

Student Transitions Project

2009/10 Annual Report

About STP:

The Student Transitions Project (STP) is British Columbia's collaborative research project that studies student mobility and success from K-12 to post-secondary education. The research is made possible through the use of Personal Education Numbers (PENs), which track student movement while protecting individual privacy.

STP is managed by a steering committee with representatives from the public post-secondary institutions, the Ministries of Education and Advanced Education and Labour Market Development and the B.C. Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT). For more information visit: http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student_transitions/.

This report highlights major projects and activities undertaken by STP in fiscal year 2009/10.

Research Accomplishments:

Immediate and Delayed Student Transitions

This year STP studied the first transitions of six B.C. high school graduation cohorts (from 2001/02 to 2006/07) into B.C. public post-secondary education between 2002/03 and fall 2008. The results show transition rates to B.C. public post-secondary education remain remarkably stable:

- Each year, between 50% – 52% of high school graduates enrol in a B.C. public post-secondary institution within one year of graduation.
- After six years, approximately 74% of high school graduates have enrolled in B.C. public post-secondary education (75% have enrolled after seven years).

A newsletter and pivot tables based on this research were released in April 2009: http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student_transitions/documents/stp_highlights_apr2009.pdf

STP has made several enhancements to its report on immediate and delayed student transitions. Starting this year, enrolments were reported by academic year and by term (fall, spring and summer), up to and including the most recent fall term. Enrolments in graduate studies were also included in the analysis. STP also began collecting program information using Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) codes. Consistent use of CIP codes across institutions will enable STP to report the program destinations of post-secondary registrants more accurately in future years.

Mobility Among Post-Secondary Sectors and Institutions

STP focused its 2009-10 mobility research on the year-to-year movement of all graduate, undergraduate and developmental registrants in the B.C. public post-secondary system. The study expanded on the previous year's analysis by examining student movement between institutions, sectors, programs, credentials, study levels and

postal areas. Pivot tables based on the data were provided to institutions. The newsletter, published in December 2009, highlights the 26,000 continuing registrants who moved between B.C. post-secondary institutions from 2006/07 to 2007/08: http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student_transitions/documents/stp_highlights_dec09.pdf

Mobility of Transfer Students

STP's Mobility of Transfer Students Subcommittee and BCCAT regularly study the volume and flow of traditional transfer students from sending institutions to research universities. This approach is being re-visited given the new designations and mandates of some B.C. public post-secondary institutions and the expected impact on student mobility patterns. In November 2009, STP participated in BCCAT's Visioning Session to revisit the research model. Based on feedback from the session, the Mobility of Transfer Students Subcommittee is planning a new approach to measure a broader range of student movement in the B.C. system.

In February 2010, the subcommittee completed the annual research on students enrolled in B.C. Transfer Guide courses in fall of 2008 who transferred to a B.C. research university or Thompson Rivers University in 2009. Pivot tables were provided to institutions for planning purposes. STP will continue to monitor the mobility of traditional transfer students while it explores new student mobility patterns.

Credentials Awarded in the B.C. Public System

In 2009/10 STP achieved the goal of producing the first system-wide credentials pivot table. The table shows the number of credentials awarded at B.C. public post-secondary institutions by calendar year, from 2003-2008. The project involved merging data from the CDW institutions with STP data from the four research universities. The table will be a valuable tool for labour market planning as users can analyze credentials awarded by study level (graduate, undergraduate and developmental), institution, program, gender and other demographic variables. The pivot table was released in March 2010 to authorized STP users.

Policy Development:

Two STP policies were established in 2009/10. The Data Linkage Policy outlines the circumstances under which STP data may be linked with other data, either temporarily or on an ongoing basis. The Data Use and Reporting Protocol provides guidelines for STP users when reporting analyses based on STP data. The protocol was developed to ensure that institutions have an opportunity to review data about their institution before the results are made public. Both documents can be viewed at http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student_transitions/information_sharing.htm

Communications and Outreach:

In December 2009, the STP Steering Committee developed a formal communication plan. The plan focuses on building awareness of STP research among the education sector and broader community. In addition to regular newsletters, STP is increasingly providing customized presentations and online resources for its stakeholders.

Presentations

During 2009/10, STP members presented research to a variety of organizations including:

- B.C. Institute of Technology (April 2009)
- BCCAT Research Committee (May 2009)
- B.C. Institutional Researchers and Planners (June and Dec. 2009)
- Thompson Rivers University (June 2009)
- Douglas College (June 2009)
- B.C. College Presidents (June 2009)
- Manitoba Data Management Symposium (June 2009)
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University (Aug. 2009)
- Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (Sept. 2009)
- University of Northern B.C. (Oct. 2009)
- College of New Caledonia (Oct. 2009)
- BCCAT Council (Oct. 2009 and Feb. 2010)
- Selkirk College (Oct. 2009)
- Canadian Institutional Research and Planning Association (Oct. 2009)
- College of the Rockies (Nov. 2009)
- Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development (Nov. 2009)
- University of the Fraser Valley (Jan.2010)
- Burnaby Secondary School principals (Feb. 2010)

Publications

The following STP publications were released over the past year:

Annual reports:

- Participation in BC Public Post-Secondary Education Reaches 74% within Six Years of High School Graduation (April 2009)
- Student Mobility in the B.C. Public Post-Secondary System (December 2009)
- STP Fast Facts (Sept. 2009)
- Student Transitions to Public Post-Secondary Education by Region (Sept. 2009)

Special reports:

- Educational Achievements of Aboriginal Students in B.C. (March 2009)

All publications are available at http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student_transitions/

STP Online Resources

STP pivot tables are available for authorized institution staff via the STP SharePoint site. The tables allow users to delve deeper into research results published in STP reports. STP's SharePoint site and website are maintained by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development.

STP Committee Membership:

STP is governed by a steering committee and three subcommittees. Membership in 2009/10 included the following representatives:

Steering Committee:

Patty Beatty-Guenter	Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development
Bob Cowin	Douglas College
Devron Gaber	BCCAT (Chair)
Gerald Morton	Ministry of Education
Walter Sudmant	University of British Columbia

Data Management Subcommittee:

Mike Bennett	Camosun College
Tony Eder	University of Victoria (Chair)
Joanne Heslop	Student Transitions Project
Hugh Judd	Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development
Alex Mann	Ministry of Education

Non-voting members:

Warren Baker	Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development
Pam Bischoff	Douglas College
Eylin Gilbert	Ministry of Education

Mobility of Transfer Student Subcommittee:

Kathleen Bigsby	Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Frank DiPuma	Capilano University
Devron Gaber	BCCAT (Chair)
Joanne Heslop	Student Transitions Project
Hugh Judd	Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development
Jean Karlinski	BCCAT
Jacy Lee	Simon Fraser University

Applicant Research Subcommittee:

Pam Bischoff	Douglas College
Sarah Dunn	British Columbia Institute of Technology
Devron Gaber	BCCAT
Jody Gordon	Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Karen Grigoleit	Thompson Rivers University
Joanne Heslop	Student Transitions Project
Hugh Judd	Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development
Jean Karlinski	BCCAT
Ashley Lambert-Maberly	University of British Columbia (Chair)
Kate Ross	Simon Fraser University

Project Staff:

Christine Broda	Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development
Joanne Heslop	Student Transitions Project
Brent Munro	Ministry of Education