facilitation and research. Council has a continuing responsibility for facilitating improvement in communications and working relationships across all institutions regarding the admission of transfer students and the awarding of transfer credit.

Overview of ACAT Structure

- Established in 1974, ACAT serves as an independent body with 16 Council members from across the post-secondary system. The Council's membership is comprised of post secondary institution, student and public representatives.
- ACAT operates with the support of the ministry of Advanced Education and Technology (AET) and the cooperation of Alberta's post-secondary institutions. AET staff provides Secretariat support for Council, and there are currently six staff members.
- There are 36 member post-secondary institutions, representing Alberta's universities, public colleges, technical institutions, private colleges with accredited degrees, First Nations institutions, and other private colleges.
- ACAT conducts its business adhering to its Principles, Policies and Procedures document. This document is currently under review and will be updated on our website once the review has been completed.

Alberta Transfer System

- ACAT maintains the *Alberta On-line Transfer Guide*. Although the on-line guide is the official guide, ACAT still produces a paper version of our transfer guide based on stakeholder demand. Production of the paper guide is complete and will be released June 19, 2008.
- There are over 29,259 current by-course transfer agreements and 813 by program transfer agreements in Alberta.
- Articulation committees have been established to enhance access to and mobility within Alberta's post secondary system. Representatives are brought together from post-secondary institutions and Alberta Education to discuss opportunities to enhance transfer and facilitate the admission process. Currently there are 9 articulation committees with 3 dedicated to

secondary to post secondary and the remaining 6 focusing on post secondary to post secondary transfer.

What's New in Alberta

Campus Alberta

- In the fall of 2008 AET completed a reorganization resulting in the formation of a branch dedicated to the work of Transfer Alberta. In part, this organizational change signals the importance of admission and transfer.
- Campus Alberta Administration is a concept aligning a variety of entities to work cooperatively and collaboratively to create a learner centric system that supports lifelong learning in Alberta. A key strategy of the Roles and Mandates Policy Framework was to look at ways to enhance learning pathways and transitions and build a more comprehensive and seamless transfer system in order to support the Campus Alberta vision.

ACAT Governance

- In order to meet the requirements of the Alberta Government's Public Agencies Governance Framework as well as Alberta Advanced Education and Technology's Roles and Mandates Policy Framework, ACAT has undertaken a significant review of its governance structure and policies.
- ACAT's proposed governance model will base membership on competencies while still maintaining representation from the post secondary system, students and the public. Student representatives are to be students who have accessed Alberta's Transfer System during their post secondary studies. The new model has not yet been formally approved.

PLAR

- ACAT is taking a leadership role in the implementation of a provincial strategy for the advanced learning system for Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR). The implementation of the PLAR action plan is seen as a key initiative designed to enhance learning pathways.

Other Initiatives

- Within the ministry, the four strategic priorities for 2009-2012 are:
 - Next Generation Economy
 - System Alignment and Sustainability
 - Technology Commercialization
 - An Affordable Learning System
- ACAT has also rebranded our on-line entity to transferalberta.ca and is now located on the Alberta Learning Information Services (ALIS) website
- The Council is exploring ways to increase participation of Aboriginal Albertans in the post-secondary system.

Research

- **Learner Progressions Research Report** – ultimate goal is to develop a best practices document that will aid institutions in exploring learner progression options.

Publications:

To view ACAT publications, please visit our website at: transferalberta.ca

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