

# Research Results

September 2008

## Mobility of BC Transfer Students - Fall 2006 to Calendar Year 2007

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### Introduction

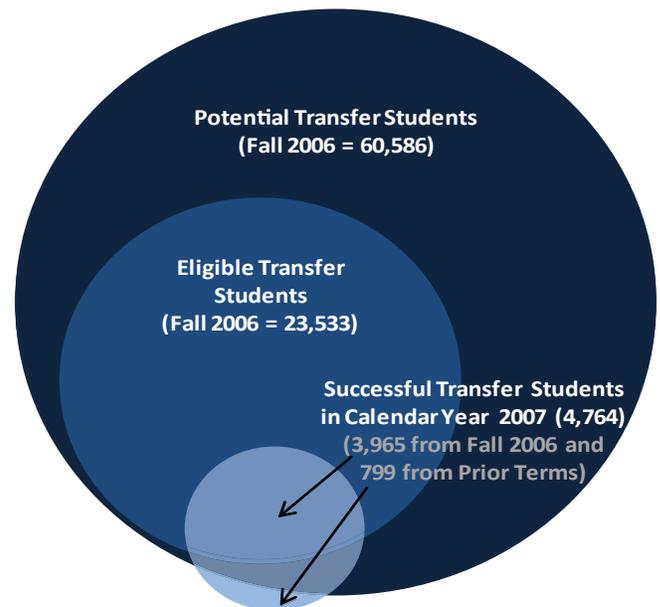
This newsletter summarizes the movement of transfer students from BC colleges, university colleges<sup>1</sup>, and institutes from the Fall of 2006 into BC universities in calendar year 2007 and provides predictions for 2008. Additional information is provided on trends from Fall 2003 to the present and on the movement of students into other institutions.

### Volume of Transfer Students – From Fall 2006 to Calendar Year 2007

In this study, transfer students are classified according to their likelihood of transfer to a BC university (see **Figure A** on this page and definitions on page 2).

- In the Fall of 2006, there were 60,586 Potential Transfer Students (PTR), i.e., students taking at least one university transferable course, regardless of whether they might ever seek admission to a university.
- Among this group, there were 23,533 Eligible Transfer Students (ETR) with sufficient transfer courses and grades to seek university admission, should they choose to do so.
- Among those students last registered at sending institutions in the Fall of 2006, a total of 3,965 transferred to BC public universities in calendar year 2007 with transfer as the basis of admission.
- An additional 799 students, who last registered at sending institutions prior to Fall 2006, also transferred to BC universities in 2007, thus increasing the total Successful Transfer Students (STR) to 4,764 in calendar year 2007. This represents an 8.6% decrease over the 5,211 transfer students who entered BC universities in calendar year 2006.

**Figure A: Volume of BC Transfer Students**



Note: 4,764 Successful Transfer Students entered BC Universities in calendar year 2007, of which 3,965 were registered at a sending institution in Fall 2006, and 799 came from a prior term.

<sup>1</sup> Institutional designations in this study are those that were in place for the period of this study, which was prior to Malaspina, Kwantlen, UCFV, and Capilano being designated as universities.

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## Definitions

**Potential Transfer Students (PTR)** are the largest and most broadly defined group. This is the pool of students who might seek admission to university in the near future. **A Potential Transfer Student is any student at a college, university college, or institute who is enrolled in or has completed at least one course listed in the BC Transfer Guide.** The student's intentions or grades are immaterial for inclusion in the Potential Transfer Student group.

**Eligible Transfer Students (ETR)**, a subset of Potential Transfer Students, are likely to seek university admission in the near future because they have completed sufficient transfer courses and achieved the minimum grade requirement for admission to most BC universities as a transfer student. **An Eligible Transfer Student is any student who is enrolled in or has completed at least 24 credits in courses listed in the BC Transfer Guide and has a GPA of at least 2.00.** Note that ongoing changes to the set of courses listed in the BC Transfer Guide contribute to fluctuations in the volume of Eligible Transfer Students each year. Not all eligible transfer students will seek university admission in the following year, nor would they necessarily meet specific entrance requirements, but they are the group most likely to enter university in the subsequent year.

**Successful Transfer Students (STR)** are those from the pool of potential or eligible transfer students who actually entered university in the subsequent year with transfer as the basis of admission. **A Successful Transfer Student is any student who was admitted to university on the basis of having completed a minimum number of credits in courses in a college, university college, or institute that are transferable to BC universities.** Note that students who attended a college, university college, or institute and earned insufficient credits for transfer as a BC College Transfer Student may be admitted to a BC university under another basis of admission category, such as BC Grade 12 or Mature (see Figure F).

This study also uses a **Transfer Ratio** to estimate the subsequent year's (i.e. calendar year 2008) volume of Successful Transfers. **The Transfer Ratio is the number of Successful Transfer Students divided by the number of Eligible Transfer Students from the previous Fall.** By applying this ratio calculated in the previous year to the current volume of Eligible Transfer Students, the subsequent year's volume of Successful Transfer Students is projected, assuming all other conditions remain unchanged. Therefore, by monitoring trends in the Transfer Ratios, along with trends in the numbers of potential and eligible transfer students, this study forecasts the transfer enrolment demand to assist universities in setting appropriate GPA cut-offs to meet their enrolment quotas.

## Most Transfers to University Occur Without a Delay or Stop Out Period

Table 1 shows that the majority of students transferring to university from a BC college, university college, or institute typically do so without delay. Of those entering BC universities in calendar year 2007, 83% were previously registered in a BC college, university college, or institute in Fall 2006; 11% stopped out for a year, 3% stopped out for two years, and 3% stopped out for a longer period of time before transferring to university. Larger institutions tend to have higher immediate transition rates.

