

Engineering Common Curriculum Project Update

Update: Fall 2020

Project Overview

In Spring 2019, BCcampus was asked by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training to assist with a project concerning B.C. institutions delivering engineering programs who want to move to a common first-year curriculum. The project was initiated by the Engineering Articulation Committee and led by Brian Dick of Vancouver Island University. The work conducted to determine the feasibility of a common first-year curriculum was initially funded through a grant from the B.C. Council on Admissions and Transfer.

Project Objectives

- Improve access to and opportunity for success in engineering education for B.C.'s diverse post-secondary learners
- Create opportunities for regional community engagement and partnerships within the engineering sector, encouraging graduates to return to employment in smaller, non-urban communities
- Enhance the student learning environment and improve retention and achievement in engineering across the province through maximizing use of student supports, class size, and regional diversity
- Enhance quality reporting for accreditation processes
- Improve overall efficiencies within the post-secondary system

Next Steps

It is expected that the OER reviews will identify improvements that can be funded through this project.

Follow up with the articulation committee members to determine the best way to use funds allocated for events that cannot be held due to COVID-19.

Completed Tasks

Nov 2019: Five course shells created and shared on BCCAT Moodle site.

Eleven funding agreements were created to assist help the following institutions move to the common curriculum:

- Capilano University
- Coast Mountain College
- College of New Caledonia
- College of the Rockies
- Langara College
- North Island College
- Northern Lights College
- Selkirk College
- Thompson Rivers University
- Vancouver Community College
- Vancouver Island University

These institutions are at various stages of implementation, with the expectation that all will be aligned by the 2021/22 academic year (impact of COVID-19 not yet determined).

April 2020: Presented project update at the virtual articulation committee meeting.

July 2020: Completed gap analysis of open resources for first-year engineering.

Sept 2020: Agreement to fund open textbook for first-year physics in conjunction with STEM project.

Sept 2020: Put out a call for faculty to review existing open educational resources (OER) for first-year engineering.