

# TRANSFER STUDENTS

Sometimes your first college choice isn't the right fit, or you may have started your education at a two-year college with intentions to continue your education at a four-year school. Every year, many students transfer for a variety of reasons, so you can rest assured that you are not alone. The trick to a successful transfer is to begin planning as soon as possible. Below are some tips to help you make a smooth transition:

## KEEP YOUR GRADES UP

Even if you are not planning to finish a degree at your current college, you should continue to go to class and turn in assignments. The college or university you transfer to will want to see your most recent transcripts and may have a grade requirement for all college-level courses attempted. Even if you received good grades in high school or were previously admitted to your new college, low grades could ruin your plans to transfer.

## SELECTING A NEW COLLEGE

You will need to decide where to transfer. Be sure to determine what factors contributed to your decision to leave your current college. Take these factors into consideration when selecting a new college.

## GO ON A CAMPUS VISIT

The experiences you have had on your current college campus may help you identify the benefits you want and need from a new college experience.

## TALK TO ADVISORS

It is a good idea to work with advisors at both your old and new campuses to be sure everything is lined up. Ask the advisors if your classes will transfer. To make certain, you can request that your prospective college review your transcripts before you apply for admission. Advisors can also help you with questions about articulation agreements, admission partnership programs and cross-enrollment options.

Check into the student service organizations and campus activities that will be available on your new campus. Not every campus offers the same activities or services.

## APPLY FOR ADMISSION

You should check the admission requirements at the college to which you intend to transfer, even if you were previously accepted. If you want to transfer course credits from your prior college, you will need to send your most recent transcript to the new college. Some colleges will want a copy of your prior college course work regardless of whether you transfer any credits or not. Be sure to ask your admissions officer about placement exams, registering for classes and signing up for orientation.

## SECURE YOUR HOUSING

Whether you plan to live on campus or in an apartment, you will need to get the process rolling as soon as possible so that you have a place to live when your classes begin.

## APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

Unfortunately, you cannot simply transfer your current financial aid to your new college. You will need to add your new college to your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to receive a new financial aid package. You also should notify your current financial aid office of your plans to transfer. Some types of financial aid cannot be awarded by the new college until the old college has canceled your aid.

In addition, you should contact current scholarship donors to see if your scholarship can be transferred to your new college, as well as seek new scholarship opportunities. If you plan to borrow to pay your expenses, when you transfer to the new college you may need to complete new loan applications. Contact your new school to discuss their process and ask if they need your financial aid transcript from your current college.

## [WWW.TRANSFERINIOWA.ORG](http://WWW.TRANSFERINIOWA.ORG)

This website resource provides information for community college students interested in transferring to one of Iowa's Regent Universities—Iowa State University, the University of Iowa or the University of Northern Iowa.

