

# The Transfer Transition: What to Do After You've Been Accepted

Congratulations—you're transferring! Here are some tips on how to prepare:

## **Meet all deadlines:**

Check your email regularly after applying as this is the number one contact method of most universities and colleges. Be sure to sign up for a student web portal account as soon as you are able to - many schools will send important time sensitive information to that account such as directions and deadlines for:

- Student Intent to Register (SIR) - or how to reserve your spot at the school
- Sending official transcripts
- New Student Orientations
- On campus housing
- Financial Aid award letters
- Scholarship information
- Placement exams if necessary
- Summer advising
- And more

## **Final Decision—which school to transfer to:**

Congratulations! You've been accepted to all three of your top choice schools. But how will you decide? Make sure the new school is a good fit for you. Go and visit the campus and get a feeling of the culture of the school. Compare the financial aid packages, which school offers you the best deal? Research the career center and your major's website. What employment, internship, and research opportunities may you have? What can you do for fun? Which school will offer you the best opportunities for you to grow and develop?

## **Attend a New Student Orientation:**

All schools offer these and they can be incredibly helpful. They offer students an opportunity to meet with an advisor, review the requirements for their chosen major, and sign up for classes - bring your transcripts!!

There is usually a fee to attend and advanced registration will be required. Most New Student Orientations are offered in June or July.

## **Know the student services and where they are located:**

- Department/Major advisors
- Peer advisors
- Admissions office
- Tutoring
- Financial Aid
- Scholarship Office
- Career Center/Internship Office
- Library!
- Student Parent Center/Child Care
- Transfer Student Services Center
- Re-entry Student Services
- Health Center
- Educational Opportunity Program (like EOPS)
- Student Disability Services
- Associated Students
- Registrar
- Student Housing
- Veteran Services
- Study Abroad Office

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**Take care of financial arrangements:**

- Learn where the Financial Aid and Scholarship offices are on campus, their hours, and phone number. Find out how and when you will receive funds.
- Make sure that there is a branch of your bank near your university; if not consider a switch.
- If you need work, inquire about jobs on campus or find something close by.
- The initial aid offer is just the first step. Depending on your circumstances, you can appeal the award and apply for other funds.
- Be sure to submit your FAFSA or California Dream Act Application by March 2nd for priority consideration. Also, research scholarship opportunities for all campuses you applied to—the sooner the better as deadlines vary.

**If moving to the new school:**

Research and secure housing as soon as possible.

- Identify housing resources offered through your new school. Is there a department or office dedicated to that?
- In the meantime, visit the campus and the surrounding area a few times to become familiar with the “lay of the land”
- Look at transportation systems- It may be better not to use a car every day
- How much will public transportation cost vs. your own car? How much are parking fees? Is parking guaranteed?
- If you have children, find out about local schools and child care resources

**Maintain good academic standing:**

If, after you apply, you fail to complete the planned and in progress courses that you listed on your application, notify the admissions office immediately. It is best to work with them early on rather than risk having your admission revoked once they receive your final transcript.

**Explore and join your new academic community:**

- Join a club, student government, an intramural sport, or other student organization.
- Research your major's department website. Know who your advisor will be, the graduation requirements, and opportunities to do research or intern.
- Study on campus as much as possible, especially as part of a study group.
- Get to know your professors! Visit them during office hours. If you cultivate a good relationship with a professor or graduate student, ask if they could be a mentor.
- Look for opportunities to become an undergraduate research assistant.
- Visit the Career Center early and often. Actively look for internship opportunities that allow you to learn more about your chosen field of study.
- Research potential graduate programs
- Remember, your education is not a piece of paper, it is an experience and investment in your future. Make it worthwhile!