TRANSFER STUDENTS IN THEIR SENIOR YEAR: LEARNING FROM THEIR EXPERIENCES

Ellen Bara Stolzenberg, Ph.D.
Assistant Director, CIRP
Higher Education Research Institute
University of California, Los Angeles
Presentation Overview

- Background
- Finances
- Constructs
- College Experiences
- Questions and Discussion
Background

- Institutions often struggle with assessing transfer student success
- Though the transition time is critical, we also need to look beyond the point of transfer and short-term adjustment
- Studying transfer students’ successes
Two Dimensions of HERI

Grant-Funded Research

- HHMI
- Helmsley Trust
- National Institutes of Health
- National Science Foundation

CIRP

- Annual Student Surveys
- Triennial Faculty Survey
CIRP Student Surveys*

*Faculty Survey administered every 3 years
Methods: Sample & Analysis

- 2015 College Senior Survey (CSS)
- 93 institutions
- 23,124 students who answered the transfer questions
  - 4,008 transfer students (17.3%)

Analysis
- Frequencies & Crosstabs
- Group comparisons
Comparison Groups

- **2-group comparison: Non-transfer & Transfer**
  - A student is considered a transfer student if they responded yes to either or both of the following:
    - Have you: Transferred from a 2-year college
    - Have you: Transferred from a 4-year college

- **4-group comparison**
  - Non-transfer
  - Yes to transfer from 2-year college only
  - Yes to transfer from 4-year college only
  - Yes to transfer from 2-year & 4-year college
## Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Non-Transfer</th>
<th>Transfer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>62.7%</td>
<td>65.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race/Ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian American</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino/a</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>76.8%</td>
<td>71.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more races/ethnicities</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ultimate Degree Objective

Bachelor's
Master's
Ph.D or Ed.D.
M.D., D.O., D.D.S., or D.V.M.
LL.B. or J.D. (Law)

Non-Transfer
Transfer
Finances: Family & Self

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Resources</th>
<th>Non-Transfer</th>
<th>Transfer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$6,000 or more</td>
<td>64.2%</td>
<td>43.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Own resources</th>
<th>Non-Transfer</th>
<th>Transfer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>34.1%</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$6,000 or more</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Finances: Aid which need not be repaid (scholarships, grants, etc.)

- None: 20.7% Non-Transfer, 23.2% Transfer
- $6,000 or more: 61.1% Non-Transfer, 49.3% Transfer
- $10,000 or more: 50.8% Non-Transfer, 35.0% Transfer
## Finances: Loans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Non-Transfer</th>
<th>Transfer</th>
<th>%-Point Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any loans</td>
<td>62.1%</td>
<td>68.4%</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$6,000 or more</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
<td>54.7%</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000 or more</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
<td>43.3%</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Average Loan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Average Loan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Transfer</td>
<td>$37,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer</td>
<td>$36,278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer from 2-Year</td>
<td>$30,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer from 4-Year</td>
<td>$43,772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer from both 2- &amp; 4-Year</td>
<td>$38,485</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contributed money to help support family (Freq. or Occ.)
- Non-Transfer: 27.3%
- Transfer: 44.7%

Worked for pay on campus (6 or more hours per week)
- Non-Transfer: 37.9%
- Transfer: 21.7%

Worked for pay off campus (6 or more hours per week)
- Non-Transfer: 30.9%
- Transfer: 52.7%

Held a full-time job while attending classes
- Non-Transfer: 14.1%
- Transfer: 36.2%

Missed class due to employment (Freq. or Occ.)
- Non-Transfer: 26.1%
- Transfer: 31.7%
Constructs
Constructs: Sense of Belonging

Non-Transfer
- High: 36.2%
- Average: 42.0%
- Low: 21.8%

Transfer
- High: 24.8%
- Average: 41.3%
- Low: 33.9%
Constructs: Sense of Belonging

% Agree or Strongly Agree

- I see myself as part of the campus community: 85.1% (Non-Transfer), 71.4% (Transfer)
- I feel a sense of belonging to this campus: 83.7% (Non-Transfer), 73.0% (Transfer)
- I feel I am a member of this college: 90.1% (Non-Transfer), 82.1% (Transfer)
- If asked, I would recommend this college to others: 88.6% (Non-Transfer), 86.7% (Transfer)
Constructs: Sense of Belonging

% Agree or Strongly Agree

I see myself as part of the campus community
I feel a sense of belonging to this campus
I feel I am a member of this college
If asked, I would recommend this college to others

