

NISTS 2021

NOT-SO-SECRET TRANSFER AGENTS FEBRUARY 23-25, 2021 | VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

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Research Spotlight

Noting Our Differences: Transfers Report Diverse Experiences in Six Undergraduate Colleges at a Large University

Matriculation Trends and Issues, Transition Programs and Services

This study aims to identify differences in transfer students' experiences across six undergraduate colleges within a large university. Across colleges, transfers reported differences in time spent studying, attending class, and interacting with faculty. Additional differences included participation in student organizations and comfort level on campus. These experiences were not always different from experiences gained at previous institutions. Despite the observed differences, respondents reported being overall satisfied with post-transfer experiences.

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NOTING OUR DIFFERENCES: TRANSFERS REPORT DIVERSE EXPERIENCES IN SIX UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGES AT A LARGE UNIVERSITY

Jennifer Bundy
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Elizabeth Foreman
Kelsey Powell
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NISTS 2021 VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Iowa State University (ISU)

**College of
Agriculture
and Life
Sciences**

**College of
Engineering**

**College of
Liberal Arts
and Sciences**

**Graduate
College**

**College of
Design**

**College of
Human
Sciences**

**Ivy College of
Business**

**College of
Veterinary
Medicine**



**Second Semester Transfer Students Invited to
Participate in the Survey**

Aim: Investigate and describe the transfer student experience at ISU

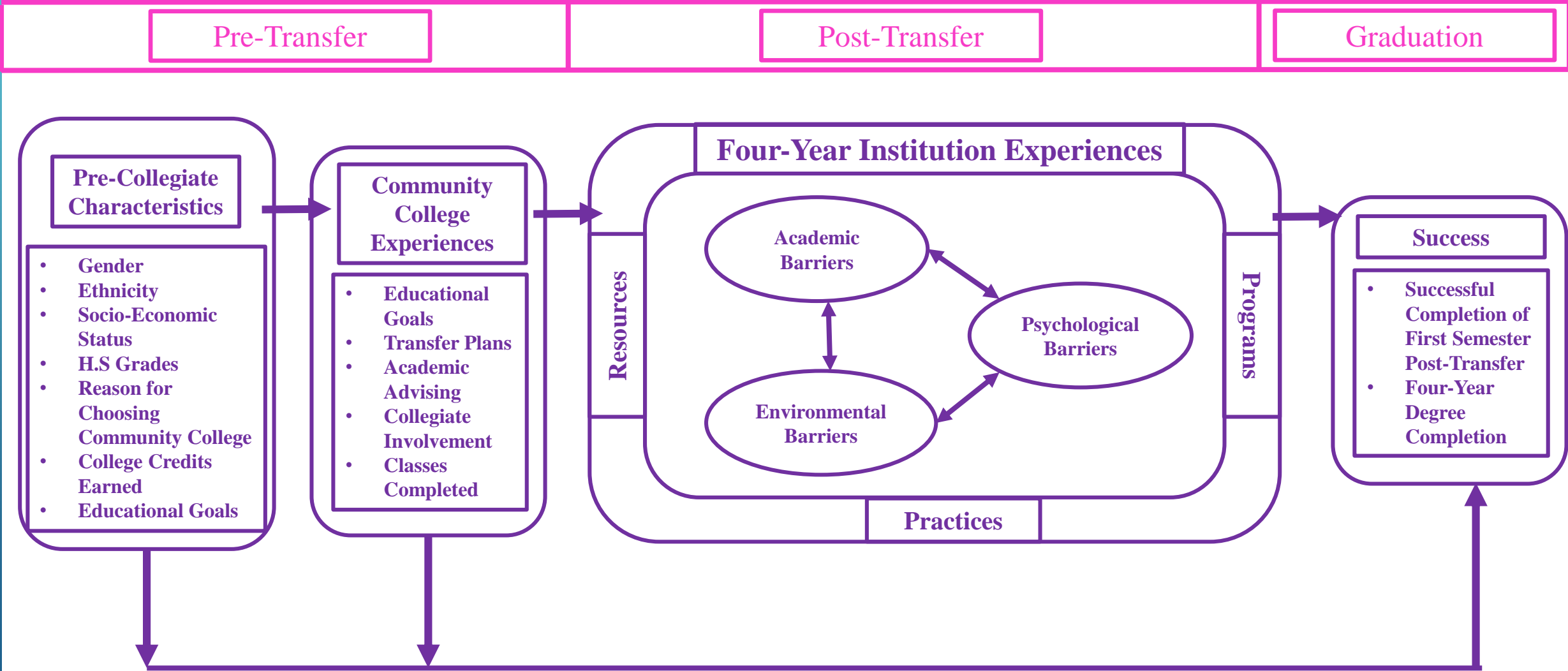
Methods: Collect transfer student feedback data from students starting their second semester at ISU

