

Psychology Articulation Committee

INSTITUTIONAL REPORT

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL ON ADMISSIONS AND TRANSFER (BCCAT)

Capilano University, North Vancouver

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Athabasca University

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1. Institutional Update

- Athabasca University is Canada's open, online university. It is open year-round with continual intake the first of every month [hence, the student's semester commences at their start-date].
- Athabasca University offers more than 900 courses in more than 50 undergraduate and graduate degree, diploma, and certificate programs. University student enrolments remain steady at approximately 40,000/year (over 7,800 full-load equivalents), and over 265,000 students since its founding in 1970.
- Athabasca University maintains over 350 collaborative agreements with other Canadian and international post-secondary institutions, with professional associations and employer groups and with First Nations institutions and communities.
- Athabasca University has a new president Dr. Neil Fassina.

2. Program Update

- We recently experienced 2 psychology faculty retirements. Given my own imminent retirement in approximately 1 1/2 years, this provided an opportunity to review the psychology department's current and future needs. As a result, skill-sets were determined, 2 new psychologists have been hired, and a re-alignment of courses has been completed. This allows us to maintain our current staff of 9 psychology faculty. A further review will be conducted within the next 2 years.
- Our 2 introductory psychology courses ... PSYC 289 (Psychology as a Natural Science) and PSYC 290 (General psychology) ... continue to be high enrolment courses with a combined total enrolment of over 2,000 students/year. Total psychology load [all courses for fiscal year ending Mar 31/17] was 7,779.
- Course revisions and discussion/implementation of new courses are ongoing. Some course closures have also been implemented due to psychology faculty retirements, faculty loads, and student numbers.