Non-Transfer
Transfer from 2-year
Transfer from 4-year
Transfer from 2- & 4-year
Constructs: Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Non-Transfer</th>
<th>Transfer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>50.1%</td>
<td>46.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
<td>34.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- High
- Average
- Low

0.0%  10.0%  20.0%  30.0%  40.0%  50.0%  60.0%  70.0%  80.0%  90.0%  100.0%
Constructs: Leadership

- Been a leader in an organization: 61.6% (Non-Transfer), 39.0% (Transfer)
- Participated in leadership training: 42.0% (Non-Transfer), 28.8% (Transfer)
- Self-rated Leadership ability (Above average or highest 10%): 71.1% (Non-Transfer), 66.7% (Transfer)
- I have effectively led a group to a common purpose (Agree or Strongly agree): 65.7% (Non-Transfer), 67.7% (Transfer)
- Career concern: Leadership potential (Very Important/Essential): 69.6% (Non-Transfer), 70.4% (Transfer)
Constructs: Leadership

- Been a leader in an organization: 61.6%
- Participated in leadership training: 45.7%
- Self-rated Leadership ability (Above average or highest 10%): 66.2%
- I have effectively led a group to a common purpose (Agree or Strongly agree): 78.9%
- Career concern: Leadership potential (Very Important/Essential): 68.4%

Legend:
- Non-Transfer
- Transfer from 2-year
- Transfer from 4-year
- Transfer from 2- & 4-year
College Experiences
College Experiences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Non-Transfer</th>
<th>Transfer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall GPA: B+ or higher</td>
<td>70.2%</td>
<td>64.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major GPA: B+ or higher</td>
<td>76.8%</td>
<td>72.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failed one or more courses</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taken a remedial course</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taken an honors course</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall GPA: B+ or higher

Major GPA: B+ or higher

Failed one or more courses

Taken a remedial course

Taken an honors course
# College Experiences: Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Non-Transfer</th>
<th>Transfer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>3 or more hours per week</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student clubs/groups</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online social networks</td>
<td>55.3%</td>
<td>46.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6 or more hours per week</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partying</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socializing with friends in person</td>
<td>71.2%</td>
<td>47.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercising/sports</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studying/homework</td>
<td>76.8%</td>
<td>70.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Any</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household/childcare</td>
<td>46.1%</td>
<td>64.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commuting</td>
<td>49.3%</td>
<td>74.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
College Experiences: Engaging with other students

- Tutored another college student: 51.8% (Non-Transfer) vs. 44.3% (Transfer)
- Frequently worked with classmates on group projects outside of class: 50.2% (Non-Transfer) vs. 44.5% (Transfer)
- Frequently studied with other students: 42.1% (Non-Transfer) vs. 34.9% (Transfer)
College Experiences: High-Impact Practices

- Internship: 68.0%
- Study Abroad: 38.9%
- Worked on a professor's research project: 39.6%
- Undergraduate research program: 27.6%
- Non-Transfer: 56.4%
- Non-Transfer: 17.8%
- Non-Transfer: 44.4%
- Non-Transfer: 20.4%
- Transfer: 10.0%
- Transfer: 30.0%
- Transfer: 60.0%
- Transfer: 80.0%
College Experiences: Multicultural

- Attended a racial/cultural awareness workshop
- Participated in an ethnic/racial student organization
- Taken an ethnic studies course
- Taken a women's studies course
- High Pluralistic Orientation Construct Group

Legend: Non-Transfer, Transfer
College Experiences: Future Plans

- When thinking about their career path, transfer students are more likely than non-transfer students to consider the following very important or essential:
  - Availability of jobs
  - Stable, secure future
  - High income potential
  - Ability to pay off debt
  - Opportunity for innovation
  - Working for social change
Points to Consider

- What can transfer students’ experiences at other colleges teach us?
- How can we help our transfer students balance work and school?
- What is sense of belonging for transfer students and how do we help them attain it?
- How can we maximize the fact that transfer students are fully engaged in the classroom?
- Can students’ long-term leadership goals help institutions engage their students outside of class?
Future Research

- Further 4-group analyses
- Freshman survey data for longitudinal analysis
- Types of Financial Support
Contact Information

Higher Education Research Institute
www.heri.ucla.edu

Ellen Bara Stolzenberg, Ph.D.
Assistant Director, CIRP
stolzenberg@gseis.ucla.edu
310-825-6991