

Provincial

- Have there been any significant changes in your provincial government in the past year?

After approximately 17 years of NDP government in Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Party formed a government following an election in the fall of 2007. The new government split the existing, combined K-12/PSE ministry into two, and formed the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour (MAEEL).

More recently, MAEEL reorganized the PSE portion of the ministry, appointing an ADM of Post-secondary, and, for the first time in many years, assigned responsibility for all institutions in the PSE system to one branch. It is hoped that this will result in more coordinated and efficient management of system-wide initiatives such as SaskCAT.

- Any new initiatives or directives for post-secondary education in general or for transfer in particular?

MAEEL is currently sponsoring a system-wide strategic visioning process that focuses on, among other things, setting priorities for systemic initiatives. Although it is early in the process yet, credit transfer appears to be high on the list.

Organizations

- What is the set-up of your organization? (council, board, committee, etc.)

SaskCAT is organized as a council and operates as a sub-committee of Campus Saskatchewan, a partnership of all of the public post-secondary institutions in the province.

- How was your organization formed and is it recognized or mandated in legislation?

SaskCAT was formed as a sub-committee of Campus Saskatchewan. Neither organization is recognized or mandated in legislation, and neither has any legal standing as an organization.

- Structure:
 - How large your organization?

The council has eight institutional representatives, one ministry representative, and one representative from the Apprenticeship Commission.

- How is it staffed?

Staff support is provided by the Campus Saskatchewan office. The staff compliment specifically for SaskCAT is small - a half-time coordinator and a small portion of the Executive Director's time.

- How is it funded?

SaskCAT receives funding as part of the Campus Saskatchewan budget. The budget is small - less than \$100 000.00 per year.

- How many post-secondary institutions are part of your transfer credit system?

The great majority of transfer activity takes place among three institutions - the U of Saskatchewan, the U of Regina, and SIAST. There are four smaller institutions that are also part of the system.

- Do you have a formal principals, policy and/or procedure(s) that your organization and/or post-secondary institutions adhere/agree to?

No but this is where we need to get to.

- Do you have a registry of transfer agreements (e.g. printed transfer guide, online transfer guide)?

Yes, an online guide that is accessed from www.saskcat.ca.

- Do you collect data regarding admissions, mobility or transfer of post-secondary learners in your province?

No. At this point there is no unique identifier to enable this kind of research.

- What kind of research is your organization involved in?

The UofS is planning to participate in the PCCAT inter-provincial research project.

Institutions

- How involved are institutions in your province in articulation and transfer?

Although a significant amount of transfer credit is granted, the institutions have, until very recently, not been involved in credit transfer in any comprehensive, systemic way. More recently, however, we have seen an increase in interest and activity, and our Articulation Committees have begun to make meaningful progress. Some institutions have taken steps to raise the profile of credit transfer and articulation in their organizations, and this is having a positive impact on the systemic effort.

- What are the actual or perceived barriers to successful student transfer in your province?

For many years, the development of a provincial credit transfer system for Saskatchewan has not been a priority so it is not part of the institutional culture here. This may be slowly changing now but another key barrier is a lack of resources at the institutions and at SaskCAT.

- What seems to work well for student mobility?

From what we can tell, the great majority of transfer credit requested is granted. The recent progress of the Articulation Committees in developing new agreements is also positive.