

MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION – Effectiveness of Articulated Programs

October 18, 2010

Bachelor programs offered jointly by universities and community colleges in the Maritimes are effective as long as the proper mechanisms are in place to ensure program integration and a smooth transition between institutions, according to a report released today by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission.

Assessment of the Effectiveness and Benefits of Articulated Programs in the Maritimes, reports the result of a survey of twenty programs offered by four universities (St. Thomas University, Université de Moncton, University of New Brunswick, and University of Prince Edward Island) in partnership with community colleges and hospitals.

Articulated programs present unique challenges for students as they transition between different types of institutions. Factors associated with high student persistence and satisfaction were the field of study, program structure, geographic proximity between institutions and inter-institutional coordination.

The findings of this study reinforce the importance of the MPHEC guidelines currently in place for developing and offering new articulated programs:

- Institutions should have in place an inter-institutional coordinating mechanism.
- A program evaluation procedure should be integrated and comprehensive, assessing all components of the program.
- A graduate follow-up process should be in place to assess the linkage to the labour market and suitability of program content.

The report is available for download from the Commission's website: www.mphec.ca.

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission was established in 1974 to assist institutions and governments in enhancing the post-secondary learning environment. The commission's 20 members are drawn from the Maritime provinces, and represent higher education institutions, provincial governments and the general public.

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