

Survival Tips for Transfer Students

1. **Make yourself comfortable with campus before classes begin.** Get books before classes begin and locate where all classes will be, as well as locate where all the student services offices are (admissions, cashier, registrar, advising, career counseling, financial aid). Remember to leave extra time for walking from class to class on large campuses.
2. **Learn how the add/drop process works and use it to your advantage:** As a transfer student, you will be registering for classes after the previously enrolled students. It is possible you will not get some of the classes you want. **DON'T DESPAIR!** Find the professor, ask if she/he has a waiting list and if you can be added to it. Follow up with a note or a phone call. Show up for the first class with an add/drop form. Persistence is sometimes rewarded.

Shopping around for classes is common at four-year schools. You may want to sit in on several different ones before you decide which classes, or which professors, appeal to you.

3. **GET ORGANIZED!** Buy a planning book (or planner) and immediately transfer into it all important dates from your course syllabi. Be sure to note the dates and times of final exams. Carry it with you and refer to it often.



4. **Participate in activities** for transfer students during orientation. This is an excellent way to get to know your school and to meet other new students. Also, to help in the social transition, get involved in one or two of the many school-related clubs, organization, or hobby group.
5. **Try to balance your schedule** by taking three challenging courses and two that are less demanding. Your work load will be heavier. Don't get discouraged if your GPA drops the first semester. This is common and will probably stabilize by the second semester.



6. **Learn word processing.** You will be writing more papers. Computer labs are available for student use - often they are open 24 hours a day. Take advantage of this service and save yourself enormous amounts of time.

7. **Get to know your professors.** Drop by his or her office during office hours and introduce yourself. Come prepared with a question concerning a lecture, ask for clarification or additional information, discuss an assignment or a paper topic or invent a reason, but **DO IT** - more than once. These contacts are important for your future. *Later on you will need recommendations* for scholarships, to get a summer job on campus, references for that **BIG** job after graduation, or to get into grad school. Who will you ask if you let this opportunity slip by?

8. **Use Student Health Services.** At most schools health services are included in your fees. This means that your visits will be **FREE OF CHARGE**. Check it out. Don't spend money needlessly on doctors and prescriptions.



9. **Minimize your stress of transfer.** Look at moving a couple of months before school starts if living off campus to get introduced to the new city, college, and to remove stress of the move from academics. Also, your first semester work fewer hours and take fewer classes than what you are used to – plan ahead for financing.
10. **Be prepared.** Use the career offices to get involved in the career shadowing programs or internships. Be ready to do a lot more reading and writing in general. Be ready to read extra books/articles that will never be discussed in class. Be ready for a different type of testing with midterms and finals – they may only have two tests to cover ALL the info and usually the first midterm is after the withdrawal date.
11. **The second semester will be much easier.** Remember, you are not alone. The doubts, confusion and loneliness you are experiencing are shared by many others. These feelings will soon pass. Take one day at a time (some days, especially near the end of the semester, it may be necessary to take it an hour at a time). Soon you can congratulate yourself – you made it through the first semester. The second will be much easier.

Good Luck!

Note for Students with Disabilities:

Get off to a good start at your new school. **Contact the Office of Disability Services as soon as possible** if you have not already done so and let them know you will be a student there. Arrange to have documentation of your disability sent from the original sources (school, physicians, psychologists, or other service providers) to that office. **Be sure to inquire about priority registration and when to come in to arrange for needed accommodations.**

