

STUDENTS FIRST:
IMPROVING
POSTSECONDARY
MOBILITY IN ONTARIO

ONCAT CONFERENCE | MAY 1ST, 2017

AGENDA

What is OUSA?

The Student Perspective

Moving Forward...

A stylized profile of a human head in light beige, facing right. The head is defined by three wavy, parallel lines in shades of beige and light blue. The background is a solid dark blue.

**WHAT IS
OUSA?**

WHO WE ARE

- Student-governed advocacy & research organization that develops public policy recommendations to improve affordability, accessibility, accountability, and quality of PSE
- Our policies are student driven priorities – students identify the issues, collaborate with researchers, provide feedback, and ratify our principles, concerns, and recommendations



OUR STANCE

Mobility should be a priority for the sector, as it impacts:

- Accessibility
- Affordability
- Student experience





THE STUDENT PERSPECTIV E

WHERE DO STUDENTS TRANSFER TO/FROM?

- 13% of OUSA's students have transferred credits
- Most common types of transfers are from within the province of Ontario and between universities



HOW MANY CREDITS TRANSFERRED?

Credits Transferred	Proportion of Students
None or nearly none	6%
About 20%	20%
About 40%	13%
About 60%	6%
About 80%	8%
All or nearly all	48%

WHY DO STUDENTS TRANSFER?

Reason for Transfer	Proportion of Students
Enter a specific program not offered at previous institution	34%
Upgrade a credential	30%
Be closer to home/family	22%
Be in a specific program that I thought would be better at another institution	21%
Wanted a different campus culture	20%
Other	18%
Live in a different city	17%
Alleviate financial strain	9%
Medical reasons	3%
Pursue particular scholarship	2%

WHICH STUDENTS TRANSFER?

Mature students

Low-income students

First Generation students

Indigenous students

Part-time students

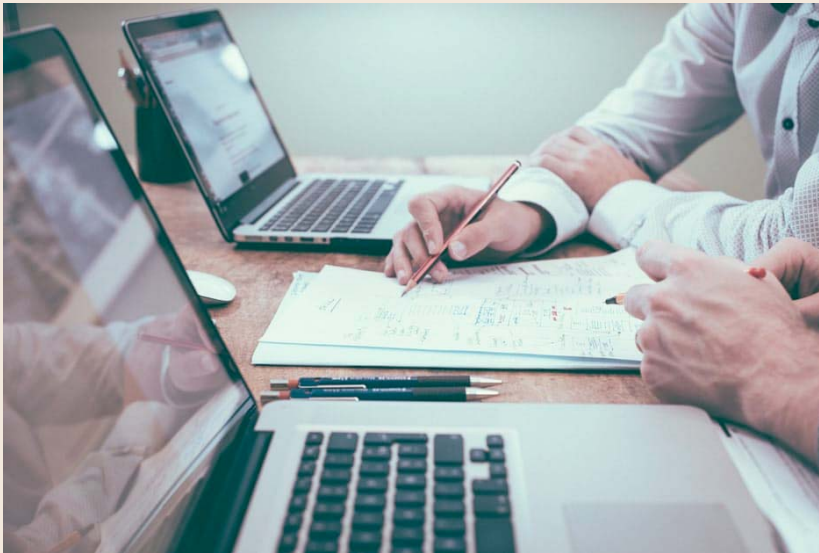
Students with disabilities

Students with dependents



**MOVING
FORWARD...**

TRANSPARENCY



- Rationale for credit transfer decisions
- Early notice of credit transfer decisions
- Formal and accessible appeals processes
- Common terminology

CONSISTENCY

- Universal recognition of first and second year courses
- Elimination of additional grade requirements
- Expansion of low-cost PLAR practices
- Database of course descriptions/syllabi



SUPPORT

- Simplification and removal of fees
- Transfer advisors
- Orientation programming for transfer students
- Financial aid for bridging programs



OUSA'S NEXT STEPS

- Advocate for transferability and mobility within the postsecondary sector
- Promote stable and ongoing funding for organizations championing these issues
- Serve as a platform for the student voice, conducting research into their thoughts and experiences
- Collaborate with sector stakeholders interested in improving student mobility





THANK YOU 

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www.ousa.ca

