

Participation in BC Public Post-Secondary Education Reaches 74% within Six Years of High School Graduation

The Student Transitions Project (STP) is an ongoing collaborative research endeavor of British Columbia’s Ministries of Education and Advanced Education and Labour Market Development and B.C.’s public post-secondary institutions. STP tracks transitions of students throughout their education in British Columbia. This newsletter highlights new information and trends for six BC secondary school graduation cohorts from 2001/02 to 2006/07 pertaining to their first post-secondary registrations in BC public post-secondary education between 2002/03 and the Fall of 2008.

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Figure 1 shows that student transition rates remain remarkably stable, with 50% to 52% of each high school graduation cohort (from 2001/02 to 2006/07) enrolling in BC public post-secondary

education within one year of high school graduation.

STP continues to monitor and report the long-run student transition rates of BC high school graduates. Roughly 22,000 students from each high school graduation class first enrolled in BC public post secondary education within one year of high school graduation. About half as many students (nearly 10,000 students) delayed their first enrollment in post-secondary education for a period of one to five years, such that the cumulative transition rate of BC high school graduates of 2001/02 to BC public post-secondary education has reached 74.1% within six years of high school graduation (see **Figure 1**).

This year, for the first time, BC public post-secondary enrollments in graduate studies programs are also included. As a result, STP is able to reveal that 54 students, who obtained their undergraduate education out-of-province or at a BC private institution, have now returned to the BC public post-secondary education system five or more years later to enroll in graduate studies.

Figure 1: B.C. Secondary School to Post-Secondary School Transition Matrix¹

High School Grad Year		Year of First Entry Into BC Public Post-Secondary Education						No BC Public Post-Sec Yet	Total HS Grads	Cumulative Transition Rate (by 2007/2008)
		2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008			
2001/2002	# HS Grads	21,747	4,931	2,069	1,207	888	662	11,030	42,534	Six Years
	% of Grads	51.1%	11.6%	4.9%	2.8%	2.1%	1.6%	25.9%	100.0%	74.1%
2002/2003	# HS Grads		22,400	4,830	2,098	1,193	919	12,042	43,482	Five Years
	% of Grads		51.5%	11.1%	4.8%	2.7%	2.1%	27.7%	100.0%	72.3%
2003/2004	# HS Grads			20,952	4,528	1,919	1,183	13,245	41,827	Four Years
	% of Grads			50.1%	10.8%	4.6%	2.8%	31.7%	100.0%	68.3%
2004/2005	# HS Grads				21,791	4,694	2,057	14,651	43,193	Three Years
	% of Grads				50.5%	10.9%	4.8%	33.9%	100.0%	66.1%
2005/2006	# HS Grads					22,714	4,816	16,912	44,442	Two Years
	% of Grads					51.1%	10.8%	38.1%	100.0%	61.9%
2006/2007	# HS Grads						22,191	20,716	42,907	One Year
	% of Grads						51.7%	48.3%	100.0%	51.7%

