

TRANSFER TIPS GUIDE

Find out how to give yourself the best chance of acceptance before changing schools with our tips for transfer applicants.

Evaluate Your Reasons for Transferring

If you're considering transferring, take some time to weigh your reasons for enrolling elsewhere before making the switch. Valid reasons include issues with the campus culture, academics, location, and support services. Switching schools can be a time-consuming, disruptive process that can delay graduation and entry into grad school or a career, so don't take this decision lightly.

Pay Attention to Transfer Application Deadlines and Requirements

Transfer application and financial aid deadlines are typically different than the freshman deadlines, so always double check. The required documents can take some effort to complete, so give yourself plenty of time. Other transfer application requirements that could take some time to submit include transcripts, standardized test scores, letters of recommendation, and more.

Invest Time and Effort Into Your Transfer Application

The transfer applicant acceptance rate is actually lower than the average admission rate of 66 percent for first-time-in-college freshman, so your acceptance is far from guaranteed. To give yourself the best chance, ensure that the quality of your application is exceptional. Be sure to offer a compelling reason for wanting to attend the new college. Showing the admissions office how their school fits into your future plans will give them the confidence to take a chance on you.

Ensure All Your Credits Transfer

Do your research or speak to the admissions office ahead of time to find out how many of your college credits will transfer over. Particularly for higher-level courses beyond the core requirements, you may run into some issues. Keep in mind that not all credit hours are treated equally, too. If you earned below a C in a class, those credits may not be accepted at the new institution.

Double Check That Your Major Is Offered

When it comes to majors offered, never make assumptions. Before applying, always research the programs available. Even if your desired major is offered, you may not currently qualify as a transfer student. Certain high-demand majors or colleges may have special qualifications that you must satisfy to be considered. This may include completing a minimum number of course prerequisites, maintaining an exceptional GPA, and showing strong SAT/ACT scores.

Find Out About Your Financial Aid Options

Transfer students typically have less financial support available. Talking to the school's office of financial aid to discuss your options should be at the top of your list when considering a move. It's also important to keep your current school notified of your intent to transfer and find out if your account is fully settled. The transcript you need to send to your new school may be withheld until you pay any outstanding balance that you owe.

Recognize That Transferring Varies Widely Among Schools

Although it seems like a pretty straightforward process, colleges have widely differing policies on transfer students. At some colleges, transfers are encouraged, and acceptance rates are higher. For other colleges, there are literally a handful of available seats reserved for transfers. That makes it incredibly important to know the specifics of your target school before making plans to finish your degree there.

Questions about finishing your degree at USF? **Reach out to our Office of Transfer Student Success for answers!**

