

TRANSFERS

Each year we hear from a few students who, for a variety of reasons, express an interest in seeking a transfer to another college or university. Their motives are as varied as the number who raise the possibility. We hear such reasons as: “I feel as though I need a bigger or smaller school,” “I’ve decided on my major and feel as though I’d be better served at another school,” “My college is not living up to my expectations” or “This college was not my first choice and I would like to apply again to the one that I wanted in the first place,” and “I’d really rather be going to a college where the weather is warmer, colder or in a different geographical part of the U.S., or beyond.”

The primary focus of your transfer application, however, must be on academics. Another important concept is never to be negative about the institution from which you are transferring. Don’t make comparisons; concentrate on what inspires you academically and intellectually about the colleges to which you want to transfer. You can say, for example, that you’d like smaller classes, without saying that your current college has too many lectures and/or large classes. You can say, “I like the intellectual environment in your student body because it is engaging, inclusive and dynamic.” You don’t have to say your present college lacks intellectual dynamism. You might even say you want to be near certain opportunities for particular kinds of internships, without saying something derogatory like, “I’m tired of being in the boonies.” We can help you in creating a list, as well as finding the best way to present yourself as a transfer applicant.

Students who are thinking about transferring should carefully consider the following:

- ▶ Colleges greatly respect strong work done at other colleges. The stronger your college transcript is, the better your transfer chances will be, as most colleges will expect at least a B average in previous college work. The most accepted theory by admissions people is that college grades are better predictors of academic success than the SAT or ACT, and therefore count them less after one year of college and virtually not at all after two. That is why two years of college grades before transferring can be better than one. Additionally, while it is possible to transfer to some colleges mid-year, there are usually more spaces available in the fall. Application deadlines for fall transfers vary from college to college but generally range from February to April. **Check each college’s website for their transfer application deadlines.**
- ▶ Since you will need to have recommendation letters as part of your application, get to know your current professors well.
- ▶ The number of transfer applicants and the spaces available at individual colleges vary from college to college and from year to year. Therefore, unless you are fully prepared to remain at your current college, it is best to apply to several colleges that represent a range of selectivity.
- ▶ Make sure you know all the requirements, deadlines and transfer policies of the school or schools to which you are considering applying. You should also try to determine if you will receive credit for the courses you are taking or have taken.

Transferring should be considered carefully and seriously before starting the process. Give your new school a chance; you and your college are new to each other and college life IS different. The grass is not always greener at another institution.