Table 1: 2007 Successful Transfer Students – Length of Delay in Transfer to University

Length of Delay in Transferring to University	RRU	SFU	TRU	UBC	UBCO	UNBC	UVIC	Total to BC Univ	%
No Delay (Direct from Fall 2006 Term)	16	1,482	76	1,158	205	135	893	3,965	83%
1-Year Stop Outs (Last Reg'd in Acad Yr 2005)	9	199	24	116	21	22	124	515	11%
2-Year Stop Outs (Last Reg'd in Acad Yr 2004)	3	34	15	38	3	8	38	139	3%
3+ Year Stop Outs (Last Reg'd Fall 2003 or Earlier)	6	29	15	27	12	17	39	145	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1,744</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>1,339</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>1,094</b>	<b>4,764</b>	<b>100%</b>

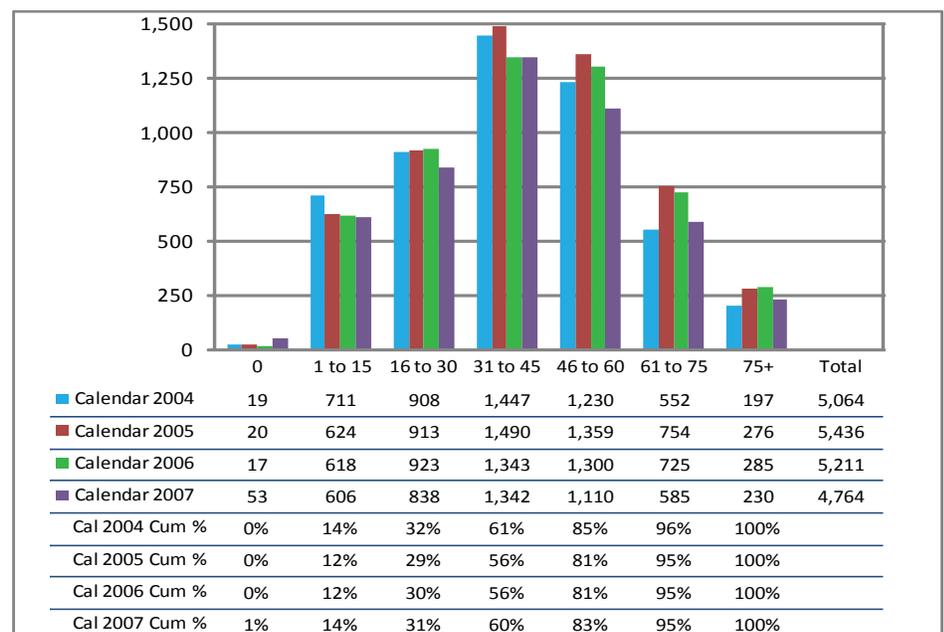
Further analysis of the available data shows that the more credits students have accumulated at the sending institution, the more likely they are to transfer to university directly. For example, in Fall 2006, 85% of students with 31 or more credits transferred to university directly from the previous Fall term, whereas only 79% of students with 30 or fewer credits transferred without delay.

## Credits Earned at Sending Institution Before Transfer to University

Based on the above findings, enrolment managers at post-secondary institutions will likely benefit from additional information on the volume of credits amassed by Potential Transfer Students before they enter a university. Figure B provides the distribution of credits earned by Successful Transfer Students at their sending institution(s) prior to transfer to a BC university. The chart shows that more than two-thirds of Successful Transfer Students are staying at their sending institution beyond the minimum number of credits (24) needed for transfer.

In last year's newsletter ([www.bccat.ca/pubs/rr\\_july07.pdf](http://www.bccat.ca/pubs/rr_july07.pdf)), it was noted that students appeared to be transferring to university sooner, or with fewer credits. This trend is continuing as we see the proportion of students transferring to university with 30 or fewer credits has steadily increased from 29% to 30% to 31% over the last three years. Furthermore, the average number of credits transferred has decreased roughly 3%, from 43.4 in calendar year 2004 to 42.2 in calendar year 2007.

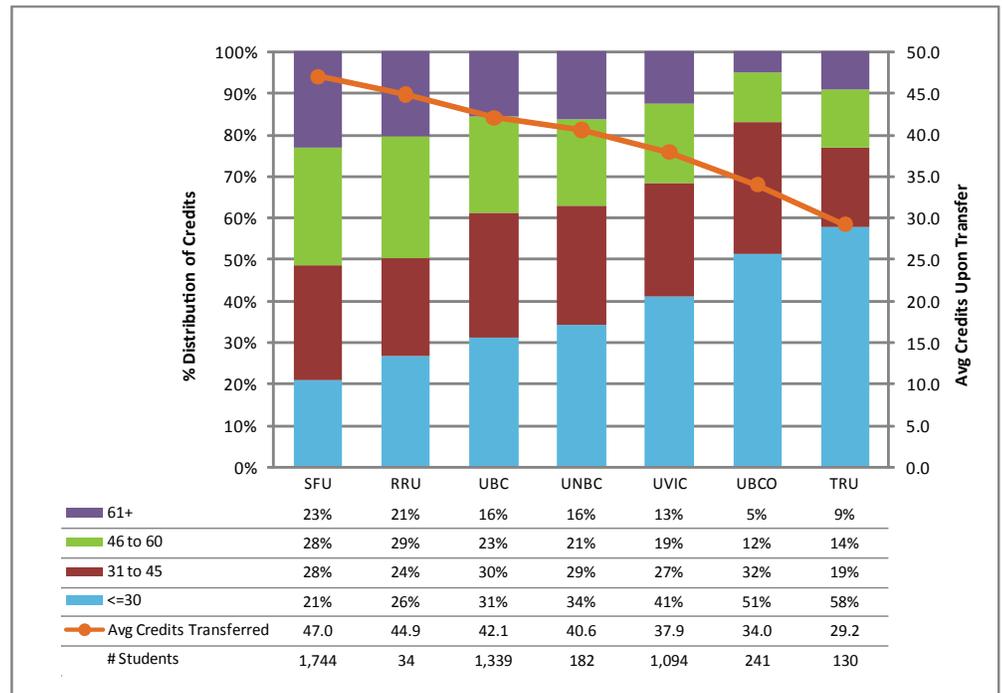
Figure B: Successful Transfer Students - Total Credits Earned at Sending Institution



## Average Credits Earned Before Transfer to University

While we previously saw in **Figure B** that roughly two-thirds of students accumulate more than thirty credits at their sending institution before transferring to university, this is not consistent across all receiving institutions. For instance, as shown in **Figure C**, 79% of students who transferred to Simon Fraser University (SFU) in 2007 had earned more than 30 credits at their sending institution before coming to SFU. By comparison, only 42% of students who transferred to Thompson Rivers University had previously earned 30 or more credits at their sending institution. Therefore, it is likely that transfer students will seek different programs and year-level entry points, depending upon the destination university they have selected.

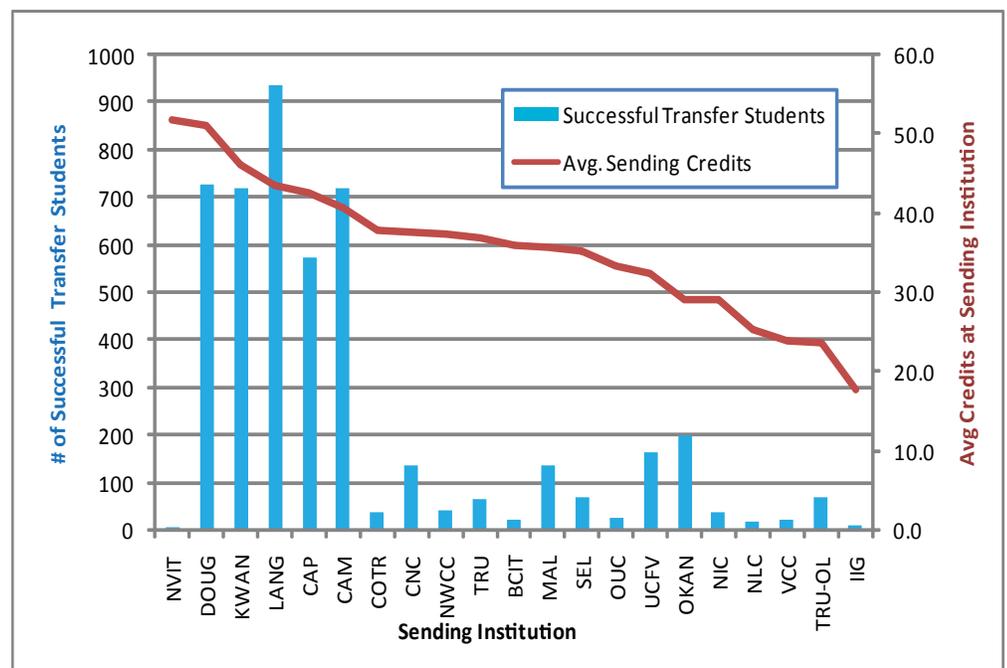
**Figure C: Successful Transfer Students in Calendar Year 2007 – Range of Credits Earned at Sending Institution Before Transferring to University, by Destination University**



## Lower Mainland Transfer Students Staying Longer at Sending Institutions Before Transfer to University

It is evident in **Figure D** that students transferring from Lower Mainland sending institutions or Camosun College in Victoria are much more likely to remain at their institution longer to accumulate more credits before transferring to university. For example, students transferring from Douglas, Kwantlen, Langara, Capilano, or Camosun earned an average of 45 credits before transferring to university in Fall 2007, versus an average of 33 credits earned at other sending institutions before transferring to university. At the smaller institutions with fewer course offerings, students might be forced to transfer to university sooner to register in desired courses not available at their local college.

**Figure D: Fall 2007 Successful Transfer Students by Sending Institution and Average Sending Credits**

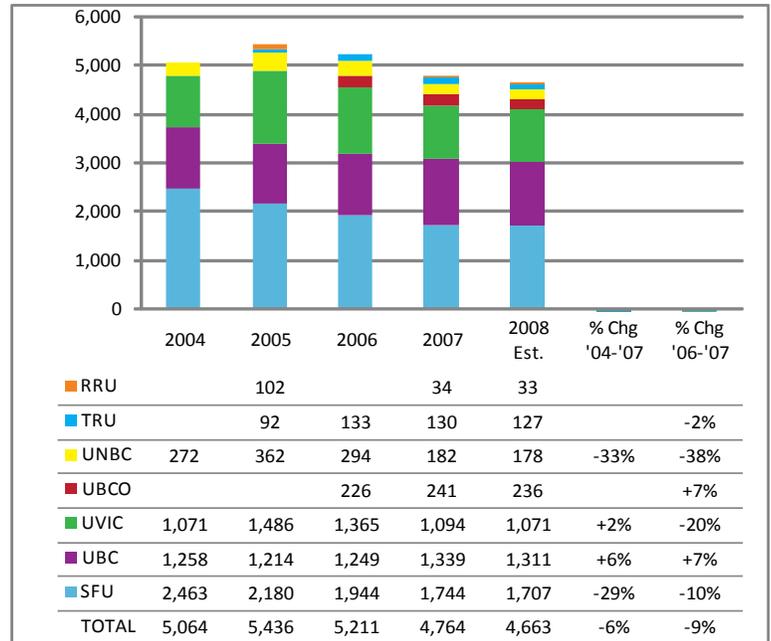


## Trends – Successful Transfer Students

Figure E shows a declining trend (-6%) in the number of Successful Transfer Students entering BC’s public universities from 2004 to 2007. Over the four-year period since 2004, UNBC and SFU have experienced declines of nearly one-third in their incoming transfer students, while UBC saw a small increase in the volume of new transfer students.