SURVEY INSTRUMENT DEVELOPMENT

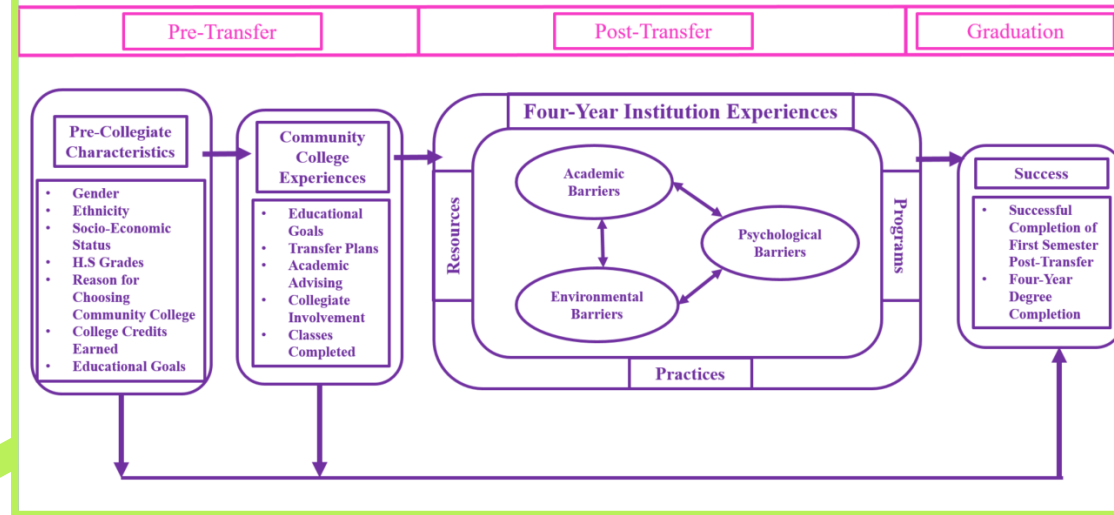
- 2018 Focus Group Discussions
 - Identified themes related to transfer experiences
- 2019 Pilot Study of Initial Survey Instrument
 - Used themes identified in focus groups
 - Performed literature review for additional relevant themes
- 2019 Distribute Survey to all second semester transfer students
- 2020 Data Analysis



LOGIC MODEL



LOGIC MODEL



Pre- and Post- Transfer Environmental Experiences

Pre- and Post- Transfer Academic Experiences and Academic Confidence

Post-Transfer Learning Community Participation

Post-Transfer Measurement of Transfer Shock

SURVEY RESPONDENTS



	Respondents	Invitees	Response Rate
College of Agriculture and Life Science	122	258	47.29%
College of Design	26	54	48.15%
College of Engineering	62	191	32.46%
College of Human Sciences	96	203	45.81%
College of Business	105	247	42.51%
College of Liberal Arts and Science	141	357	39.50%
TOTAL	552	1310	42.14%

TEST FOR NON-RESPONSE ERROR

	First Semester GPA at ISU		
	Respond	Non-Respond	P-Value ¹
College of Agriculture and Life Science	3.03	2.80	0.03
College of Design	2.82	2.77	0.86
College of Engineering	3.05	2.59	<0.01
College of Human Sciences	3.21	2.84	<0.01
College of Business	3.16	2.74	<0.01
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	3.01	2.70	<0.01

¹A P-value of <0.05 indicates differences that are statistically significant

Due to significant differences in the performance of respondents vs. non-respondents, caution should be taken when interpreting results of this data

**Pre- and Post-
Transfer
Environmental
Experiences**

PRE- AND POST- TRANSFER ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERIENCES

	I am involved in at least one club/org		
	Post-	Pre-	P-Value
College of Agriculture	4.1	3.5	< 0.01
College of Design	3.3	3.4	0.74
College of Engineering	4.1	3.1	< 0.01
College of Human Sci.	3.4	3.0	0.25
College of Business	3.5	2.7	< 0.01
College of Lib. Arts and Sci.	3.4	3.0	0.04

Students were asked to what degree to they agree with the following statements
1 = strongly disagree; 3 = neither agree nor disagree; 5 strongly agree

PRE- AND POST- TRANSFER ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERIENCES

