

Creating your transfer path

Choosing a college or university



Important Considerations

- Choose a school that will support you:
 - Academically
 - Professionally
 - Socially
 - Financially
 - And support your lifestyle preferences



Finding out if it is the right academic fit

- How selective is the school?
 - Do you prefer a competitive academic environment where most of the students are at or above your own level of ability and achievement?
 - Would you feel more comfortable in a less pressured academic environment where you would be at the high end of the admitted students in terms of ability and achievement?
- Does the school offer your major?
 - Any special concentrations or emphasis?
 - Number of students in major? Small or large classes?
 - Does the program have any special accreditations?
 - Are there student professional organizations?
 - Opportunity to do research? Internships?
 - What employers recruit for that major?
 - Is the major impacted?



Academic fit

- What is the average class size? Are classes taught by professors, graduate students, or career professionals?
- What is the school best known for?
- Is it on the semester or quarter system?
- Do they have an honors program for students with high GPAs?
- Can students enroll part-time? Take evening or weekend classes? Is there summer school or winter session?
- Is the school dedicated to the pursuit of one particular field of knowledge or does it have a comprehensive selection of courses and majors so that you can interact with other students in many different fields?
- Do you want a school that is dedicated solely to undergraduate teaching without graduate, professional or research divisions, or would you prefer a school whose mission includes not only undergraduate education but also graduate education and research?

Academic fit

- Do you prefer a faculty whose primary or total interest and responsibility is in undergraduate teaching and who, therefore, may be more easily accessible to you outside the classroom and office hours?
- Or, do you prefer a faculty whose responsibilities may include both undergraduate and graduate teaching as well as research, and who may not be quite accessible outside the classroom and office hours, but who bring ongoing research into the classroom?
- Do you mind if some of your classes are taught by graduate students instead of full professors?
- Are you interested in innovative programs that allow for independent study, study abroad, individualized majors, working experience for academic credit, or the like?
- Do you require specific services to better facilitate your learning?

Academic fit by major

- Dig Deeper - View suggested questions for:
 - STEM majors (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)
 - Health majors
 - Social Science majors
 - Business majors
 - Arts and Humanities majors
- For more suggested questions that are major specific, review the “Book of Majors” in the library of the Transfer and Career Center.



Professional fit

- Does the school provide resources, programs, services and activities for students to plan for life after college (internships, on-campus recruitment, graduate/professional school, etc.)?
- Are there any special, professional accreditations? For your major or career interest?
- What employers recruit from your school/program?
 - For what types of positions?
- Are there student professional organizations on campus? For your major or career interest?



Social fit

- Do you prefer that most students come from your geographic area?
- Do you prefer that the students come from all parts of the country and/or world?
- Would you prefer a school with a particular religious affiliation and students of that religious belief?
- Is it important to you that there be a significant socioeconomic mixture of students? If so, you may want to check the percentage of students receiving financial aid and the average award.
- What “campus culture” do you prefer? To know, visit the schools! The Transfer Club hosts campus tours every semester.
- Are fraternities/sororities important to you?

Social fit

- Would you prefer a school with specific extracurricular activities (e.g., publications, athletics, student government, clubs, professional organizations)?
- Would you prefer a school with a large and varied extracurricular program?
 - LGBTQ student centers, cultural centers, art galleries, sports teams, fraternities, social justice groups, writers' organizations, political activism, intramural sports, organized adventure trips - what's important to you? Research the various resources and student groups when deciding on schools.
- Would you like a coed school or single sex school?

Does it fit into your lifestyle?

- Big or small school?
 - Population (of school, academic/major department, and surrounding area)?
 - Big city or rural setting?
- Common transportation methods? Will you need a car?
- Cost of living in local area?
- Ease of finding a place to live?
- Willing to move?
- Do you provide a wide range of student housing options for transfer students?
- Do you provide assistance in searching for off-campus housing?
- What is the surrounding community like? Are there opportunities for you to get involved in social, cultural, and recreational activities both on and off campus?

A good financial fit

- Check your estimated cost of attendance for any school at:
<http://collegecost.ed.gov/>
 - Don't go by the sticker price, depending on financial aid eligibility you may pay much less
- How likely will it be that fees increase? Do you provide advanced notice regarding increases?
- Do I need to pay a deposit to confirm my intent to enroll?
- How easy is it to get a part time job on campus or in the surrounding community?
- Are there opportunities for merit awards, scholarships and need-based financial aid?
 - Are the awards for one year, or can they be renewed?
- Is the school public, private, or for-profit? Double check at
<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

Is the school right for you?

- After answering the questions most important to you, it will be easier to determine if the school is a right fit for you.
- More resources to help you make your decision:
 - Campus tours through the Transfer Club!
 - You don't know what you don't know. Learn about campus culture, university campus resources, and more first hand on one of our tours.
 - Sign up for the Transfer Club through Moodle
 - The Choosing a University section of the Transfer and Career Center website: http://www.marin.edu/student_services/transfer/choose.html
 - Counseling appointments
 - Transfer Peer Support Network

Next Steps

- Decide on 3-5 schools that are a good fit
- Apply to all of them when you are ready to transfer
 - 1 school should be a “back up” school – one in which you are certain you will be admitted
 - Make sure you research all of the requirements and application process
 - Use resources such as the Transfer and Career Center and your counseling appointments to get help in applying and preparing to transfer
- And enjoy this exploration process – it can be very educational and a lot of fun!

Contact Information

- Transfer and Career Center
 - transfercenter@marin.edu
 - 415-485-9671
- Counseling
 - 415-485-9430