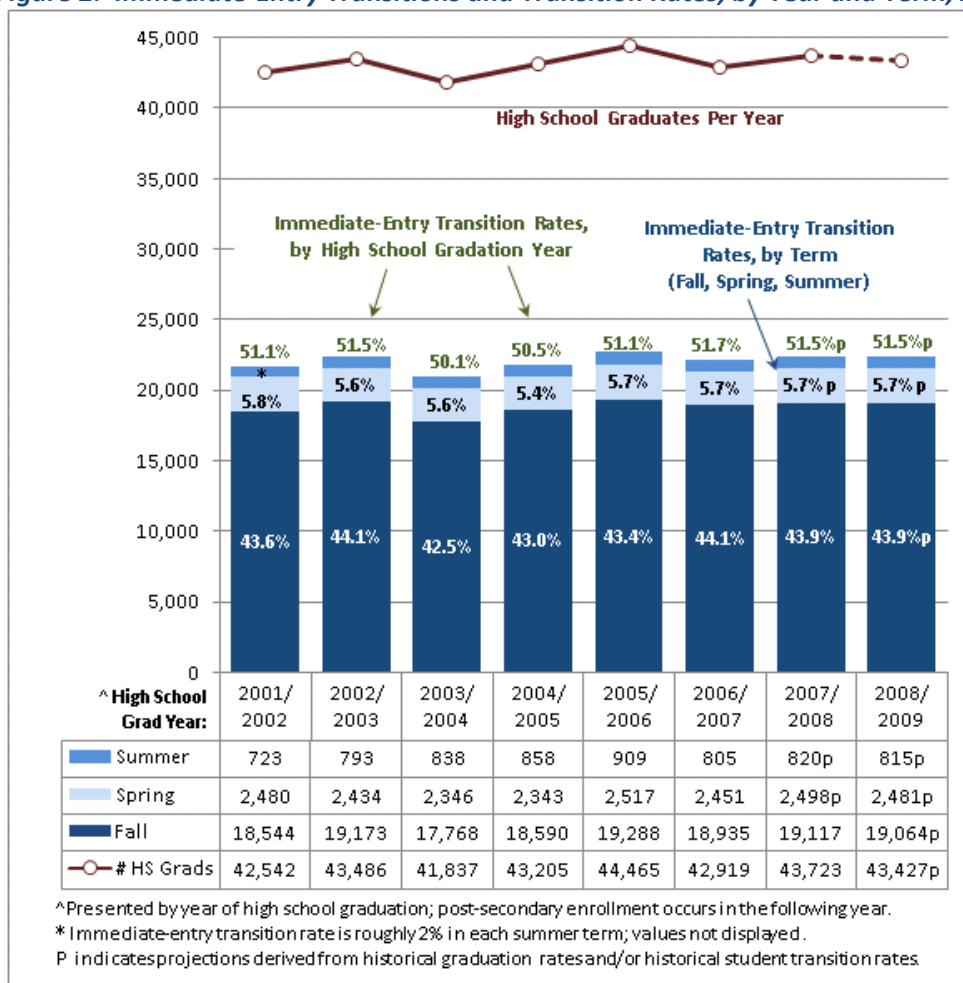
¹ This matrix shows the year of high school graduation and year of *first* post-secondary enrollment in the BC public post-secondary education system. First transitions are typically at the undergraduate level, although 54 students enrolled for the first time in BC public post-secondary education at the graduate-level (after likely completing their undergraduate education outside of BC), including 29 from the 2001/02 graduation class and 22 from the 2002/03 graduation class, 3 from later graduation cohorts). Second and subsequent enrollments at the undergraduate and graduate level will be covered in a forthcoming STP newsletter.

STP Releases New Fall Snapshot of Student Transition Rates

Traditionally, STP has been restricted to reporting student transitions on an annual academic year basis, thus deferring any reporting of the most recent Fall transitions until the following academic year. In response to a request from STP stakeholders, STP began collecting term-based enrollments for the first time this year and is now able to report student transitions by academic year and by term (Fall, Spring and Summer), up to and including the most recent Fall term, Fall of 2008. Among the high school graduates of 2001/02 to 2006/07 who enrolled immediately in BC public

post-secondary education, 44% consistently enrolled in the Fall term (roughly 19,000 students per year). The balance of the immediate-entry enrollees, at 6% and 2% respectively, did not enroll until the Spring term (January to April) or Summer term (May to August). See **Figure 2**. If students delayed their enrolment in post-secondary education by more than one year, then they became more likely to first enroll in a Spring or Summer term, rather than a Fall term.

Figure 2: Immediate-Entry Transitions and Transition Rates, by Year and Term, Actual and Projections



Student Transitions Project (STP): The STP is managed by a steering committee with representation from the two ministries, public institutions and B.C. Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT). Three subcommittees are established to address key areas of research: mobility of transfer students, data management and applicant research. The ministries and institutions are equal partners in this undertaking.

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Special Thanks: STP would like to thank the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development and the B.C. public post-secondary institutions for collaborating in this research effort. Without their co-operation and data contributions, this research could not have been accomplished.

Where to find more information: STP Highlights newsletters and reports are available on the public Student Transitions Project web site at: http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student_transitions

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Post-Secondary Program Destinations of Immediate-Entry Students

For the first time this year, the Student Transitions Project has collected program information using the Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) code for each of the post-secondary enrollment records provided to STP. Consistent use of these standard CIP codes across all BC public post-secondary institutions will allow STP to report the program destinations of post-secondary registrants more accurately. In previous years, a blend of CIP codes and Faculty information were used in an attempt to report system-wide program destinations. While this year’s approach is an improvement over the past, STP also acknowledges that a more consistent assignment of CIP codes to similar programs across institutions will result in more accurate information. STP will strive for improvement in this area over the next few years.

