Abstract:
The Transfer Peer Mentoring Program & the Engineering Transfer Seminar course in the Swanson School of Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh was established in 2010 to provide transitional support to students who were both new to the field of engineering as well as the University of Pittsburgh’s Oakland campus.

The Engineering Transfer Seminar course serves students transferring from other two and four year schools as well as internal transfer from another Pitt college or regional campus. The seminar course is co-facilitated with a professional advising staff member as well as a group of Transfer Peer Mentors (TPMs). TPMs are former transfer students who have successfully made the transition to the Swanson School of Engineering and meet a minimum GPA requirement.

The Engineering Transfer Seminar course meets twice weekly and enrolls a maximum of sixty students. One weekly course meeting is a “Big Seminar”, where all sixty students will participate in a resource presentation, ranging from career services, academic help centers, and transfer-related adjustment issues. In the second weekly course meeting, the class will be divided into groups of twenty for “Little Seminar”. The Little Seminar course is led solely by a TPM, who reinforces the “Big Seminar” topic and delivers the material from a student perspective. TPMs have the flexibility to teach topics of the student’s choosing and create a social and supportive atmosphere amongst their mentees. TPMs also meet one on one with each mentee twice per semester for individual advisement as well as help facilitate social activities.