NISTS 2023
BE A CONNECTOR FOR TRANSFER STUDENT SUCCESS
Virtual • February 1-3 | Portland, OR • February 22-24

The following presentation was given at the 21st Annual Conference for the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students. Please cite responsibly and direct questions to the original presenter(s).

Educational Session

2807 - Using A University-Wide Initiative to Fuel Transfer Reforms: Transfer Explorer At CUNY

Credits and Degree Pathways, Partnerships and Collaboration

This session provides an overview of the continued development of Transfer Explorer, a tool introduced at the 2022 NISTS conference that aims to reduce loss of transfer credit, and its adoption at the City University of New York (CUNY) as part of a University-wide initiative to improve vertical transfer. Strategies and ideas will be presented on how attendees can advance transparent policies and procedures at their own institutions.

Christohper Buonocore, *Director of Student Success*
Lehman College, City University of New York

Christopher Vickery, *Emeritus Professor of Computer Science*
Queens College, City University of New York

Kara Heffernan, *University Assistant Dean for Student Success Initiatives and Deputy/Chief of Staff to the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs*
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Using A University-Wide Initiative To Fuel Transfer Reforms: Transfer Explorer at CUNY

National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students

FEBRUARY 1 - 3, 2023

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Today's Session

1. Introduction to Partners
2. T-Rex Developments
3. Transfer at CUNY
4. Closing and Q&A

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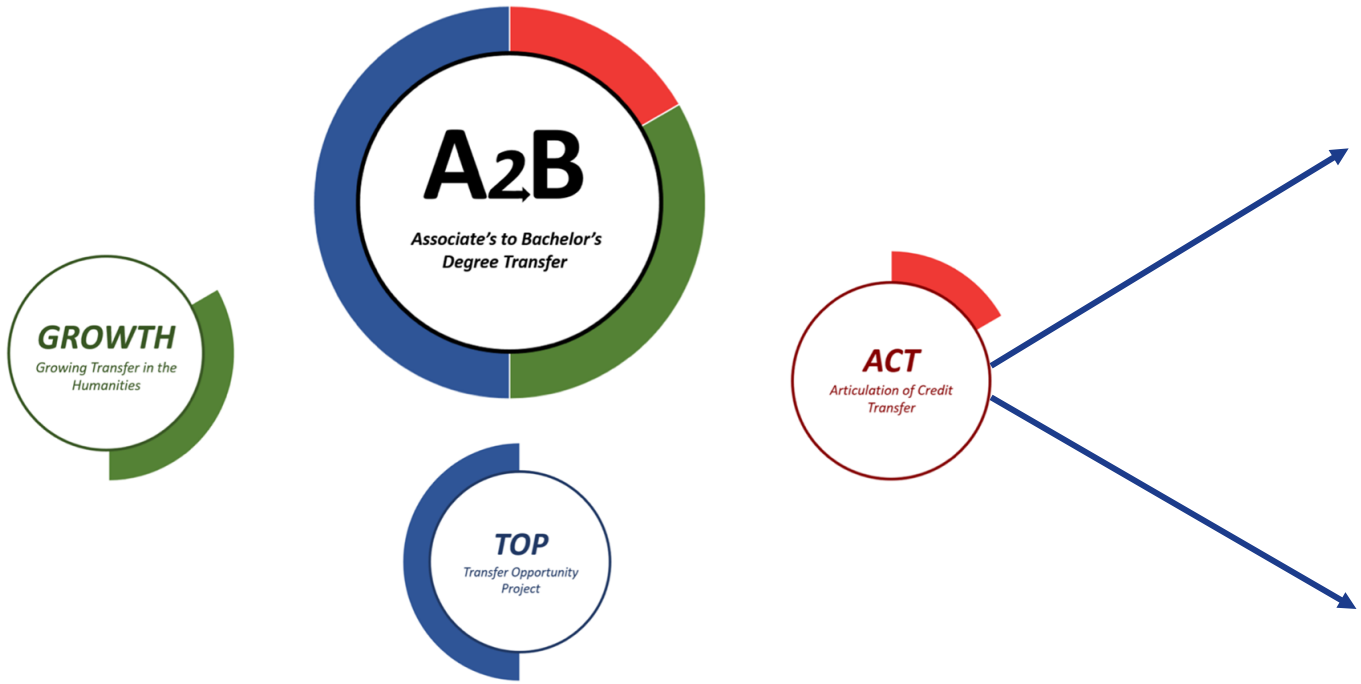
Associate's to Bachelor's Degree Transfer



The Challenge

- Nationally, **80%** of first-year cc students aspire to a bachelor's degree
- **11%** or fewer earn one within six years
- **Lack of credit transfer and applicability** is one of the many hinderances for transfer students who aspire to achieve a bachelor's degree

The ACT Solution

- Make credit transfer information **transparent, accessible, and actionable** through public resources, advising tools, and administrative policy changes

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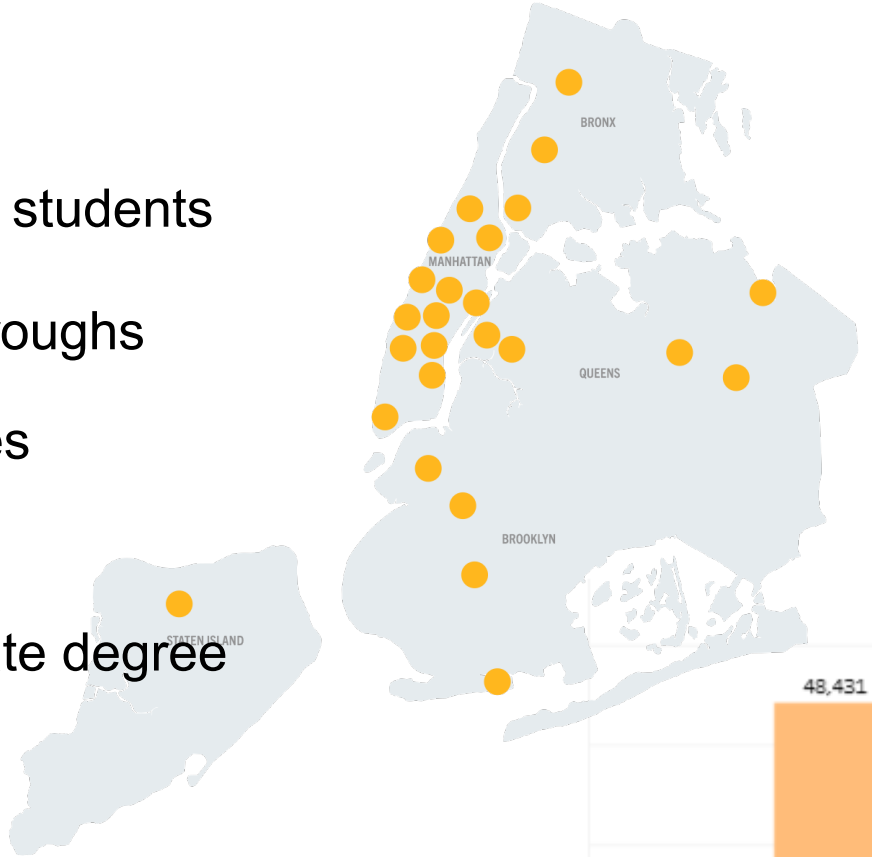
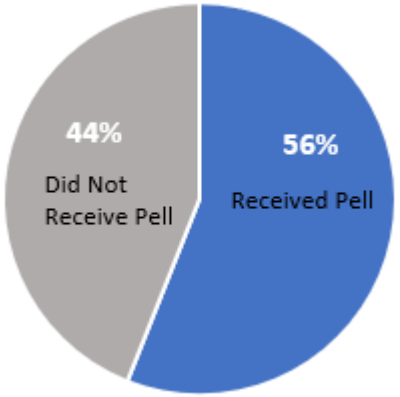
About CUNY