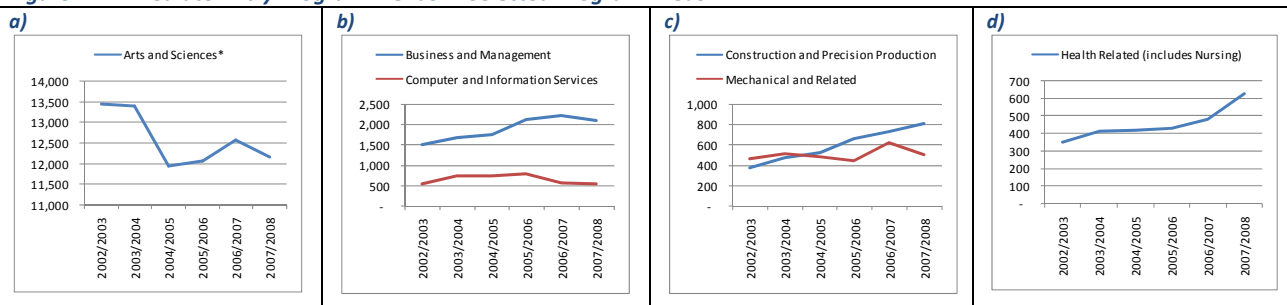
destinations of all immediate-entry students who graduated from high school between 2001/02 and 2006/07 and enrolled in BC public post-secondary education between 2002/03 and 2007/08. Over this time period, B.C.’s research universities experienced enrollment *increases* in Arts and Sciences, while colleges, institutes and university-colleges experienced enrollment *decreases*, such that overall immediate-entry enrollments in Arts and Sciences programs in B.C. have declined by nearly 1,700 students (or 14%) over the last five years. Most of this drop has been offset by a total increase of 1,500 enrollments in just four program areas: 605 in Business/Management (+40%), 426 in Construction/Precision Production (+113%), 195 in Recreation, Tourism and Hospitality (+33%), and 276 in Health/Nursing (+79%). See **Figure 4**.

Figure 3 summarizes the post-secondary program

Figure 3: Program Destinations of Immediate-Entry Students, by Post-Secondary Enrollment Year

Program	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008
Arts and Sciences	12,173	11,865	10,359	10,295	10,689	10,492
Business and Management	1,506	1,678	1,744	2,117	2,225	2,111
Unknown/Unclassified	1,280	1,535	1,586	1,769	1,883	1,682
Developmental Education	1,397	1,425	1,504	1,555	1,460	1,358
Visual, Performing and Fine Arts	611	639	646	719	821	760
Computer and Information Services	560	749	742	799	593	558
Recreation, Tourism, Hospitality and Service	590	580	618	718	693	785
Education and Library Science	614	659	552	530	661	612
Legal and Social	503	613	595	617	654	592
Construction and Precision Production	378	475	521	657	722	804
Engineering, Electrical and Electronics	610	604	500	515	480	509
Mechanical and Related	465	518	488	445	621	504
Health Related (includes Nursing)	351	411	420	432	483	627
Continuing Education/Contract Training	389	283	316	280	357	424
Agriculture, Natural Resources and Science	212	243	206	183	220	189
Communications	70	69	91	109	116	135
Transportation	38	54	64	51	36	49
Grand Total Immediate-Entry Enrollees	21,747	22,400	20,952	21,791	22,714	22,191

Figure 4: Immediate-Entry Program Trends in Selected Program Areas



*Arts and Sciences trend line includes unknown/undeclared students, primarily at UVic.

Student Transition Rates by Demographic Characteristics

While the stability of provincial student transition rates is evident for the province overall, STP continues to report that student transition rates vary across regions in the province and across student demographic characteristics (see Figure 5).

Figure 5: Transition Rates of 2001/02 to 2006/07 BC High School Graduates, by Demographic Characteristics in Secondary School