Assuming transfer rates and other enrollment conditions remain unchanged next year, it is estimated that we will see a further 2.1% decline in transfer students entering BC universities in calendar year 2008. Although the volume of Successful Transfer Students is largely a function of the pool of Eligible Transfer Students, it is also affected by numerous other factors, such as students’ desires to enter university; other opportunities available for completing a bachelor’s degree at a college, university college, or institute; changes in institutional designation; and university enrolment quotas and GPA thresholds by Faculty and program.

Figure E: Trend in Successful Transfer Students

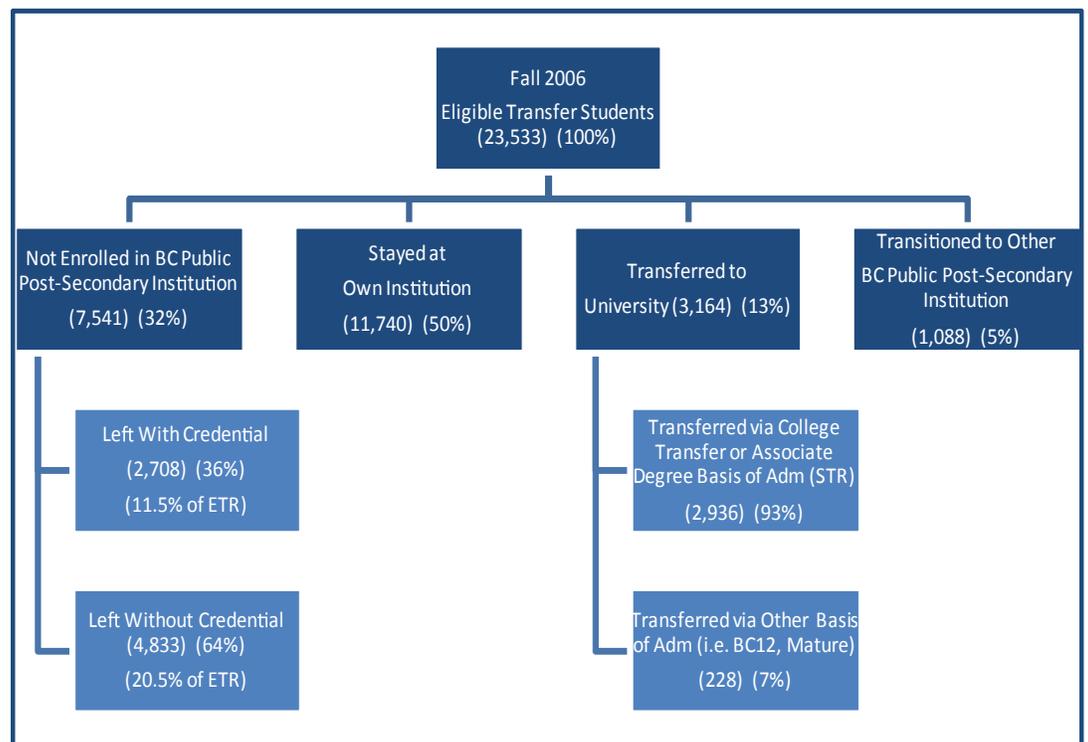


## Destinations of Eligible Transfer Students

Figure F shows the destinations of Fall 2006 Eligible Transfer Students in calendar Year 2007. The largest group (50%) stayed at their own institution, despite having accumulated sufficient minimum qualifications for transfer to university (at least 24 credits and a minimum GPA of 2.00). The next largest group did not re-enrol in a BC public post-secondary institution (32%), although they may have chosen to enrol in a BC private institution or an institution outside of the province. Of those who did not re-enrol, 36% had completed a credential. The remaining Eligible Transfer Students entered a BC university (13%) or transferred to another BC public post-secondary institution (5%).

In terms of trends, the proportion of students in each of the destination categories has remained relatively unchanged for the past three years. Figure G on the following page provides similar information, but for each of BC’s public post-secondary sending institutions (colleges, institutes, and university colleges).

Figure F: Destinations of Fall 2006 Eligible Transfer Students in Calendar Year 2007



## Project Background

Each year, as BC post-secondary institutions work toward achieving their annual enrollment targets, they are challenged by changing levels of student demand. Among other factors, the new student demand often fluctuates with changes in the volume of recent grade 12 graduates and changes in the flows of transfer students.

To manage incoming grade 12 enrollments effectively, institutions often use information from the Ministry of Education and the Student Transitions Project (STP) to predict enrollment demand and determine enrollment quotas and minimum GPA cut-offs for admission. However, the extent to which students transfer from colleges, university colleges, and institutes to BC universities has not always been easy to monitor or predict.

The volume and flow of transfer students from sending institutions into BC universities (both historically and predicted) is now possible through a collaborative research effort and pooling of post-secondary enrollment data from the Student Transitions Project (STP) and the Central Data Warehouse (CDW). This work builds on earlier research conducted by the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT). In this third annual newsletter on the Mobility of Transfer Students research, the goal is to provide accurate data about the pool of transfer students seeking admission to university and to aid enrollment management and program planning at both the sending institutions (colleges, university colleges, and institutes) and receiving institutions (universities).

