



# Helping Learners Find Their Way

HEQCO ReimaginEd!  
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# About ONCAT

ONCAT is an independent, not-for-profit organization, governed according to the ONCAT General Bylaws.

ONCAT is funded by the Government of Ontario.

Oversight is provided by the Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security and the ONCAT Board, which includes representatives from publicly assisted colleges, universities, Indigenous Institutes and partner organizations.

# ONCAT Vision and Mandate

## **Mandate**

ONCAT drives innovation to help postsecondary learners get where they want to go, no matter where they begin. We do this as a vital partner and convener of the postsecondary education and training sectors, maximizing opportunities for institutional collaboration to create academic pathways, facilitating recognition of prior learning and supporting learners transitions and entry into the labour market.

## **Vision**

A postsecondary education and training system that empowers learners to build upon their previous education and work experience to achieve their personal, educational and professional goals.



# ONCAT's core activities

- **operating ONTransfer.ca**, a guide that helps learners explore their transfer and pathway options
- **supporting projects** to develop innovative practices that can be replicated across institutions
- **engaging with learners** to raise awareness about learner mobility and improve their understanding of transfer and pathway opportunities
- **driving system efficiencies** through the development and adoption of shared tools and evidence-based practices



# Measuring Learner Mobility

**5%** of postsecondary students in Ontario were marked with a Credit Transfer Flag in 2023–24

**12%** of postsecondary students in Ontario graduated from an institution that is different than their first one (2009–16 cohorts)

**14%** of incoming (2024) postsecondary students in Ontario planned to apply for transfer credits

**48%** of incoming (2024) postsecondary students in Ontario had previous postsecondary experience

**32%** of domestic applicants had previous postsecondary experience.



## 2024–25 stats (change from 2023–24)

**200,000+** users (+11%)

**1.7+ million** searches (+70%)

**269,000+** equivalencies (+8%)

**31,000+** unique pathways (+24%)



Developed with the BC Council on Admissions & Transfer, Ontario Transfer Credit System (ONTCS) is an all-in-one platform for transfer credit management.

- free for ONCAT member institutions, eliminating licensing or subscription costs
- replaces manual processes (spreadsheets, emails) or custom-made systems that are expensive to maintain or inconsistent across sector



Developed in partnership with Lakehead University, PathwAI uses AI to compare learning outcomes across programs at different institutions, streamlining course and program assessments.

### Benefits

- streamlines program curriculum assessment
- analyzes skills and learning outcomes
- promotes consistent and transparent credit evaluation
- supports mobile learners across the entire province of Ontario
- available free of charge to Ontario's postsecondary institutions



# ONCAT-funded projects — learner mobility

## **Building Partnerships to Support Learner Mobility**

Establishes a structured system to support learners transferring from Indigenous Institutes to universities, creating more opportunities for learner mobility.

## **Bridging Programs to Bolster Student Success**

Develops a bridging program — specifically for transfer students — that supports both academic success and social integration.

## **Engineering Pathways for Military-Connected Learners**

Recognizes the skills and experiences from the Canadian Armed Forces to create specialized pathways for military-connected learners to enrol in accredited Bachelor of Engineering programs.

# ONCAT-funded projects — learner mobility

## **Transfer Pathways to Engineering Programs**

Expands the participation of more institutions to a successful transfer pathway between engineering technology college diplomas and accredited engineering university degrees.

## **Kinesiology-to-Paramedic Transfer Pathway**

Develops a university-to-college transfer pathway that reduces the time and cost for graduates with a kinesiology degree to earn an additional credential as a paramedic.

# ONCAT-funded projects — PLAR

## **PLAR for Early Childhood Education**

Improves the efficiency of PLAR processes for a college ECE program, awarding credit for the professional experiences of learners and accelerating their completion of a credential that will broaden their employment opportunities.

## **Exploring AI-Powered Tools for PLAR**

Evaluates the viability of using AI-powered tools to enhance the efficiency and quality of PLAR assessment activities.

## **Embracing A Two-Eyed Seeing Approach to PLAR**

By creating culturally relevant assessment practices for admission, the project will increase opportunities for Indigenous learners to access postsecondary programs.

# ONCAT Principles of Learner Mobility

## Learners have a right to:

- clear, accurate information about learner mobility via ONTransfer.ca
- avoid repeating learning they've already mastered
- receive credit unless substantial differences exist
- fair, predictable and timely transfer credit decisions
- a clear rationale if transfer credit or prior learning is denied