Demographic Characteristic While in Secondary School	Immed Entry Transition Rate						5-Yr Transition Rate		2006/07 Grads to		2006/07 Grads Distrib.	
	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2001/02	2002/03	Rsch. Univ ^	0th PSI	Count	% of Total
Gender:												
* Female	53.9%	54.0%	52.6%	51.4%	55.3%	53.9%	73.9%	73.5%	21.8%	32.1%	21,767	50.7%
Male	48.2%	48.9%	47.6%	46.6%	50.5%	49.5%	71.0%	71.1%	19.4%	30.1%	21,140	49.3%
Age at Graduation:												
* 16 and Younger	63.2%	68.3%	62.2%	57.9%	57.4%	59.2%	81.0%	83.9%	35.3%	23.9%	184	0.4%
17	53.6%	54.0%	53.3%	53.3%	53.7%	54.6%	75.3%	74.7%	22.2%	32.4%	18,593	43.3%
18	50.4%	50.6%	49.1%	49.9%	50.6%	50.5%	72.0%	71.8%	20.2%	30.3%	21,797	50.8%
19	40.4%	40.5%	37.0%	35.6%	37.2%	40.1%	59.8%	59.4%	11.2%	28.9%	1,818	4.2%
20	42.3%	46.2%	42.2%	46.1%	42.0%	42.8%	57.2%	61.9%	12.2%	30.6%	271	0.6%
21 and Older	41.8%	40.4%	32.7%	36.0%	35.0%	32.4%	60.1%	59.9%	4.1%	28.3%	244	0.6%
Overall Aboriginal Status:												
Overall Aboriginal (as per HS or PS data)	39.2%	37.4%	40.0%	36.6%	37.2%	40.2%	66.4%	63.3%	6.3%	33.9%	2,552	5.9%
* Non-Aboriginal	51.8%	52.3%	50.7%	49.8%	53.9%	52.4%	72.8%	72.8%	21.5%	30.9%	40,355	94.1%
English as a Second Language (ESL) Programs:												
* Receiving ESL Programs in Grad Year	65.3%	60.7%	60.4%	53.8%	64.0%	57.9%	80.2%	77.5%	26.9%	31.0%	681	1.6%
Did not receive ESL programs in Grad Year	50.8%	51.3%	49.9%	48.9%	52.8%	51.6%	72.3%	72.2%	20.5%	31.1%	42,226	98.4%
Non-Resident Status in Graduation Year:												
* Resident	51.4%	51.9%	50.5%	49.4%	53.3%	52.2%	73.0%	73.0%	20.7%	31.5%	41,804	97.4%
Non-Resident	38.5%	36.6%	35.0%	36.8%	39.2%	35.1%	47.9%	45.2%	18.1%	17.0%	1,103	2.6%
Primary Language Spoken at Home:												
English	47.2%	47.3%	46.1%	45.8%	48.6%	47.5%	70.7%	70.4%	15.7%	31.8%	34,174	79.6%
French	45.8%	48.1%	49.6%	42.4%	61.7%	57.1%	61.9%	64.4%	22.6%	34.6%	133	0.3%
* Chinese	79.2%	81.6%	78.5%	80.8%	90.5%	77.1%	86.5%	88.5%	56.5%	20.6%	2,134	5.0%
Mandarin	61.5%	67.6%	59.2%	43.6%	47.9%	63.1%	74.0%	75.0%	49.6%	13.4%	937	2.2%
Cantonese	74.0%	71.3%	73.5%	47.8%	77.3%	80.5%	84.7%	79.8%	57.2%	23.3%	661	1.5%
Punjabi	79.0%	81.0%	78.9%	71.2%	80.0%	82.2%	88.7%	88.3%	25.9%	56.3%	1,095	2.6%
Korean	52.9%	50.5%	43.5%	37.7%	45.9%	45.8%	66.1%	64.7%	33.0%	12.8%	1,039	2.4%
Other Languages (not listed above)	61.2%	62.6%	61.7%	59.4%	65.3%	63.7%	76.9%	76.2%	27.6%	36.1%	2,734	6.4%
Non-English	70.4%	71.4%	67.5%	61.6%	70.0%	68.3%	81.5%	81.4%	39.6%	28.6%	8,733	20.4%
Secondary School Type:												
* BC Public School	51.5%	51.7%	50.2%	49.4%	53.4%	52.3%	73.0%	72.6%	20.3%	32.0%	38,930	90.7%
BC Independent School	46.8%	50.0%	49.2%	45.1%	48.1%	46.1%	66.7%	68.6%	23.8%	22.4%	3,977	9.3%
College Region of Secondary School												
Camosun	43.1%	43.9%	44.3%	43.1%	46.6%	44.5%	70.6%	70.0%	19.1%	25.5%	2,997	7.0%
Capilano	55.2%	54.5%	50.9%	52.0%	51.4%	51.0%	76.5%	75.5%	25.5%	25.5%	2,795	6.5%
