

Build Your Advising Toolkit to Support Transfer Students

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Overview

According to a 2018 report from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, 38 percent of students transferred within the first six years of higher education and almost two in five enrolled in more than one institution before earning a bachelor's degree. The complexity of this student enrollment compels advisors to better understand the experiences of the transfer students who will likely be part of their advising caseload. In this NACADA Advising Community on Transfer Students sponsored webinar, current AC Chair Jennifer Brown and Past AC Chair Karen Archambault will provide a "Transfer 101" orientation for advisors, focusing on the experience of transfer students beyond credits alone and including the logistic needs of transfer students, the academic experience, and the psycho-social strengths and challenges that these students experience.

Pre-Webinar Activity Suggestions

- With your team, consider the demographics of the transfer students on your campus. Who are they? Where do they come from? How much do they influence the "life" of your campus?
- Review the transfer nation podcast "How to engage faculty as transfer advocates" at <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1370263/8102602-how-to-engage-faculty-as-transfer-advocates>. Who serves as transfer advocates on your campus? What role do faculty, staff, and even other students play in supporting transfer students?

Post-Webinar Activity Suggestions and/or Suggested Questions for Post-Webinar Discussion

- Discuss the concept of being a transfer friendly campus amongst your team. What would your ideal look like? How might your advising approaches need to change in order to more effectively support transfer students on your campus?
- Review your advising website from a transfer lens. Are transfers integrated into your content or treated as outside of the norm? How might you alter the delivery of information (both online and off) to ensure a welcoming environment for transfer students?

References and Resources

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<https://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/media/k2/attachments/transfer-playbook-essential-practices.pdf>

<https://americanprogress.org/article/closed-doors-black-and-latino-students-are-excluded-from-top-public-universities/>

<https://www.jkcf.org/research/persistence/>

<https://tacklingtransfer.org/>

<https://www.thinkimpact.com/community-college-statistics/>

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1

Agenda

- Introductions
- Myths
- Transfer statistics in the US
- Psycho-social experience of transfer
- Logistical Challenges of Transfer
- Next Steps



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Transfer Student Myths



Students transfer because they couldn't get in to where they really wanted to go the first time they applied

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Transfer Student Myths

Transfer students? Those are the ones that go from community colleges to 4 year schools, right?



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Transfer Student Myths



Transferring should be easy. They just take the right classes and they'll get the same ones at their new school

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5

Transfer Student Myths

I met a few transfer students. So I know about what that experience is like.



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6

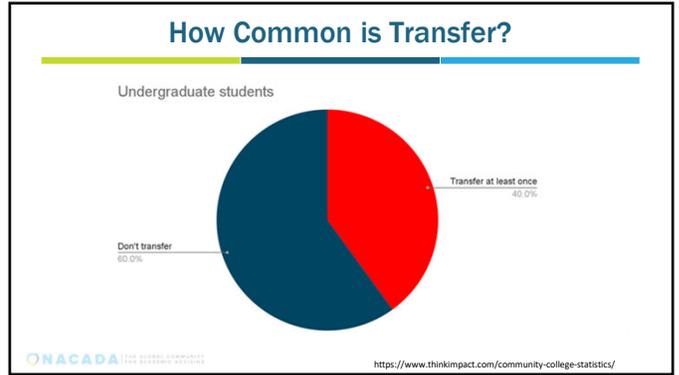
Transfer Student Myths



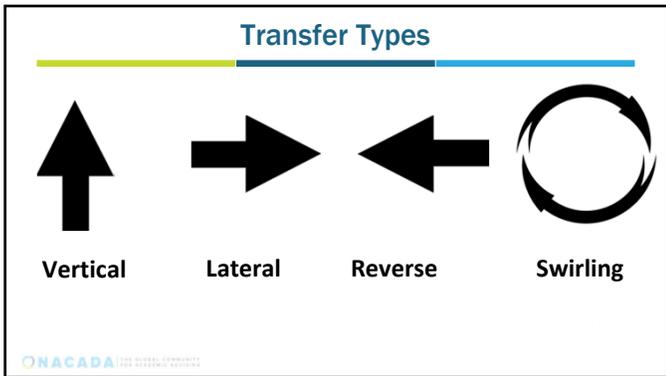
Once they get to the new school, they're just like the rest of my students. I don't need to know anything special about them.