## Mobility of Transfer Students Subcommittee

This study on transfer student mobility was conducted under the auspices of the Student Transitions Project (STP) and was funded by BCCAT as part of its Admissions Committee work plan. Research directions were provided by the Mobility of Transfer Students Subcommittee of STP whose membership includes representatives across post-secondary sectors:

**Kathleen Bigsby**, Director, Institutional Analysis & Planning, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

**Bob Cowin**, Director, Institutional Research & Planning, Douglas College

**Jacy Lee**, Director, Institutional Research & Planning, Simon Fraser University

**Hugh Judd**, Data Warehouse Coordinator, Ministry of Advanced Education & Labour Market Development

**Joanne Heslop**, Manager, Student Transitions Project

**Devron Gaber**, Associate Director, BCCAT (Chair)

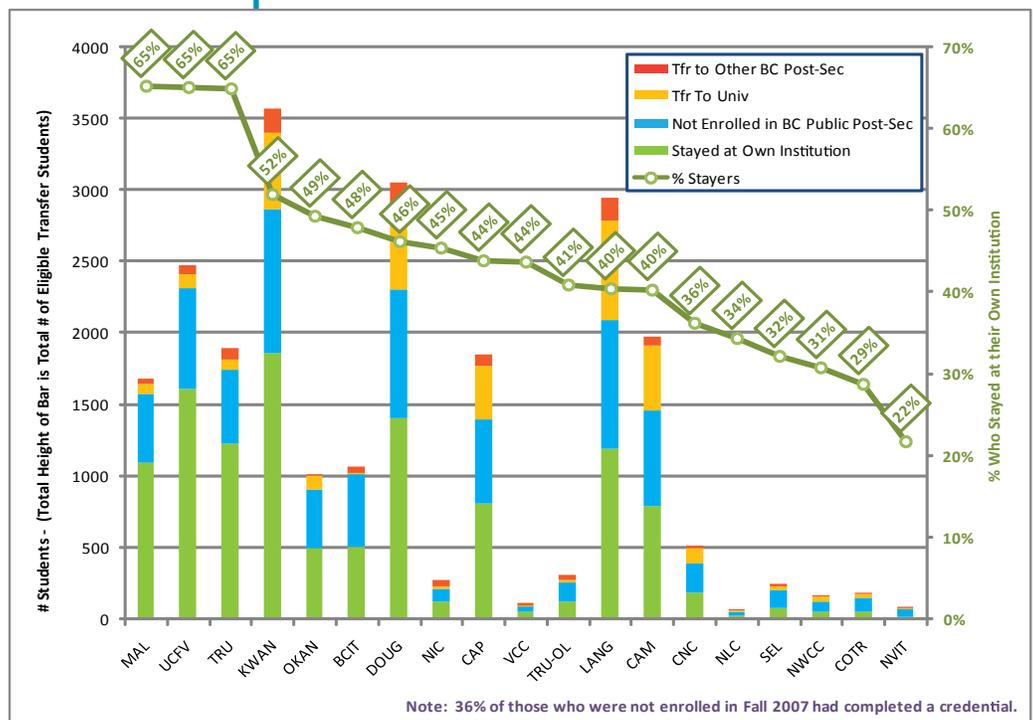
**Jean Karlinski**, Research Coordinator, BCCAT

More information is available at [www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student-transitions/mobility-subcommittee.htm](http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student-transitions/mobility-subcommittee.htm).

## Eligible Transfer Students at University Colleges More Inclined to Stay at Own Institution

Related to the variation in the volume of transfer credits accumulated prior to transfer is the finding that university colleges are more likely to retain their eligible transfer students than other institutions. As previously shown, roughly half of the Fall 2006 Eligible Transfer Students re-enrolled at their own institution in Fall 2007; however, the proportion remaining at university colleges is much higher at 65%, although this proportion is lower at Kwantlen (52%). By comparison, many of the smaller institutions outside of the Lower Mainland retain less than one-third of their Eligible Transfer Students.

**Figure G: Fall 2006 Eligible Transfer Students - Where Did They Show Up in Fall 2007?**



## Some Eligible Transfer Students Do Not Transfer and Do Not Re-Enrol

Thirty-six percent of Eligible Transfer Students from Fall 2006 did not re-enrol anywhere by Fall 2007— they did not stay at their own institution and they did not transfer to university or any other BC public post-secondary institution. They may, however, have enrolled in a private institution in BC or public or private institution outside BC. Part of the reason why students do not re-enrol is because they completed a credential, such as a diploma or an associate degree. This represents over one-third of this sub-group of non-enrollees.