Douglas	59.2%	61.1%	58.0%	56.2%	60.0%	59.8%	77.9%	78.7%	29.8%	30.0%	6,026	14.0%
Fraser Valley	44.2%	42.5%	41.6%	42.0%	44.2%	41.4%	64.6%	63.5%	6.9%	34.5%	2,848	6.6%
Kwantlen	55.8%	55.6%	54.8%	52.6%	59.6%	57.4%	75.7%	74.7%	25.3%	32.1%	9,078	21.2%
Malaspina	43.6%	45.4%	44.8%	44.8%	44.6%	43.9%	69.5%	69.1%	11.4%	32.5%	2,484	5.8%
New Caledonia	47.5%	45.1%	46.8%	51.3%	43.4%	49.0%	69.3%	69.0%	14.2%	34.9%	1,519	3.5%
North Island	46.4%	43.1%	43.8%	41.8%	44.2%	46.0%	71.4%	70.8%	9.0%	37.0%	1,466	3.4%
Northern Lights	36.7%	43.6%	37.5%	35.3%	37.3%	32.2%	64.7%	67.0%	2.5%	29.7%	630	1.5%
Northwest	47.3%	49.3%	47.1%	53.6%	55.8%	50.1%	72.4%	74.6%	8.8%	41.4%	800	1.9%
Okanagan	35.9%	36.8%	35.5%	32.2%	40.5%	42.0%	58.0%	59.2%	14.5%	27.5%	3,869	9.0%
Rockies	33.2%	31.1%	33.8%	38.1%	35.2%	34.2%	60.0%	57.2%	3.0%	31.2%	856	2.0%
Selkirk	48.1%	47.9%	46.6%	47.3%	49.1%	50.5%	71.8%	74.8%	6.5%	44.0%	754	1.8%
Thompson Rivers	48.2%	47.3%	46.7%	45.1%	44.0%	45.6%	70.1%	66.6%	5.7%	39.9%	1,717	4.0%
* Vancouver/Langara	66.8%	68.6%	64.3%	60.6%	69.2%	63.9%	83.0%	83.7%	35.8%	28.1%	5,068	11.8%
Secondary School Academic GPA:												
No GPA	36.4%	35.5%	34.9%	34.5%	38.6%	37.0%	62.8%	61.4%	1.9%	35.1%	22,276	51.9%
50.0% - 54.9%	48.9%	26.1%	40.9%	57.9%	18.2%	43.2%	74.5%	56.5%	0.0%	43.2%	44	0.1%
55.0% - 59.9%	51.8%	55.2%	53.3%	58.0%	46.9%	51.8%	75.3%	79.1%	0.3%	51.5%	367	0.9%
60.0% - 64.9%	58.3%	58.3%	59.8%	59.5%	54.2%	54.2%	81.7%	80.3%	2.0%	52.3%	1,106	2.6%
65.0% - 69.9%	60.2%	60.8%	62.6%	63.1%	58.2%	60.9%	82.3%	82.6%	9.7%	51.2%	2,110	4.9%
70.0% - 74.9%	63.2%	63.3%	64.6%	61.9%	65.1%	67.0%	82.5%	83.4%	25.7%	41.3%	2,969	6.9%
Not University Eligible	60.7%	61.0%	62.4%	61.7%	59.7%	61.9%	81.9%	82.3%	15.0%	46.9%	6,596	15.4%
75.0% - 79.9%	68.4%	67.9%	67.3%	65.2%	68.8%	71.0%	85.2%	84.3%	41.4%	29.6%	3,756	8.8%
* 80.0% - 84.9%	72.6%	74.1%	71.5%	67.3%	73.3%	72.1%	85.5%	87.7%	52.7%	19.3%	4,090	9.5%
85.0% - 89.9%	74.1%	75.5%	71.6%	68.1%	76.2%	70.1%	84.8%	85.7%	58.8%	11.3%	3,645	8.5%
90.0% - 94.9%	74.6%	75.1%	73.3%	69.0%	72.1%	67.8%	82.9%	82.7%	62.3%	5.5%	2,158	5.0%
95.0% - 100.0%	69.8%	71.7%	70.3%	67.4%	66.1%	64.0%	76.9%	78.2%	58.8%	5.2%	386	0.9%
University Eligible	72.0%	72.9%	70.7%	67.2%	72.5%	70.4%	84.7%	85.3%	52.9%	17.5%	14,035	32.7%
Special Needs:												
* Gifted	67.0%	71.5%	69.1%	80.3%	78.3%	71.2%	82.5%	85.4%	52.3%	18.9%	1,713	4.0%
Other Special Needs	33.0%	32.5%	33.2%	29.2%	33.2%	35.8%	56.4%	56.2%	4.0%	31.8%	2,005	4.7%
No Special Needs	50.9%	51.1%	49.8%	48.5%	52.8%	51.7%	72.5%	72.1%	20.1%	31.6%	39,189	91.3%
Grand Total for All BC12 Graduates	51.1%	51.5%	50.1%	49.0%	52.9%	51.7%	72.5%	72.3%	20.6%	31.1%	42,907	100.0%

* Relative to other demographic groups in each set, the group with the highest 5-year transition rate after 2002/03 high school graduation is identified with *.

^ Transition rate to "Rsch. Univ" is the proportion of high school graduates of 2006/07 who enrolled immediately in a BC research university (SFU, UBC, UBCO, UNBC, UVic).