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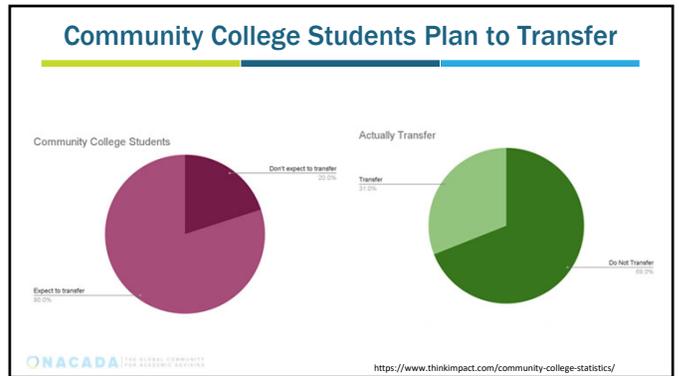
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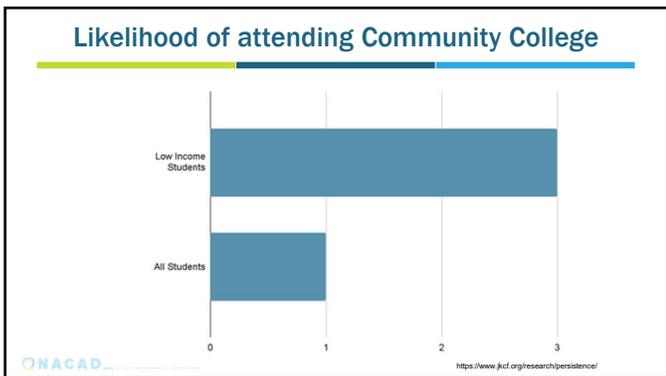
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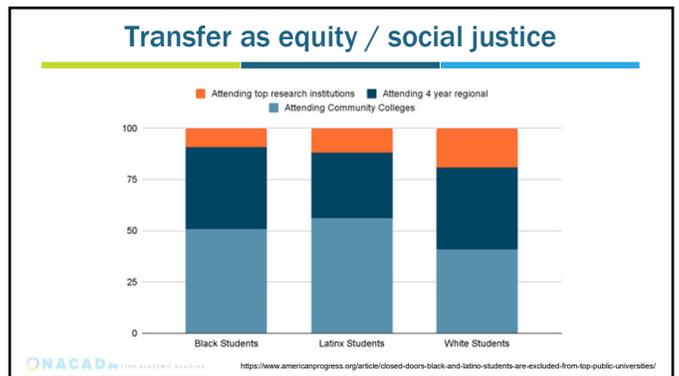
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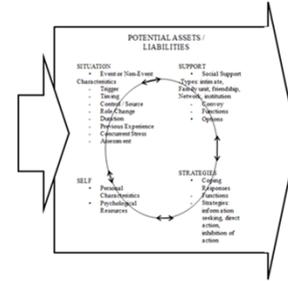
12

Overconfidence / Lack of Knowledge

“Because many transfer students are believed to understand a college environment from the get-go, it’s common for transfer professionals to assume that they don’t need much time adjusting to a new campus and college lifestyle . . . No one has the same story or experience; some may be going back to school after taking a break, and they might need more support in adjusting to a new campus culture.” (NISTS Transfer Ambassador)

13

Schlossberg’s 4 Ss



(Schlossberg et al., 1995.)

14

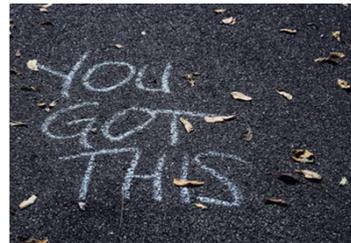
The 4S for the advisor toolkit



Situation: Identify transfer as a significant event for students. Help students understand how transfer has impacted them and how they are thinking about the shift.

15

The 4S for the advisor toolkit



Self: Understand the student’s salient identity(ies). Are they feeling “at home” on the new campus?

16

The 4S for the advisor toolkit

Support: Is the student familiar with resources on campus? Are prior resources still available?



17

The 4S for the advisor toolkit



Strategies: How is the student coping? What skills in coping have been effective in prior transitions?

18

Logistical Challenges of Transfer

Transfer Information

- confusing websites
- lack of clarity on transfer process
- unclear transfer policies



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Logistical Challenges of Transfer



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- Credit transfer
- Credit loss
- Articulation agreements



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Logistical Challenges of Transfer

Transfer advising

- inaccurate
- lack of access



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21

Logistical Challenges of Transfer

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30			

Transfer deadlines

- untimely notifications
- financial aid
- housing



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22

Logistical Challenges of Transfer



Review your website and transfer materials

- Are you using insider language?
- Is it easy to find help?
- What do your materials say about the value of transfer students on your campus?



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23

Advisor Toolkit: Articulation and Credit Loss

Learn about:

- credit articulation processes
- existing articulation agreements
- transfer partnerships

Transferability vs. Applicability





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24

Advisor Toolkit: Transfer Experience

Map the pre-transfer to matriculation experience of transfer students at your school or at partner institution.



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“Transfer advocates must find allies. While collegiality, cooperation, and collaboration sound like buzzwords, it is essential that advocates live these values to effectively partner with others around campus and across institutional lines.”

Handle & Stremple, 2016

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Presenters:

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27