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### *Educational Session*

## **Investigating Transfer Shock: Concepts, Controversies, and Implications for Transfer Students**

Matriculation Trends and Issues, Transition Programs and Services

This session investigates the concept of “transfer shock,” a much-cited yet still contentious issue in student transfer. Transfer shock refers to both cause and consequence in relation to the challenges of moving between institutions. Despite more than five decades of research, the true nature of transfer shock remains unclear. Participants will explore the history - and controversy - of transfer shock to better understand this concept and its potential implications.

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# Lakehead

U N I V E R S I T Y

- **Investigating Transfer Shock: Concepts, Controversies, and Implications for Transfer Students**
- Kaylin Kainulainen, Msc. Kin, PhD Student in Cognition & Learning
- *NISTS 2021 Annual Conference*
- Wednesday February 24, 2021

# Introduction to Transfer Shock

What can make transfer so  
*“shocking”*?

How might we assess whether transfer students are experiencing “shock”?

# Transfer Shock

- *“a severe drop in performance upon transfer”*  
(Hills, 1965, p. 202)
- Decrease in GPA when students move from 2-year institution to 4-year institution

# Transfer Shock in the Literature

- Early studies: evidence in numerous samples
- Possible Causes
- Potential Consequences

- Association with other factors affecting transfer
- Characteristics influencing experience of transfer shock
- Additional considerations

*“although transfer shock is a commonly used term, there is a lack of consensus concerning its definition” (Cejda, 1997, p. 281)*



What potential implications might transfer shock have for students, staff, and faculty at your institution?

# Reflection Questions

How might you use what you have learned today?

What information would be most relevant for Administrators? Faculty? Students?



# Thank You! Questions?

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