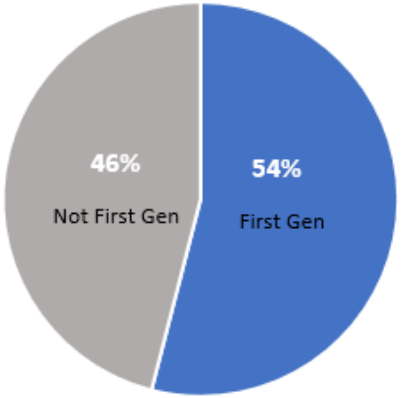
- Largest urban University
- **220,000** degree-seeking students
- **25** colleges across 5 boroughs
  - 7 community colleges
  - 13 senior colleges
- Over **1,500** undergraduate degree programs
  - Associate: 323
  - Bachelor's: 1,304



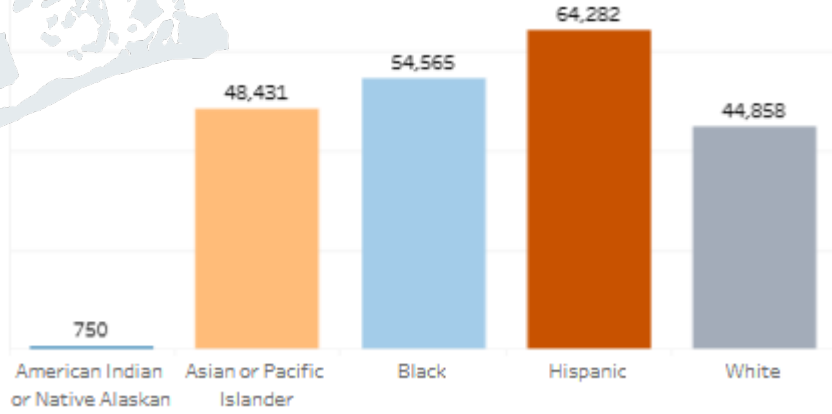
Pell Recipients



First Gen Status



Race/Ethnicity



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Transfer @ CUNY

10,000

The number of vertical transfer students who entered a CUNY 4-year college to pursue a bachelor's degree in Academic Year 2021-2022.

>50%

The percent of students graduating from a senior college who entered as transfer students. For at least the past ten years.

Almost 9 in 10 CUNY students who start in an associate degree indicate that they intend to earn a bachelor's degree or higher, yet just one reaches their goal within six years.
(Source: Transfer Opportunity Project)

53%

53% of students who transferred from an associate program to a baccalaureate program with a degree in Fall 2018 graduated with a bachelor's degree within four years.
(Source: Transfer Opportunity Project)

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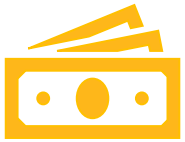
Ithaka S+R

Not-for-profit research and consulting service focused on student postsecondary access and success, with a particular focus on supporting Black, Latinx, lower-income, and other students who have long been underserved in higher education. Ithaka S+R is a part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to expanding access to knowledge and education around the world whose services include Artstor, JSTOR, and Portico.



Funding from Heckscher Foundation and Petrie Foundation to:

- improve processes for evaluating transfer credit and,
- improve the information and advising provided to transfer students

- Transfer Explorer
- Degree Works Archiving
- Community of Practice

Funding from Ascendium Education Group, Heckscher Foundation, Petrie Foundation, Robinhood, The Dell Foundation, ECMC Foundation, and the Ichigo Foundation to:

- Enhance the existing site at CUNY
- Disseminate and train CUNY stakeholders in using T-Rex
- Conduct research and evaluation of T-Rex data and usage
- Expand and replicate T-Rex beyond CUNY

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What information would you like to see in a transfer tool at your institution?

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T-Rex: Goals

Provide Clear Transfer Information
Display organized, searchable, and user-friendly information on how every course in the CUNY catalog (as well as non-CUNY courses, trainings and exams that have been assessed) will transfer and apply across any number of undergraduate institutions in CUNY.

Transparency
Provide transparency to students and all other stakeholders in the transfer process by making the equivalencies and program requirements public.

Facilitate Ongoing Communication & Review
Create a mechanism by which faculty and administrators can communicate effectively across campuses and efficiently about course equivalencies. Equivalency changes can be suggested, or existing ones can be validated.

