

Credit Transfer in Ontario: A Work in Progress

Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities
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- The purpose of this presentation is to:
 - Identify key factors behind the changing reality of postsecondary education in Ontario.
 - Provide an overview of Ontario's credit transfer initiative.
 - Outline progress milestones to date and next steps.

- Increasing labour-market demand for higher levels of education.
- Growing expectations on the part of employers on the work-readiness of PSE graduates.
- Increasing internationalization of post-secondary education.
- Evolving student demographics, including a pattern of learners returning to PSE for further study/credentials.
- Growing influence of technology and its impact on instruction.
- Promoting access while maintaining or increasing quality and ensuring financial sustainability.

- In June 2012, the Ministry released a discussion paper entitled “Strengthening Ontario’s Centres of Creativity, Innovation, and Knowledge” which outlined key elements of transforming Ontario’s PSE sector including:
 - Credit Transfer and Student Mobility
 - Entrepreneurial and Experiential learning
 - Teaching quality and learning outcomes
 - Technology enabled learning
 - Expanded credential options

- In Summer 2012, the Ministry also launched the Strategic Mandate Agreement process:
 - Majority of institutions identified the need to achieve greater collaboration, most notably through more credit transfer arrangements.

 - Institutions highlighted articulation agreements with other institutions within the university or college sector, across the two sectors, and/or with out-of-province providers using digital and online delivery methods.

- There is consensus that improved credit transfer for greater student mobility is necessary and a fundamental element of an evolving postsecondary education system in Ontario.

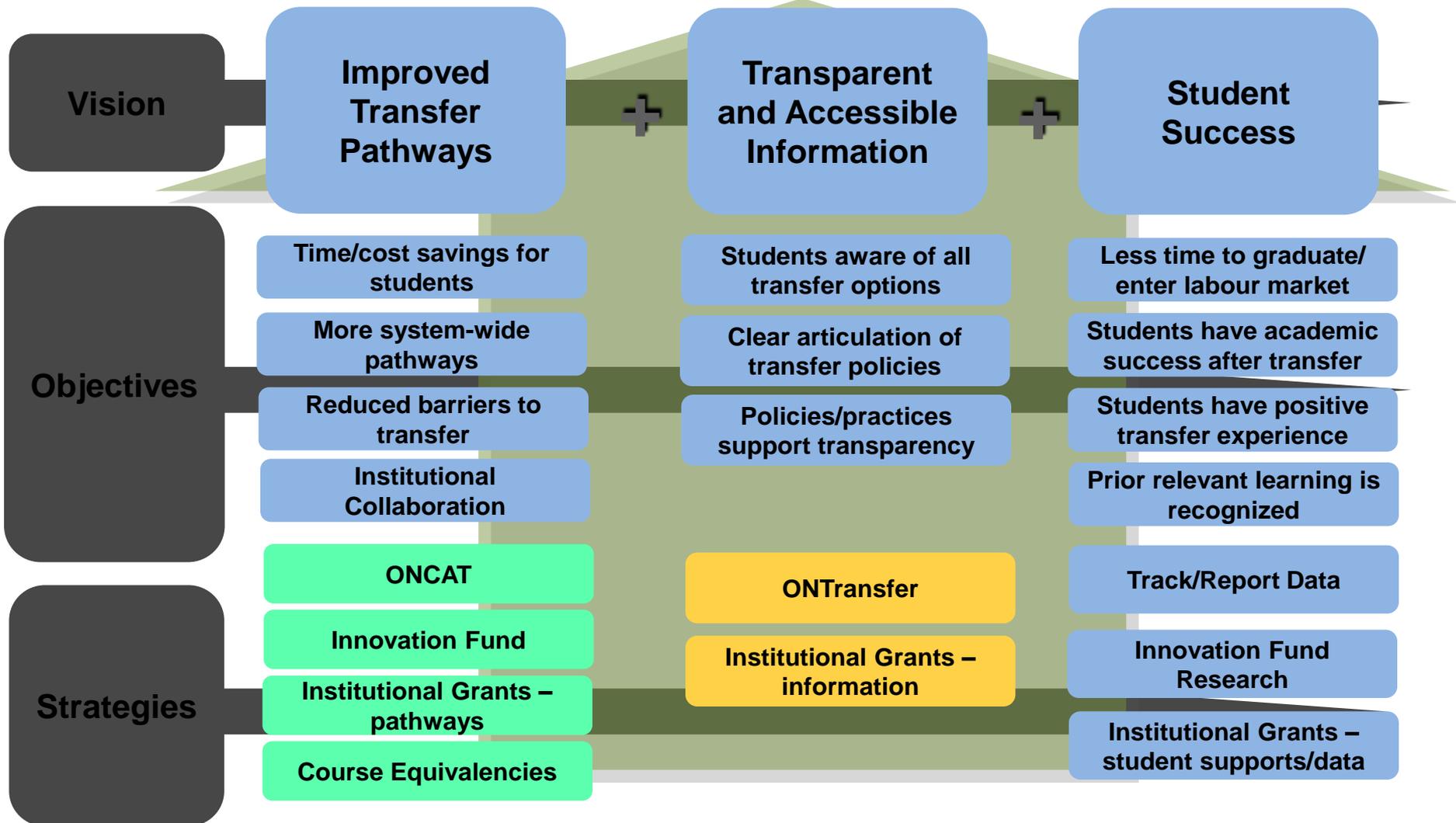
- Primary Rationale:
 - Students should not have to repeat courses already successfully completed when transferring, and should not have to incur unnecessary cost.
 - Students should have access to well-defined pathways and receive accurate information about credit recognition and transfer opportunities.
 - The silos in Ontario's traditional binary PSE system need to give way to more structured and predictable patterns of collaboration.

- In 2011, the Government launched a province-wide credit transfer initiative, supported by an investment of almost \$74M over five years. Its key components include:
 - A policy framework to provide strategic direction and goals for credit transfer in the province.

 - The establishment of the new Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer responsible for the central coordination of transfer activities:
 - A new credit transfer website to provide transparent information on transfer opportunities for students.
 - A new Credit Transfer Innovation Fund to develop and expand credit transfer pathways in demand areas.

 - Enhanced supports for students such as transfer advisors and orientation programs funded through institutional grants.

Comprehensive and consistently applied approach to credit transfer approach facilitates student mobility, by assisting students to move between publicly funded postsecondary institutions without repeating prior, relevant learning.



What is currently underway?

- Developing multiple multilateral pathways to enable college student to access degrees in colleges and universities.
- Defining pathways to enable college students to move between institutions in the same program without loss of credit and to enable college graduates and apprentices to gain credit for equivalent learning.
- Developing strategies for students to identify transferable courses in advance from College to College, College to University, University to University to facilitate planning.
- Engaging in research to learn more about student success after transfer and student experiences of transfer.
- Finalizing the Credit Transfer Accountability Framework to track and report on progress.

Where we go Next...

- ONCAT to continue to deliver on implementation priorities
- The Ministry to work with the sector on the implementation of the Credit Transfer Accountability Framework
- Strategic Mandate Agreement process to be potentially used as a conduit for more credit transfer opportunities, such as:
 - More partnerships for degree completion
 - More opportunities to provide students with two credentials (a degree plus a diploma or certificate)
 - More pathways for students in selected areas of programming.

How can we best leverage the strengths of both our postsecondary sectors and our existing resources such that student mobility is as seamless as possible?