

Questions submitted by Senator Christie

Response by Registrar, John Metcalfe

In relation to the participation of Queen's University in the ONCAT (Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer) programs please provide Senate with the following statistics and information:

i. Total number of students participating in this program during the 2012-2013 academic year and the 2013-2014 academic year.

Universities and colleges cannot track students according to whether they have used the services or programs developed for or by ONCAT. A student's use of ONCAT-related pathways or services is not identified during the admissions process.

ii. General overview of the program, how it works, admission requirements, duration, programs/disciplines at Queen's which participating students can access, how the program is being evaluated etc.

ONCAT is not a program in the academic sense. It is an organization that supports various projects aimed at creating and expanding credit transfer between institutions, researching the student transfer experience, developing credit transfer data collection and management systems, promoting best practices among members, and publicizing transfer opportunities. When deciding whether or where they will apply for admission, students may utilize resources or programs developed with the support of ONCAT. This use is neither required for, nor apparent in, applications for admission.

For example, ONCAT provides funding for the improvement of university and college data systems with respect to serving transfer students. It supports the creation of articulation agreements and new joint programs between various post-secondary institutions. It funds the negotiation between institutions of block transfers for college graduates who wish to continue on to high-affinity university degree programs. It also sponsors an annual conference on transfer-related matters. In 2014 the Student Pathways in Higher Education Conference had as its theme, Enhancing Engagement, Access and Opportunities.

ONCAT also maintains the ONTransfer.ca web site. This site gives access to a database that will allow students to investigate whether courses at one institution are accepted for transfer credit by another institution. It will also set out the details of articulation agreements between institutions, so that students can research how they may move through multiple institutions toward various credentials. Again, there is no reference to ONTansfer.ca within applications for admission subsequently made to any institution.

iii. Distribution by program in which ONCAT students take classes.

Not applicable, as above.

iv. Grade distribution of students in the ONCAT program by program and by year.

Not applicable, as above.