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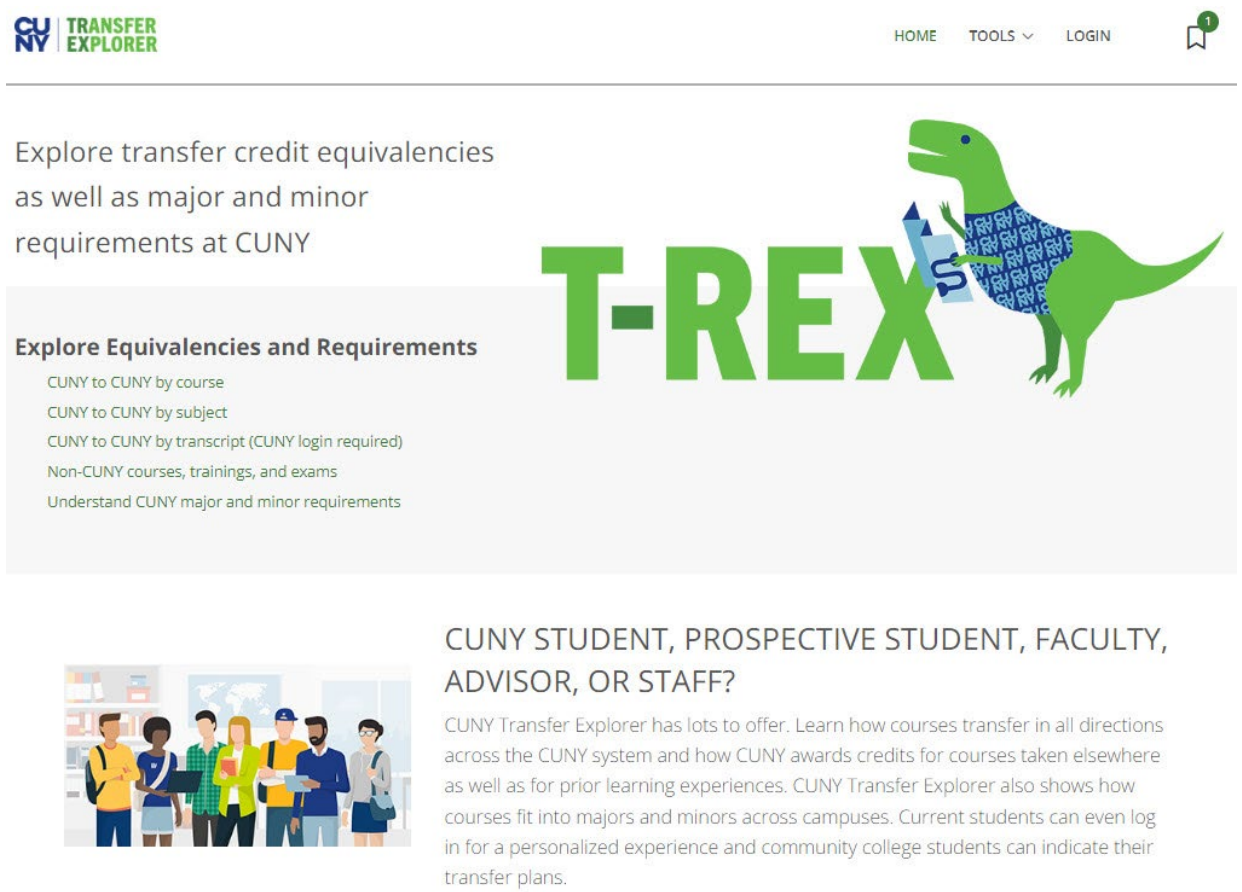
T-Rex: Features



- View Course Equivalencies
- How Does This Course Transfer
- CUNY Course Catalog
- Frequently Transferred Courses
- Transfer Equivalency Review (workflow)

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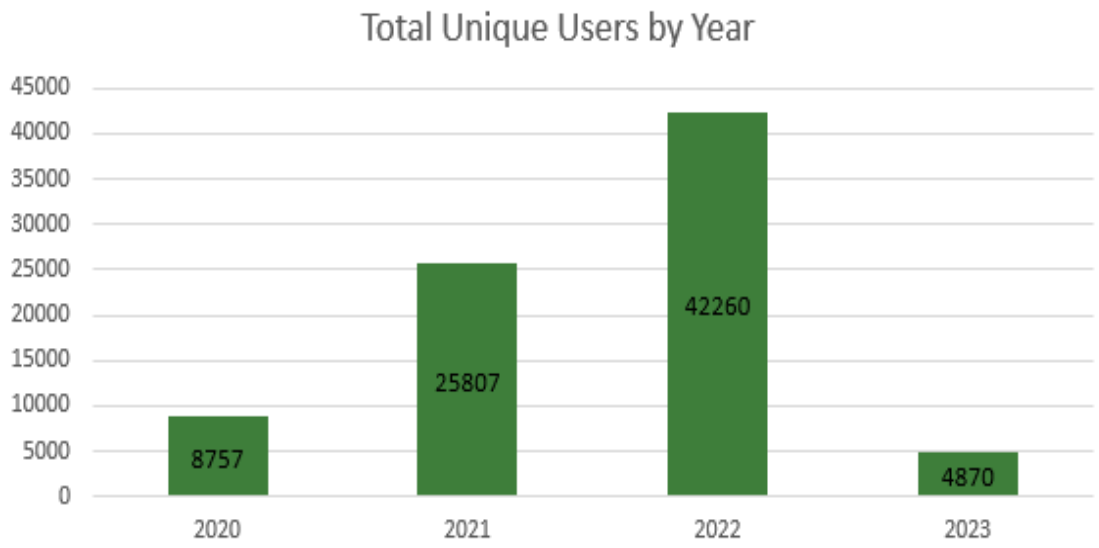
T-Rex: Usage Statistics

Data as of January 30, 2023

- T-Rex is already an active resource, supporting thousands of users across the University – and continues to grow
- Since we started tracking on May 21, 2020:
  - 81k+ unique users
  - 154k+ sessions
  - 674k+ page views
  - 4:21 average time spent on site per visit (at the top of overall internet benchmark)



Average New Users per Month	
2020	1095
2021	2151
2022	3521
2023	4870 (less than 1 month)

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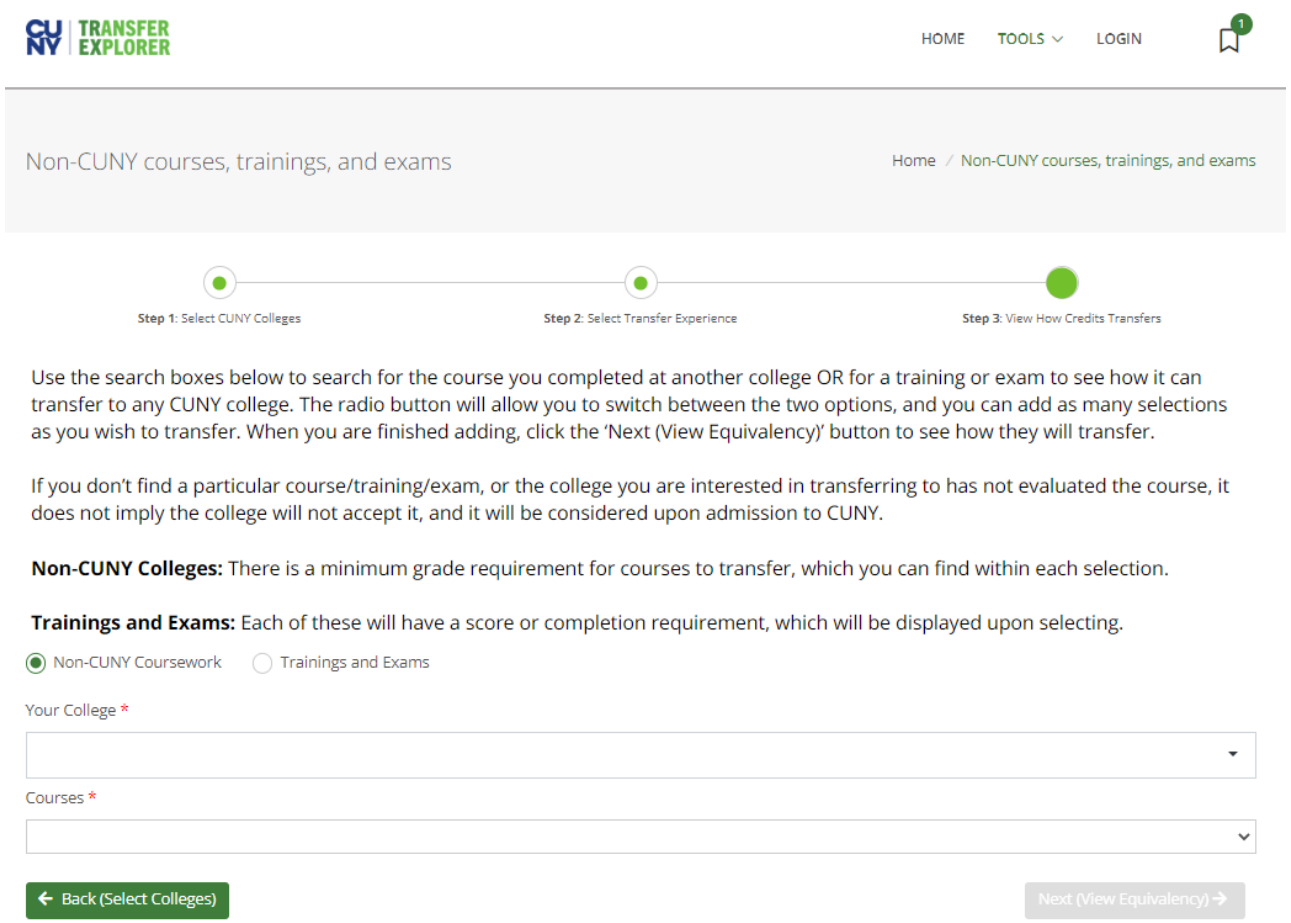
New Feature:
Non-CUNY courses, trainings, and exams



