



Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer (ACAT)

JURISDICTIONAL UPDATE – JUNE 2008

The Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer (ACAT) is responsible for facilitating learner needs related to admissions, transfer credit, and the recognition of prior learning.

Overview of ACAT Structure

- Established in 1974, ACAT serves as an independent body with 16 Council members from across the post-secondary system.
- ACAT operates with the support of the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology (AET) and the cooperation of Alberta's post-secondary institutions. AET staff provide Secretariat support for Council, and there are currently six staff members.
- There are 35 member post-secondary institutions, representing Alberta's universities, public colleges, technical institutions, private colleges with accredited degrees, First Nations institutions, and other private colleges.

Key Highlights

- **2008-2009 Transfer Guide Production:** While the official guide is the *Alberta On-line Transfer Guide*, ACAT still produces a paper version of their transfer guide based on stakeholder demand. Production of the paper guide is completed and will be released June 18, 2008.
- **Articulation:** Supporting articulation committees when there are specific transfer/admissions issues that arise in specific disciplines. Representatives are brought together from post-secondary institutions and Alberta Education to discuss opportunities to enhance transfer and facilitate the admission process. Recent activity includes articulation meetings in the following areas: Cree Language Studies, Computing Sciences, High School Math, and High School Second Language Studies.
- **National Events:**
 - **Community College Baccalaureate Association Pre-Conference Forum:** On May 24th, Chair, Ron Woodward, participated on the panel to discuss transfer credit issues in Alberta.
 - **Council of Ministers of Education (CMEC) Quality Assurance Symposium:** May 26-28, Quebec City Ron Woodward participated on the national panel to discuss quality issues and transfer.
 - **Pan-Canadian consortium on Admissions and Transfer Annual General Meeting –** June 16-18, Toronto, ON – ACAT to present on current issues facing Alberta's transfer system.
 - **Canadian Association for Prior Learning Assessment (CAPLA) – upcoming –** *Recognition for Prior Learning: Building on a Decade of Collaboration Conference:* October 19-21, Banff Springs Hotel.

- **Support the Evolution of Campus Alberta:** ACAT provided recommendations toward the development and implementation of the provincial Roles and Mandates Policy Framework released last fall. One of the key strategies of the Framework is looking at ways to enhance learning pathways and transitions and building a more comprehensive and seamless transfer system in order to align with the Campus Alberta vision. Strategies include:
 - review of ACAT membership to facilitate Campus Alberta;
 - strengthening policies that will support enhancement of block transfer,
 - developing best practices in admission terminology, practices and policies;
 - taking a leadership role in implement of a provincial strategy for the advanced learning system for Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition; and
 - reviewing the notion of defining institutions as “sending” and “receiving” institutions.
- **Research Underway**
 - **Student Focus Groups** – measure student satisfaction, issues and concerns with their transfer experiences.
 - **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:

<http://www.acat.gov.ab.ca/publication/default.asp>

Soon to be released:

- *2008-2009 Alberta Transfer Guide: A Guide to Transfer Credit at Alberta post-secondary Institutions* – released June 18, 2008.
- *ACAT Annual Report: 2007-08 – July 2008*
- *ACAT Business Plan: 2008-11 – July 2008*

Contact ACAT:

Anne Ryton, Manager

ACAT Secretariat

Phone: (780) 644-3185

Email: anne.ryton@gov.ab.ca

Web: www.acat.gov.ab.ca