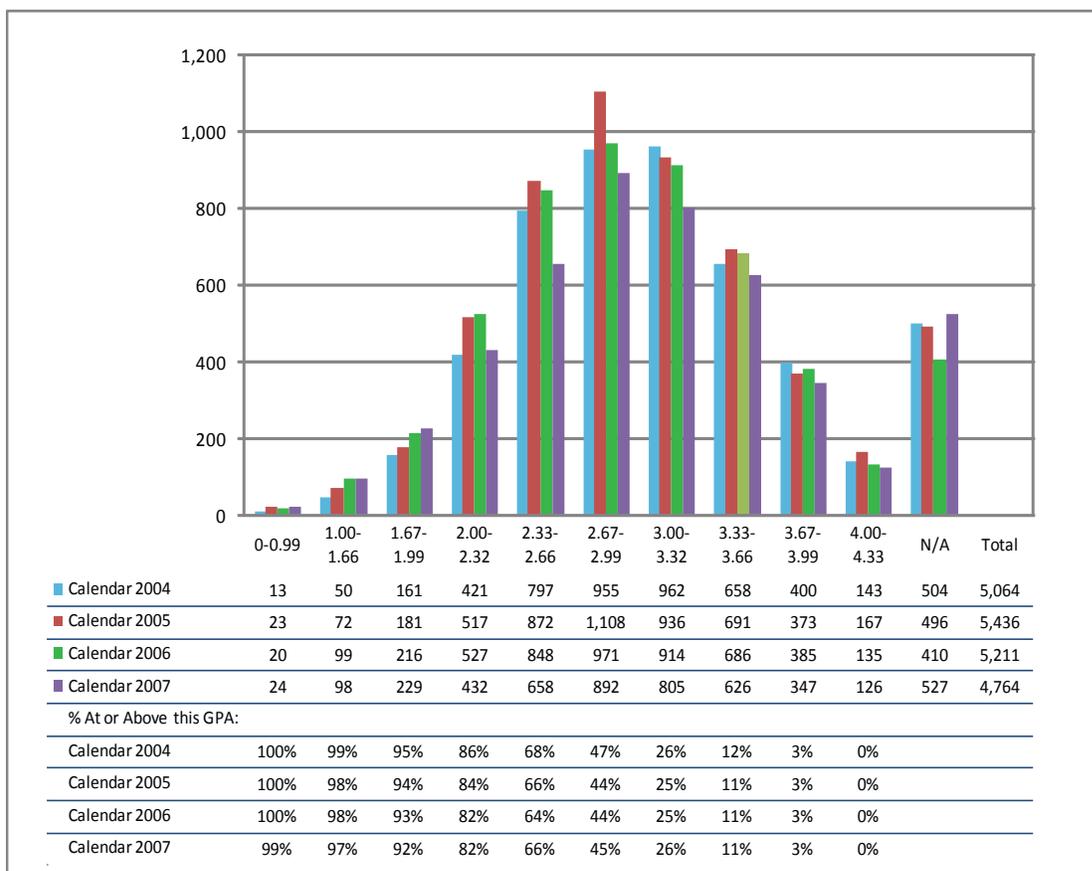
The proportion of Fall 2007 non-enrollees who had completed a credential in Fall 2006 is higher at some institutions than others, such as BCIT (68%) with numerous short programs; and at many of the university colleges (ranging from 41% to 48%), where degree program offerings allow students to remain at their own institution to complete a degree without transferring elsewhere. Furthermore, some of the smaller institutions have relatively low rates of students re-enrolling, which can partly be explained by the fact that many of their non-returning students completed a credential, such as at College of the Rockies (44%), and Selkirk College (41%).

## Grade Distribution of Successful Transfer Students

There has been little change in the Grade Point Average (GPA) distribution of transfer students admitted to BC universities over the last four years (see [Figure H](#)).

While the volume of students in each range has fluctuated with the total volume that transferred, the proportion within each range has remained relatively constant. Roughly one-quarter of Successful Transfer Students enter BC universities with at least a B average (in the GPA range of 3.00 or higher).

**Figure H: GPA Distribution of Successful Transfer Students**



## Predicting Successful Transfer Students for Calendar Year 2008

The trends in Eligible and Successful Transfer Students in BC are summarized in [Table 2](#) (next page) for each of the last four year intervals, from sending institutions in Fall 2003 to Fall 2007, and into universities in the subsequent calendar years. From this information, we can calculate the most recent transfer ratio and then make a simple estimate of the number of Successful Transfer Students projected for calendar year 2008.

The overall transfer ratio is defined as the ratio of all Successful Transfer Students in a given year to the Eligible Transfer Students from the previous Fall (2007 STR / Fall 2006 ETR or 21.2%). By applying this ratio to the pool of roughly 22,000\* Eligible Transfer Students in Fall 2007, the number of Successful Transfer Students in calendar year 2008 is estimated at 4,663. Given that the pool of Eligible Transfer Students has declined by 2.3% in Fall 2007, compared to Fall 2006, we can similarly estimate the impact this drop of 475 students will have on the expected volume of students transferring to universities in calendar year 2008. The impact will be roughly 100 fewer Successful Transfer Students, or a drop of 2.1% over the previous year.

This year we expanded the projections to include an alternate set of projected Successful Transfer Students in calendar year 2008, not only for receiving institutions, but also for sending institutions. This was achieved by using more specific institutional transfer ratios, rather than a single system-wide transfer ratio of 21.2%. This alternate projection method estimates a 3.5% overall drop in estimated Successful Transfer Students for calendar year 2008. The bottom row of [Table 2](#) provides the projected Successful Transfer Students to universities using each projection method, while the rightmost column provides the expected change in Successful Transfer Students from each sending institution, derived from institutional transfer ratios.

Please note that these are estimates based on historical ratios and a number of other external factors might lead to actual values that are quite different from what is predicted. Despite these cautions, the Mobility of Transfer Students Subcommittee notes that it has been making predictions through the use of historical transfer ratios for several years with small overall variances between actual and predicted values, ranging from 3% to 8%, although there has been considerably larger variation for some institutions.

\* Excluding BCIT. Also see footnote (2) in Table 2.

**Table 2: Trends in Eligible Transfer Students (Fall 2003 to Fall 2007) With Projections of Successful Transfer Students for Calendar Year 2008**