- View how all currently equated non-CUNY courses, trainings, and exams will transfer and apply
- Search just one CUNY college, or multiple at one time
- Mix and match courses with other experiences
- In the works: Process to request that CUNY evaluate a prior learning experience

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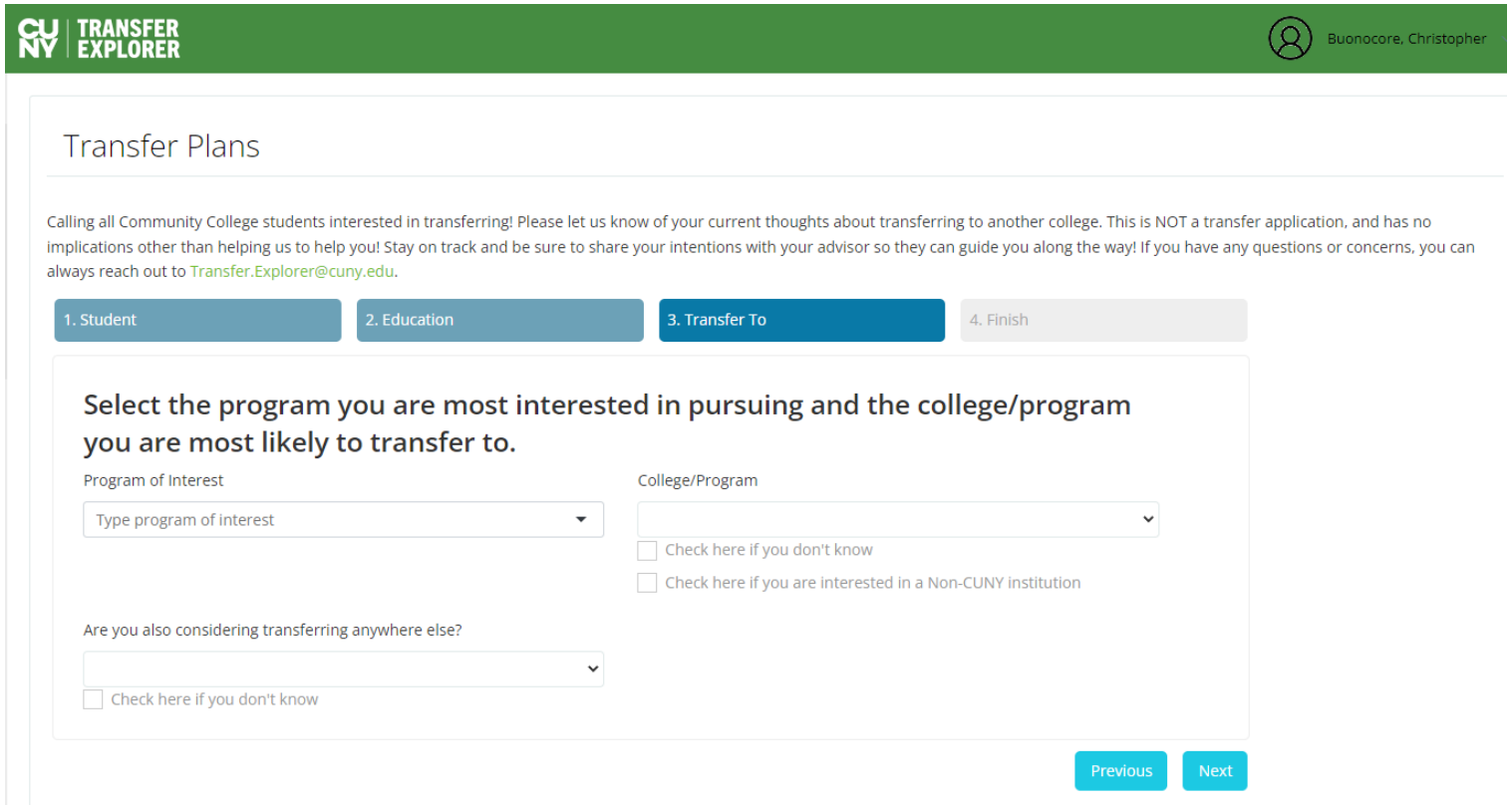
New Feature:
Transfer Plans (requires login)



- Gather student's transfer plans as early as possible
- Provide actionable data extracts to both sending and receiving colleges
- Identify mismatches to help guide a student accordingly along their transfer journey

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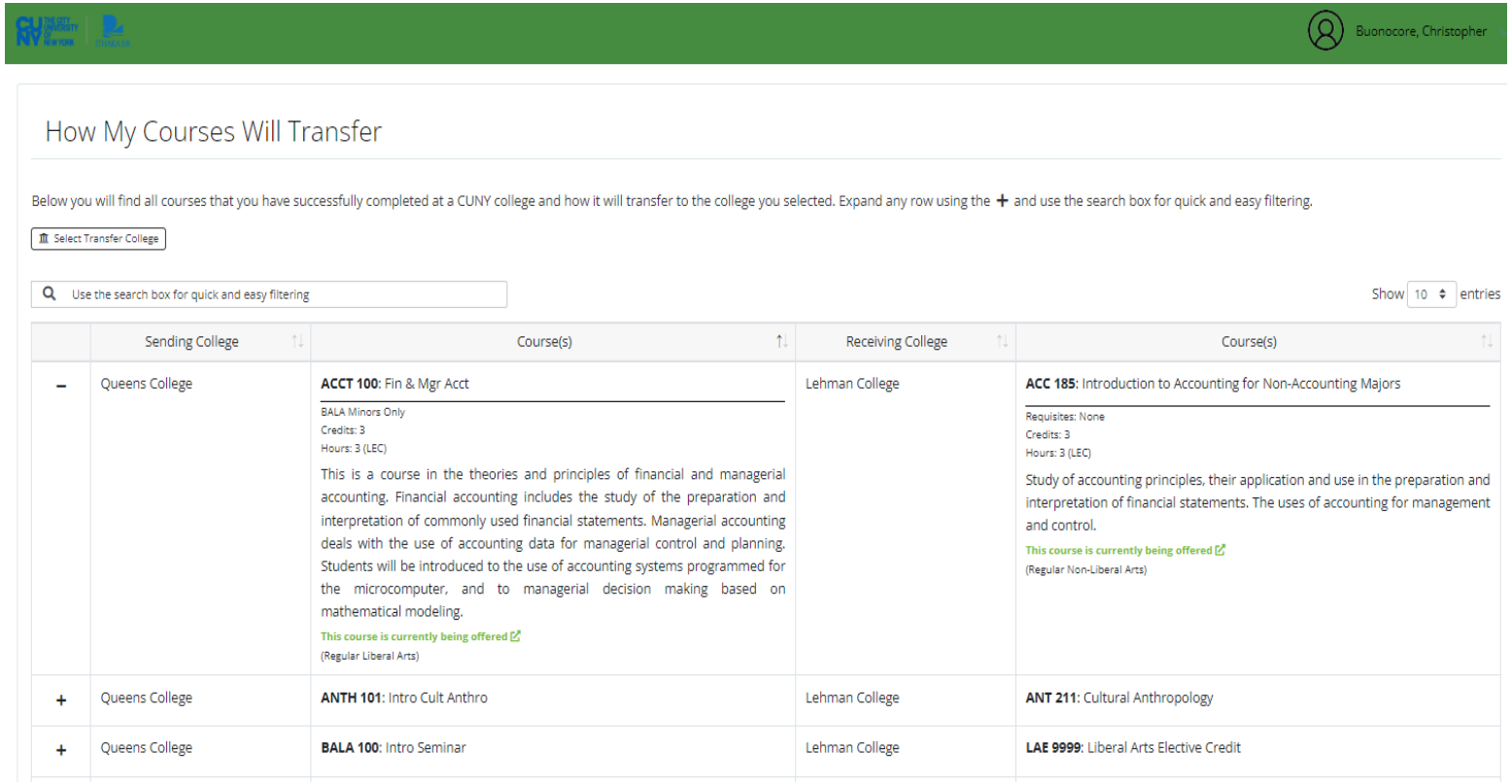
New Feature:
My Course History (requires login)



- CUNY students can log in to see how courses they have taken (or are currently taking) will transfer and apply across CUNY
- All of this information is still available publicly, but this will make it easier for students to view their own record

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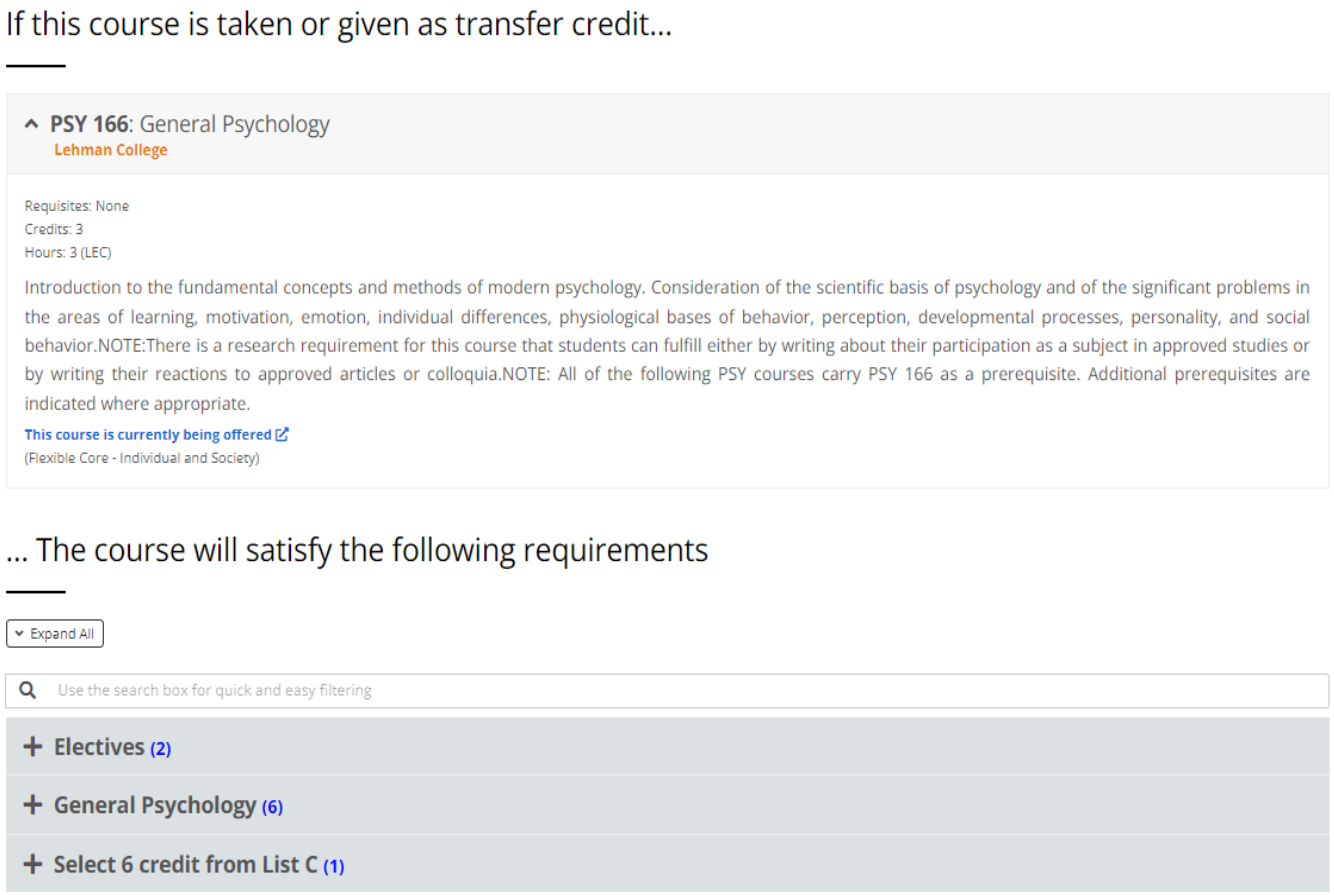
New Feature:
What Requirements Does This Course Satisfy



- Through the parsing of DegreeWorks scribe data, we can now show the major and minor requirements that every course can apply to across CUNY
- We are associating each course across the platform with a link to this page, for easy navigation

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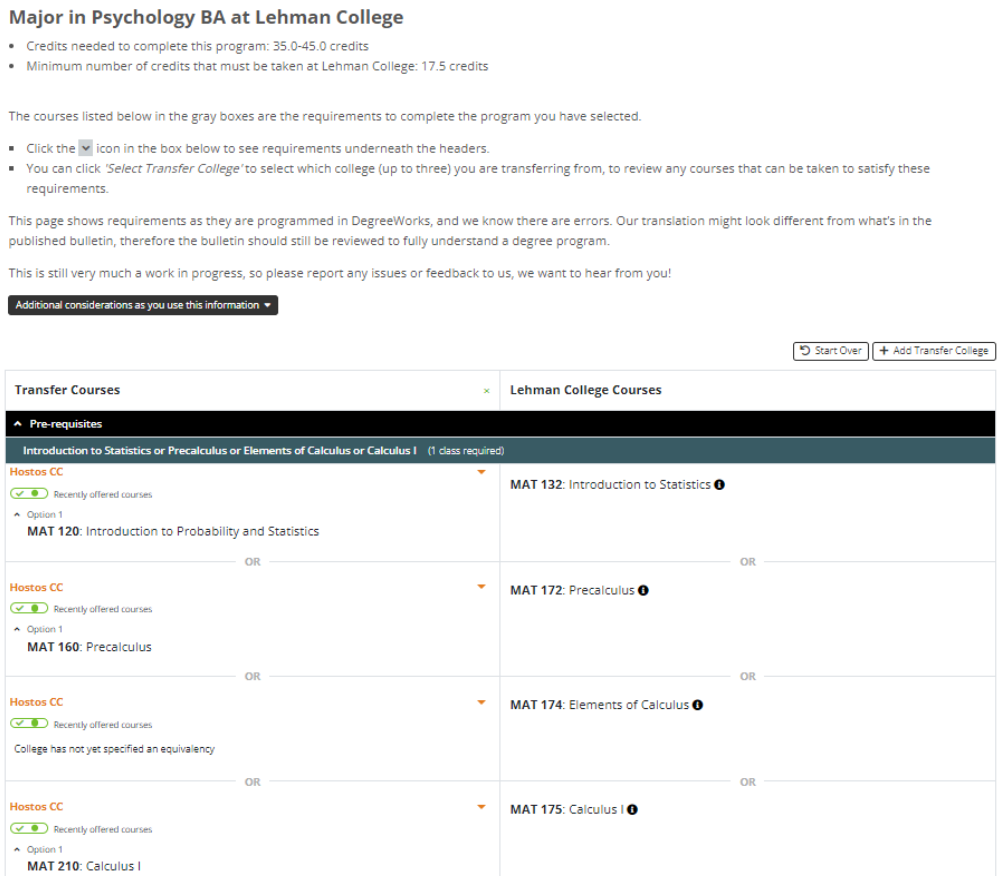
New Feature:
Understand CUNY major and minor requirements



Major in Psychology BA at Lehman College

- Credits needed to complete this program: 35.0-45.0 credits
- Minimum number of credits that must be taken at Lehman College: 17.5 credits

The courses listed below in the gray boxes are the requirements to complete the program you have selected.

- Click the icon in the box below to see requirements underneath the headers.
- You can click *'Select Transfer College'* to select which college (up to three) you are transferring from, to review any courses that can be taken to satisfy these requirements.

This page shows requirements as they are programmed in DegreeWorks, and we know there are errors. Our translation might look different from what's in the published bulletin, therefore the bulletin should still be reviewed to fully understand a degree program.

This is still very much a work in progress, so please report any issues or feedback to us, we want to hear from you!

Additional considerations as you use this information

Start Over | Add Transfer College

Transfer Courses	Lehman College Courses
Pre-requisites	
Introduction to Statistics or Precalculus or Elements of Calculus or Calculus I (1 class required)	
Hostos CC Recently offered courses Option 1 **MAT 120**: Introduction to Probability and Statistics	**MAT 132**: Introduction to Statistics
OR	OR
Hostos CC Recently offered courses Option 1 **MAT 160**: Precalculus	**MAT 172**: Precalculus
OR	OR
Hostos CC Recently offered courses College has not yet specified an equivalency	**MAT 174**: Elements of Calculus
OR	OR
Hostos CC Recently offered courses Option 1 **MAT 210**: Calculus I	**MAT 175**: Calculus I

- Through the parsing of Degree Works scribe data, we can now show the full major and minor requirements across CUNY
- User will see requirements as scribed in Degree Works
- Ability to see what courses can be taken in transfer to satisfy those requirements

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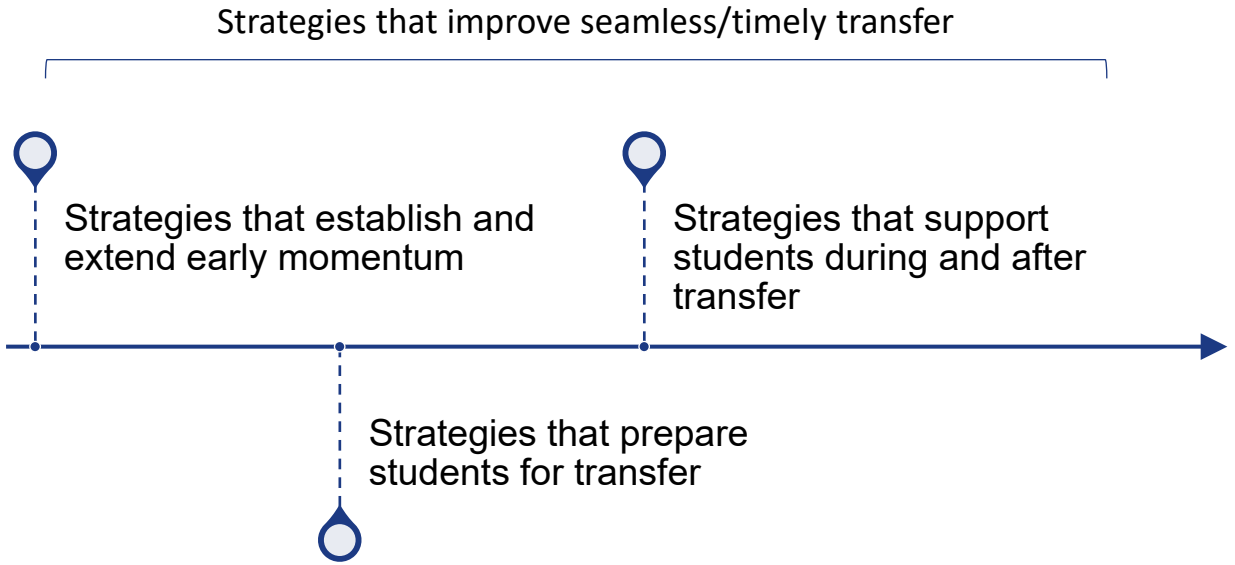
Recent Transfer Context @ CUNY

- Gateway Course Alignment
- Promising Practices
  - Bronx Transfer Affinity Group (BTAG)
  - New Academy Models
- Transfer Tools
- Transfer Research Projects
- Transfer Steering Committee
- Academic Momentum Campaign 2.0

Academic Momentum Campaign (AcMo) 2.0

- Builds on Academic Momentum Campaign 1.0
- Provides coherent framework for amplifying/extending transfer work already happening across CUNY
- Recognizes shared responsibility of all institutions to support students along their entire CUNY transfer journey
- With declining new student enrollment, offers opportunity to increase retention of students on a transfer pathway



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Broaden Adoption of T-Rex

CUNY OAA	College Ambassadors	Lehman College
• Project management & reporting to funder • Technical assistance and guidance	• Become resident expert and point of contact at each college • Turnkey training to staff/faculty • Identify opps to integrate T-REX into college operations • Liaise with the CUNY OAA and report on activities/outcomes • Support setup of admin workflow	• Lead trainers

Over AY 22-23, working to train faculty, advisors, and other stakeholders across CUNY colleges.

Goals:

- **Train 50% of advisors**
- **Increase T-Rex usage by 50%**

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Broaden Adoption of T-Rex

By the Numbers

~1,200 Number of staff and faculty trained.

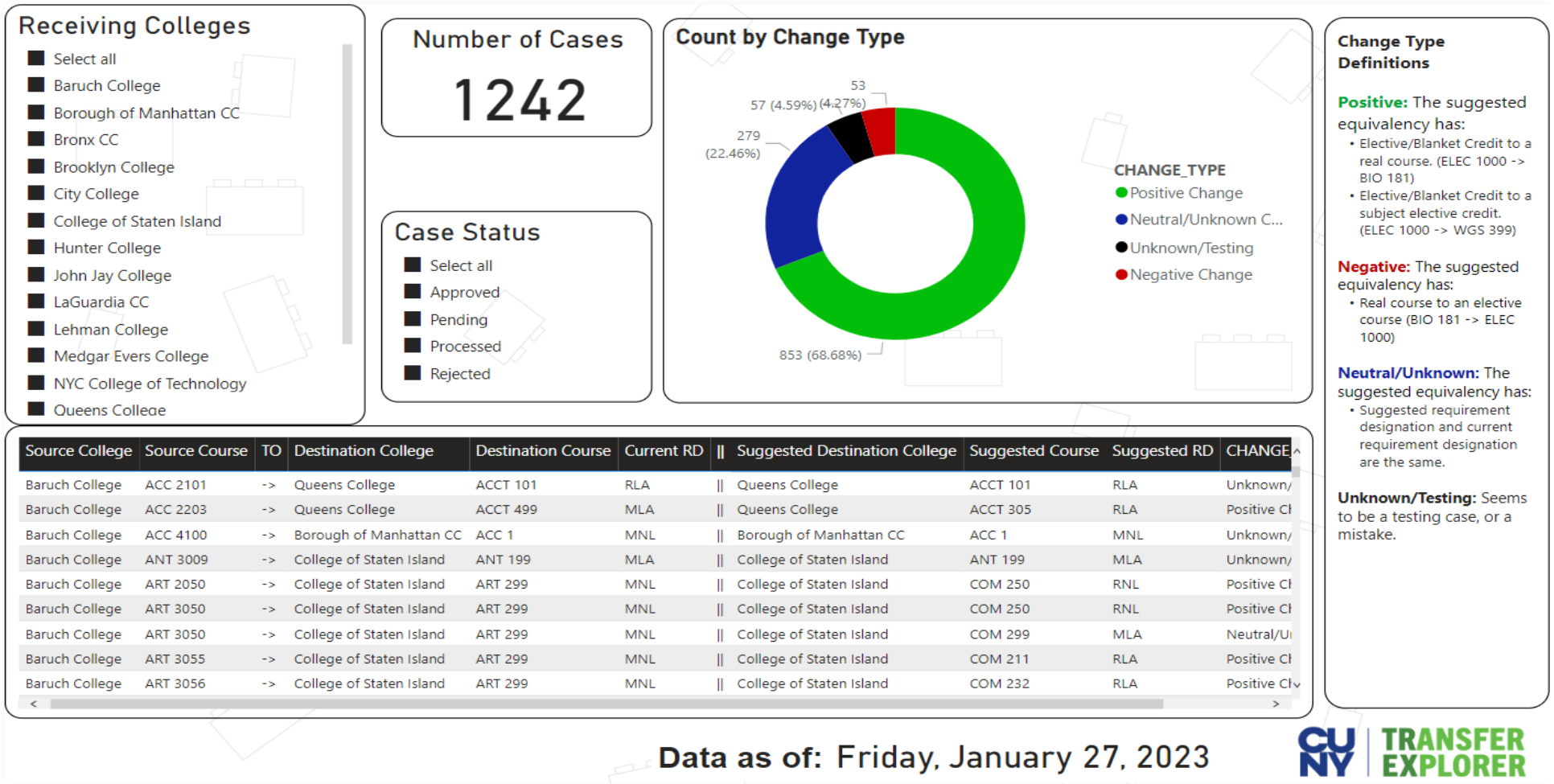
~65% Percent of advisement staff trained.

^27% The change in average monthly new T-Rex users from the time we began our ambassador work.

