BC STUDENT OUTCOMES
An introduction to B.C.’s post-secondary student surveys
The BC Student Outcomes surveys provide feedback and information that help maintain a high-quality, relevant education system.
Each year thousands of students complete programs of study at British Columbia’s post-secondary institutions.

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2019
Baccalaureate graduates: 10,035 respondents | 22,900 cohort
Diploma, Associate Degree, & Certificate students: 12,896 | 23,618
Apprenticeship students: 2,637 | 4,969
Trades Foundation & Trades-Related Vocational students: 2,745 | 5,497
Four student groups are surveyed annually. Former students from
• Baccalaureate programs
• Diploma, Associate Degree, & Certificate programs
• Trades Foundation & Trades-Related Vocational programs
• Apprenticeship programs
In the surveys, former students were asked about:

• **Themselves**—where they’re living, their country of origin, Aboriginal identity, and citizenship status. Age and gender come from admin data.

• **Their education**—this includes questions about satisfaction with education, program ratings, and assessments of their skill development.

• **Further education they have taken**—whether it was related to their program and how well the program prepared them for further studies. DAC respondents are asked about their transfer experiences. (Further education questions were not asked of APP or Trades Foundation respondents.)

• **Their employment outcomes**—including their participation in the labour force, employment/unemployment status, occupation, and wage.

• **How they financed their education**—including sources of funding and, if they took out loans, how much they borrowed. (Funding questions were not asked of APP respondents.)
So, how does it all fit together?

Well, there are a number of stakeholders:

- the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training (AEST)
- the BC Student Outcomes Research Forum (the oversight committee)
  - Includes representatives from AEST and all the public post-secondary institutions.

- Other key stakeholders include:
  - Industry Training Authority (ITA)
  - BC Council on Admissions and Transfer
  - BC Registrars’ Association
  - The Council of Senior Student Affairs Leaders

- BC Stats is the program manager, responsible for day-to-day operations, and the data custodian.
- BC Stats has Information Sharing Agreements with AEST, ITA, and the 25 public post-secondary institutions in B.C.
Contributions

• Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training
• Post-secondary institutions
• Industry Training Authority
• BC Council on Admissions and Transfer

Partnerships/Collaborations

• Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training
  • Provides approximately $1.14 million for Student Outcomes surveys
  • Co-Chairs the BC Student Outcomes Research Forum
  • Serves on teams
  • Supports infrastructure and databases

• Post-secondary institutions
  • Contribute over $110K for the BC Student Outcomes Surveys
  • Co-Chair the BC Student Outcomes Research Forum
  • Serve on teams to ensure project relevance

• Industry Training Authority
  • Provides $26,000 for the Apprenticeship Student Outcomes Survey
  • Serves on the BC Student Outcomes Research Forum
  • Serves on the Survey and Technical Teams, with a focus on the Apprenticeship Student Outcomes Survey

• BC Council on Admissions & Transfer
  • Serves on the BC Student Outcomes Research Forum
  • Provides potential students with results through Education Planner
How does government use the results?

- Accountability Framework
- Ministry Service Plan
- Policy development
- Labour supply model
- System-level reporting

- The public post-secondary Accountability Framework has 16 performance measures, 6 of these measures use Student Outcomes data.
- The Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training’s Service Plan uses Student Outcomes data for 1 of 5 of its performance measures.
- Student Outcomes provides key data to the modeling of the future B.C. labour market supply.
How do institutions use the results?

- Assessment & improvement
- Program review
- Faculty development
- Program selection
- Career planning
- Student advising
- Marketing programs

- For some institutions, Student Outcomes is the only source of data for program review
- All the institutions use Student Outcomes data for performance measures required by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training
- Program advisors and career counsellors—K–12 as well as post-secondary—use Student Outcomes information, often from the Data Viewer, to advise students
How can the public use the results?

- To learn what past students thought about their program
- To figure out what program to choose
- To plan their career
- To get first-hand opinions
- To see the employment outcomes of previous students

The public, students and potential students use the Student Outcomes results:
- To learn what past students thought about their program
- To figure out what program to choose
- To plan their career
- To get first-hand opinions
- To see the employment outcomes of previous students
Outcomes Components and Uses

Accountability Framework:
- Student Satisfaction with Education
- Student Assessment of the Quality of Instruction
- Student Assessment of Skill Development
- Student Assessment of the Usefulness of Knowledge and Skills in Performing Job
- Unemployment Rate
- Loan Repayment as a Percent of Income

Policy Development
- High Demand Occupations
- Immigration Policy
- Labour Force Mobility
- Labour Force Supply

Reporting
- Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training Service Plan and Report
- Financial Aid Designation Framework
- BC Stats reporting, including the highlights
- ITA reporting
Numerous Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training reports
Federal immigration accountability

Students & Potential Students
Program selection: Student Outcomes Website, Student Outcomes Data Viewer, Education Planner, institutions’ websites
A brief introduction to each survey:

Baccalaureate Graduates Survey (BGS)

- Began in 1995 (with what are now called research universities).
- Since 2005, the survey has expanded to include baccalaureate graduates from up to 21 public degree-granting institutions, including universities, colleges, and institutes.
- Surveyed 2 and 5 years after graduation
  - The 2-year out survey is an annual one
  - The 5-year out is conducted on an ad hoc basis and is web only

- The 2-year out survey is in the field from September to January
- Data files are ready for distribution to stakeholders starting in March
Diploma, Associate Degree, & Certificate Students

Former students who completed most or all of their program

Students surveyed within 2 years of leaving their institution

12,000+ respondents

Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes Survey:

• Began in 1988 with colleges and institutes, later included university colleges.
• Now includes former students from teaching-intensive universities.
• Former students are surveyed 9 to 20 months after leaving institution.
• Over the years a wealth of data have been collected on issues of interest to the post-secondary education sector.

• The data are collected from January through July each year.
• By October, data files are ready to go to stakeholders.
Apprenticeship Student Outcomes Survey:

- Began in 2005 as a pilot project with 13 public and 9 private institutions. Has been annual since.
- Includes former students who either completed their final in-school training for a traditional apprenticeship or for a qualifying level of a progressive credential trades program at a participating public or private institution in B.C.
- Former students are surveyed 8 to 18 months after completing in-school training.
- Continues to include both public and private training providers (14 public and approximately 31 private).
- The survey is conducted from January to June each year.
- The data are ready for distribution to stakeholders in August.
Trades Foundation & Trades-Related Vocational Students

Trades Foundation programs are designed to help students prepare for entry to a particular trade and usually link to apprenticeship.

Trades-Related Vocational programs are trades programs that are not overseen by the ITA.

Trades Foundation and Trades-Related Vocational Student Outcomes Survey:

- Was part of the DAC survey.
- Reported separately as of 2018.
- Former students are surveyed 9 to 20 months after leaving institution.
- Over the years a wealth of data have been collected on issues of interest to the post-secondary education sector.

- The data are collected from January through June each year.
- By August, data files are ready to go to stakeholders.
You can find results from the BC Student Outcomes surveys in the BC Student Outcomes Data Viewer, which was first released May 2020.

This interface provides an at-a-glance graphical overview of results from the BC Student Outcomes surveys. You can view information by student group, by institution, by program area, and by program. It includes results from the research intensive universities.

www.outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca
Questions?
outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca