WHO IS A TRITON TRANSFER?

TRANSFER STUDENT: a student who has enrolled in a regular session at a college or university after high school - University of California Admissions

TYPES OF TRANSFER STUDENTS

- CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS WITH JUNIOR STATUS: These students make up 90% of the UC system’s transfer class
- LIMITED STATUS STUDENTS: Frequently known as a non-degree-seeking student
- LOWER DIVISION TRANSFERS: Students who are admitted into a campus before reaching junior status
- SECOND BACCALAUREATE SEEKING STUDENTS: College graduates who wish to obtain a second bachelor’s degree in a different major from their first degree
- TRANSFERS FROM A 4-YEAR OR OUT-OF-STATE 2-YEAR INSTITUTION
- FORMER AND CURRENT UC STUDENTS: Students returning to the same UC campus or transferring to a different UC campus

THE STATE OF THE TRANSFER AT UC SAN DIEGO

UC San Diego’s transfer students make up ~33% of the incoming undergraduate population. 90% of veteran students are transfer students.

Triton Transfer students are more likely to...

- BE PELL-ELIGIBLE
- COMMUTE TO CAMPUS
- BE FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS
- HAVE FAMILY & WORK COMMITMENTS
- BE OLDER STUDENTS
- EXPERIENCE FOOD INSECURITY

Transfer is more than how students apply. Transfer is an identity.

ADDRESSING ASSUMPTIONS

ASSUMPTION: All transfer students at UC San Diego come from a two-year institution and are primarily from California.

REALITY: In 2022, 90% of transfer students came from a California Community College (CCC) and 10% of the students are international students.

STRATEGY! Ask students about their college journey - what is their academic history and what brings them to study at UC San Diego?

ASSUMPTION: All transfer students enter upper-division courses with the same "course-101" content knowledge.

REALITY: Transfer students enter upper-division courses with varied content knowledge.

STRATEGY! Provide opportunities for transfer students to review introductory level content that is necessary to understand upper-division coursework.
ASSUMPTION:
All students are non-parents or do not have work commitments outside of school.

REALITY:
Transfer students are more likely to have familial & work commitments in addition to attending class full-time.

ASSUMPTION:
Transfer students do not want to get involved in co-curricular opportunities.

REALITY:
Most transfer students want to get involved in research, on-campus organizations, and other experiences.

ASSUMPTION:
All transfer students finish their community college in 2 years and graduate in 2 years from UC San Diego.

REALITY:
The average time to transfer is 2.6 years, and 57% of transfer students are graduating in 2-years at UC San Diego.

WHAT’S "TRANSFER SHOCK"?
Transfer shock typically refers to a dip in a student’s grade point average after transferring to a different higher education institution.

ACKNOWLEDGE TRANSFERS AS EXPERIENCED STUDENTS THROUGH ON BOARDING AT A NEW UNIVERSITY
Options such as a choice between in-person and/or online orientations and customizing on-boarding for this group can provide an opportunity for them to build social networks and provides critical information for their transition into a new place.

ADJUSTMENT FROM SMALLER CLASS AND COLLEGE SIZES TO LARGER LECTURES AND INSTITUTIONS
Incorporate paired discussion opportunities or implement the creation of small communities (i.e., starting group chats via GroupMe) within a large lecture in order for social interaction and learning to occur.

ALLEVIATING "TRANSFER SHOCK"

ACKNOWLEDGE ALL PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCES AND HIGHLIGHT TRANSFERABLE SKILLS
Highlight the transferable skills attained from previous work (i.e., customer service, tutoring) that is applicable to a student’s major/career path. Positively encourage talking about their previous experiences to help combat self-doubt in their chosen fields.

ADJUSTMENT FROM SMALLER ASSIGNMENTS VERSUS JUST A FEW TESTS
Providing more in-class assignments to encourage academic involvement throughout the duration of a course could encourage more accountability for a student rather than an end-of-the-quarter final reviews.

REFERENCES:
"A hand to hold for a little bit": Factors facilitating the success of community college transfer students to a large research university (Townsend & Wilson, 2006)


University of California, Admissions (https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/transfer-requirements/)

University of California, San Diego - Institutional Research (https://ir.ucsd.edu/undergrad/stats-data/ug-retention.html)


"Your First College Year: New Freshmen vs Transfer Students" Infographic (University of California, San Diego - Institutional Research, 2017)