Other Accomplishments

- Begun to build community of practice
  - Active TEAMS channel
- Rolled out administrative module

T-Rex: Administrative Module Dashboard



Source College	Source Course	TO	Destination College	Destination Course	Current RD	||	Suggested Destination College	Suggested Course	Suggested RD	CHANGE
Baruch College	ACC 2101	->	Queens College	ACCT 101	RLA	||	Queens College	ACCT 101	RLA	Unknown/
Baruch College	ACC 2203	->	Queens College	ACCT 499	MLA	||	Queens College	ACCT 305	RLA	Positive Cl
Baruch College	ACC 4100	->	Borough of Manhattan CC	ACC 1	MNL	||	Borough of Manhattan CC	ACC 1	MNL	Unknown/
Baruch College	ANT 3009	->	College of Staten Island	ANT 199	MLA	||	College of Staten Island	ANT 199	MLA	Unknown/
Baruch College	ART 2050	->	College of Staten Island	ART 299	MNL	||	College of Staten Island	COM 250	RNL	Positive Cl
Baruch College	ART 3050	->	College of Staten Island	ART 299	MNL	||	College of Staten Island	COM 250	RNL	Positive Cl
Baruch College	ART 3050	->	College of Staten Island	ART 299	MNL	||	College of Staten Island	COM 299	MLA	Neutral/U
Baruch College	ART 3055	->	College of Staten Island	ART 299	MNL	||	College of Staten Island	COM 211	RLA	Positive Cl
Baruch College	ART 3056	->	College of Staten Island	ART 299	MNL	||	College of Staten Island	COM 232	RLA	Positive Cl

Data as of: Friday, January 27, 2023

CUNY TRANSFER EXPLORER

526 approvers set up
1242 cases opened

- **91.1% positive or neutral/unknown**

Dashboard updated regularly to keep track of changes.

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Looking Ahead: Transfer @ CUNY and T-Rex

TRANSFER

- Transfer has become an even higher priority at CUNY
  - One of the priorities in a forthcoming strategic plan
- New system-wide work getting underway

T-REX

Ongoing

- User-experience testing
- Collaboration with CUNY OAA and T-Rex Ambassadors across CUNY to build out the faculty workflow.

By June 2023

- Incorporation of transfer timelines and other “leader boards”
- Site design refresh
- Personalized transfer and degree program recommendations via SSO integration

Sessions By Our Colleagues

Wednesday February 1	
Virtual Concurrent Session Breakout 1 3:05-3:55pm EST	Virtual Concurrent Session Breakout 2 4:10-5:00pm EST
The True-Life Story of Transfer Students' Credits: The Bad and the Good Logue, A.W., Gentsch, K., Yoo, N., & Chellman, C.	**Faculty Views about Student Transfer from Community to Bachelor's-Granting College** Rabinowitz, V., Oka, Y., & Logue, A. W.
Friday February 3	**On-Demand Video**
Virtual Concurrent Session Breakout 3 12:00-12:50 pm EST	Via Conference App
Students, Faculty, and Staff Views on Transfer: Text Analysis of 34 Focus Groups and 35,000 Surveys Wutchiett, D., Logue, A. W., & Gentsch, K.	**Advantages of Humanities Transfer Students: Differences in GPA, Graduation, and Graduate Study** Wutchiett, D., & Rabinowitz, V.

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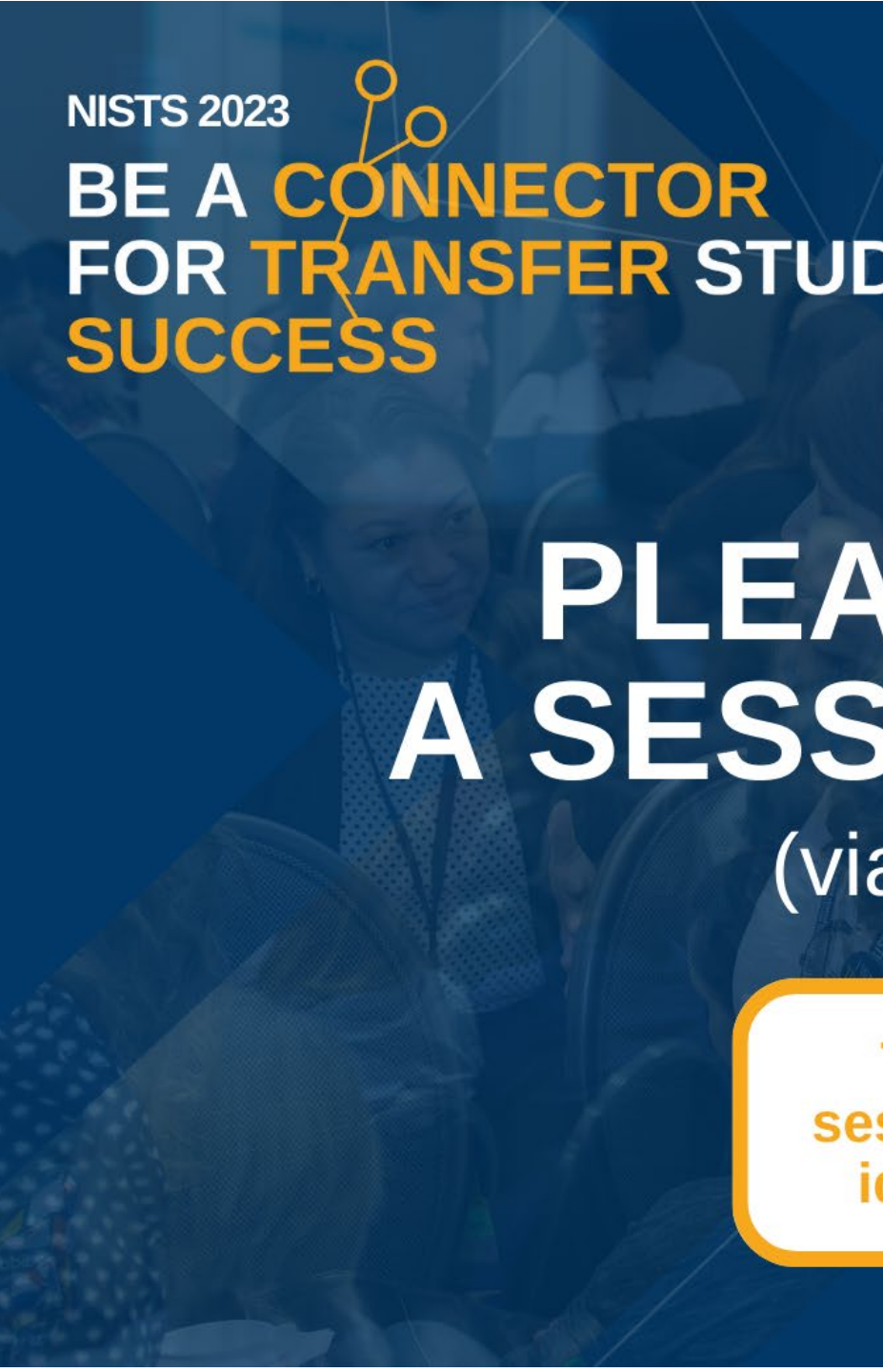

Thank you for attending!

PLEASE COMPLETE A SESSION EVALUATION

(via the conference app)

This session's id# is: **2807**

Q&A