SENDING INSTITUTION <sup>1</sup>	Eligible Transfer Students (ETR)					Successful Transfer Students (STR)											Proj % Chg. in STR 2007 to 2008	
	Fall 2003	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Fall 2007	CalYr 2004	CalYr 2005	CalYr 2006	Calendar Year 2007							STR 2007		Proj STR 2008
									RRU	SFU	TRU	UBC	UBCO	UNBC	UVIC			
<b>Institutes and Agencies</b>																		
British Columbia Institute of Technology <sup>2</sup>		755	724	1,069	1,008	---	25	13	10	5	2	3		1	2	23	22	-4.3%
Institute of Indigenous Government	12	32	37	n/a	---	6	8	17	7					1	3	11	---	---
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology	31	52	95	92	83	8	6	8		2				2	3	7	7	0.0%
Open Learning Agency	367	398	---	---	---	94	86	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Thompson Rivers U - Open Learning	---	---	389	316	235	---	---	88	1	14	3	18	1	8	24	69	51	-26.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>1,237</b>	<b>1,245</b>	<b>1,477</b>	<b>1,326</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>-27.3%</b>
<b>Total without Open Learning</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>1,161</b>	<b>1,091</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>-29.3%</b>
<b>Northern Region</b>																		
College of New Caledonia	477	478	519	520	401	150	259	221		10	10	3	1	106	9	139	108	-22.3%
Northern Lights College	130	98	81	67	46	28	33	37	6	1	3			8	3	21	14	-33.3%
Northwest Community College	180	188	180	169	196	53	80	53	6	5	4	3	16	9	43	50	50	16.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>-15.3%</b>
<b>Interior Region</b>																		
College of the Rockies	195	189	191	184	137	43	36	43	2	1	3	3	6	3	21	39	28	-28.2%
Okanagan University College	1,882	2,116	---	---	---	119	100	79	1	1	8		11		5	26	---	---
Okanagan College	---	---	628	1,018	1,086	---	---	86	5	18	23	135	1	20	202	215	6.4%	
Selkirk College	281	240	236	246	242	87	96	105	6	10	8	9	4	33	70	69	69	-1.4%
University College of the Cariboo	1,643	1,778	---	---	---	113	112	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Thompson Rivers University	---	---	1,757	1,897	1,827	---	---	98	---	4	---	---	---	---	12	68	67	-1.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,001</b>	<b>4,323</b>	<b>2,812</b>	<b>3,345</b>	<b>3,292</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>-6.4%</b>
<b>Vancouver Region</b>																		
Capilano College	2,053	2,146	2,003	1,852	1,761	700	722	674	1	284	2	228	11	3	46	575	547	-4.9%
Douglas College	3,014	3,182	3,038	3,055	2,980	821	719	726	7	517	6	141	11	7	38	727	710	-2.3%
Langara College	3,145	3,244	3,008	2,952	2,929	1,018	1,112	1,160	326	6	525	16	5	58	936	929	-0.7%	
Vancouver Community College	95	104	118	119	130	10	17	17	7	1	13	1		2	24	26	8.3%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,307</b>	<b>8,676</b>	<b>8,167</b>	<b>7,978</b>	<b>7,800</b>	<b>2,549</b>	<b>2,570</b>	<b>2,577</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>2,262</b>	<b>2,212</b>	<b>-2.2%</b>
<b>Fraser Valley Region</b>																		
Kwantlen University College	3,513	3,519	3,586	3,572	3,635	910	814	679	1	420	24	205	11	6	52	719	731	1.7%
University College of the Fraser Valley	2,261	2,675	2,863	2,476	2,520	112	144	167		67	14	54	4	4	23	166	168	1.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,774</b>	<b>6,194</b>	<b>6,449</b>	<b>6,048</b>	<b>6,155</b>	<b>1,022</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
<b>Vancouver Island Region</b>																		
Camosun College	1,799	1,991	1,972	1,976	1,936	604	835	720	10	36	8	40	4	5	619	722	707	-2.1%
Malaspina University-College	2,112	1,837	1,734	1,680	1,570	157	181	183	1	19	5	25	1	1	87	139	130	-6.5%
North Island College	316	278	266	273	275	31	51	37	3	2	4	3	1	25	38	38	0.0%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,227</b>	<b>4,106</b>	<b>3,972</b>	<b>3,929</b>	<b>3,781</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>1,067</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>-2.7%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b> <sup>3,4</sup>	<b>23,506</b>	<b>25,300</b>	<b>23,425</b>	<b>23,533</b>	<b>(2)22,997</b>	<b>5,064</b>	<b>5,436</b>	<b>5,211</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1,744</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>1,339</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>1,094</b>	<b>4,764</b>	<b>4,595<sup>(a)</sup></b> <b>4,663<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>-3.5%</b>

(a) Projected from institutional transfer ratios; (b) projected from system-wide 21.2% transfer ratio.

**Notes:**

- Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design and Justice Institute of BC are currently classified as receiving institutions and are therefore not listed as sending institutions. Although Okanagan University College has not reported ETRs since Fall 2004, those ETRs still attended universities in subsequent years.
- No data provided for BCIT in 2003. BCIT had a large increase in ETR from Fall 2005 to Fall 2006 due to articulation agreement changes in selected courses.
- BCIT is included in all values in the total row of this table. However, predicted 2008 STRs are calculated without BCIT in the total pool of Eligible Transfer Students (i.e., 21,989 rather than 22,997). This is because many BCIT programs are not intended for transfer to university and many of BCIT's students do not intend to transfer to university.
- Predicted STRs in this table are derived from separate transfer ratios for each sending institution, rather than one system-wide transfer ratio of 21.2%. Therefore, using this more granular approach, 68 fewer STRs are projected for 2008 (4,595) than are projected with a single system-wide transfer ratio (4,663).

**Trends – Potential, Eligible, and Successful Transfer Students**

The trend in the BC system-wide Potential, Eligible, and Successful Transfer Students from 2003 to 2007 is shown in **Figure I** (see next page). The peak in the volume of transfer students took place in 2004 and the volume has declined since then. The most significant decline occurred in 2005, but we have seen some stability over the last three years. Since the peak in 2004, the number of Successful Transfer Students has declined more significantly (-14.2%) than Potential Transfer Students (-6.6%) and Eligible Transfer Students (-9.1%).

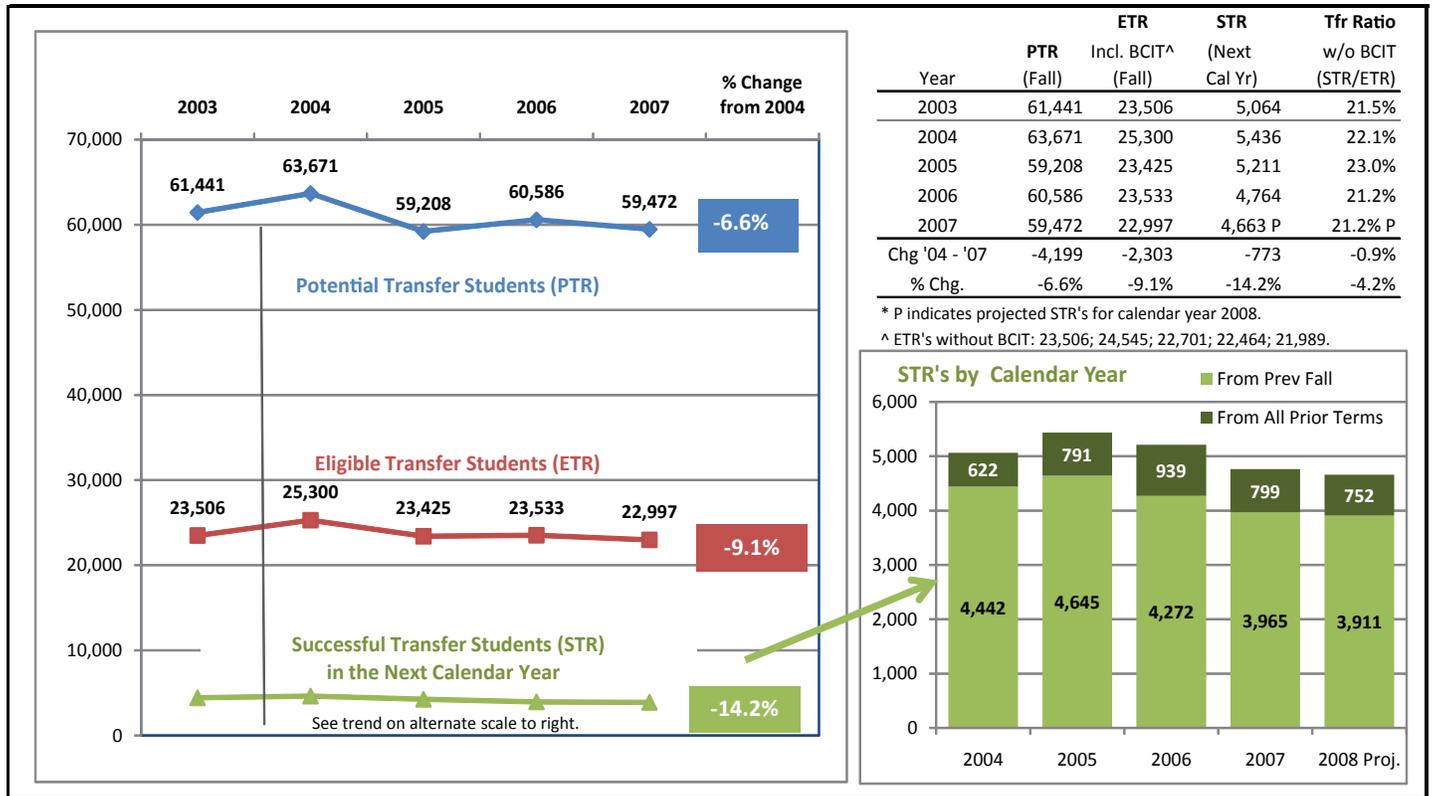
Two simultaneous trends have occurred, which have a cumulative effect on the declining population of successful transfer students in BC:

- The total volume of Potential Transfer Students has declined. This is a reflection of general overall declines in college enrollments, primarily Arts and Sciences, over this time period, possibly due to more students responding to a lowering of university GPA requirements and entering university Arts and Sciences programs directly from Grade 12. Meanwhile,

the proportion of Potential Transfer Students who are eligible to transfer has remained at roughly 39 to 40% of Potential Transfer Students.

- The transfer ratio, or the relative volume of Successful Transfer Students in a calendar year to the volume of Eligible Transfer Students in the previous Fall term, has dropped slightly, from 22.1% in 2004 to 21.2% in 2007. This is a possible consequence of students choosing to defer their transfer to university (either to stay longer at their own institution or take time off from their education), and/or a reflection of the trend for students to remain at the sending institution, primarily university colleges, to continue in a degree program. Furthermore, there may be factors at the receiving universities affecting the rate of transfer. For example, selected high-demand programs might have insufficient spaces to accept all transfer students, leading universities to raise the minimum GPA requirements for admission to those programs.

**Figure I: Trends in Potential and Eligible Transfer Students (from Fall 2003 to Fall 2007) and Successful Transfer Students to University in the Next Calendar Year (2004 to 2008)**



It is also evident that the proportion of students transferring to university after a stop-out period has increased from 12% of all Successful Transfer Students in calendar year 2004 to 17% in calendar year 2007. This might be explained by some former college, university college, and institute students deferring their transfer to BC universities because they were not previously admissible when university minimum GPA requirements were higher. Other students may have become employed due to the strong economy.

### Looking Ahead

If the pool of Potential and/or Eligible Transfer Students continues to decline for whatever reason and unless the rate at which Eligible Transfer Students transfer to university increases, the volume of Successful Transfer Students to university will continue to decline in BC over the forthcoming years. The recent conversion of existing university colleges and colleges in BC (Malaspina, Kwantlen, UCFV, and Capilano) to new universities may further impact the transfer rates to the BC universities. The Mobility of Transfer Students Subcommittee will continue to monitor and report on these trends each year.