	I am involved in at least one club/org			My peers encouraged me to get involved		
	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value
College of Agriculture	4.1	3.5	< 0.01	4.0	3.2	< 0.01
College of Design	3.3	3.4	0.74	3.7	3.4	0.52
College of Engineering	4.1	3.1	< 0.01	3.7	3.0	0.72
College of Human Sci.	3.4	3.0	0.25	3.3	3.3	0.77
College of Business	3.5	2.7	< 0.01	3.5	2.7	< 0.01
College of Lib. Arts and Sci.	3.4	3.0	0.04	3.5	3.0	< 0.01

Students were asked to what degree to they agree with the following statements
 1 = strongly disagree; 3 = neither agree nor disagree; 5 strongly agree

PRE- AND POST- TRANSFER ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERIENCES

	I am involved in at least one club/org			My peers encouraged me to get involved			Instructors encouraged me to get involved		
	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value
College of Agriculture	4.1	3.5	< 0.01	4.0	3.2	< 0.01	4.2	3.4	< 0.01
College of Design	3.3	3.4	0.74	3.7	3.4	0.52	3.9	3.7	0.62
College of Engineering	4.1	3.1	< 0.01	3.7	3.0	0.72	3.7	3.3	0.24
College of Human Sci.	3.4	3.0	0.25	3.3	3.3	0.77	3.8	3.3	0.04
College of Business	3.5	2.7	< 0.01	3.5	2.7	< 0.01	3.9	3.1	< 0.01
College of Lib. Arts and Sci.	3.4	3.0	0.04	3.5	3.0	< 0.01	3.8	3.4	0.02

Students were asked to what degree to they agree with the following statements
 1 = strongly disagree; 3 = neither agree nor disagree; 5 strongly agree

PRE- AND POST- TRANSFER ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERIENCES

	I am involved in at least one club/org			My peers encouraged me to get involved			Instructors encouraged me to get involved			I feel/felt at home at my institution		
	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value
College of Agriculture	4.1	3.5	< 0.01	4.0	3.2	< 0.01	4.2	3.4	< 0.01	3.9	3.8	0.40
College of Design	3.3	3.4	0.74	3.7	3.4	0.52	3.9	3.7	0.62	3.7	3.2	0.32
College of Engineering	4.1	3.1	< 0.01	3.7	3.0	0.72	3.7	3.3	0.24	3.8	3.5	0.25
College of Human Sci.	3.4	3.0	0.25	3.3	3.3	0.77	3.8	3.3	0.04	3.9	3.6	0.29
College of Business	3.5	2.7	< 0.01	3.5	2.7	< 0.01	3.9	3.1	< 0.01	3.8	3.4	0.10
College of Lib. Arts and Sci.	3.4	3.0	0.04	3.5	3.0	< 0.01	3.8	3.4	0.02	3.6	3.3	0.11

Students were asked to what degree to they agree with the following statements
 1 = strongly disagree; 3 = neither agree nor disagree; 5 strongly agree

PRE- AND POST- TRANSFER ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERIENCES

	I am involved in at least one club/org			My peers encouraged me to get involved			Instructors encouraged me to get involved			I feel/felt at home at my institution			I feel/felt safe at my institution		
	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value
College of Agriculture	4.1	3.5	< 0.01	4.0	3.2	< 0.01	4.2	3.4	< 0.01	3.9	3.8	0.40	4.3	4.2	0.48
College of Design	3.3	3.4	0.74	3.7	3.4	0.52	3.9	3.7	0.62	3.7	3.2	0.32	4.1	4.1	0.85
College of Engineering	4.1	3.1	< 0.01	3.7	3.0	0.72	3.7	3.3	0.24	3.8	3.5	0.25	4.4	4.3	0.36
College of Human Sci.	3.4	3.0	0.25	3.3	3.3	0.77	3.8	3.3	0.04	3.9	3.6	0.29	4.4	3.8	0.02
College of Business	3.5	2.7	< 0.01	3.5	2.7	< 0.01	3.9	3.1	< 0.01	3.8	3.4	0.10	4.6	4.2	0.01
College of Lib. Arts and Sci.	3.4	3.0	0.04	3.5	3.0	< 0.01	3.8	3.4	0.02	3.6	3.3	0.11	4.3	4.1	0.11

Students were asked to what degree to they agree with the following statements
 1 = strongly disagree; 3 = neither agree nor disagree; 5 strongly agree

PRE- AND POST- TRANSFER ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERIENCES

	I am involved in at least one club/org			My peers encouraged me to get involved			Instructors encouraged me to get involved			I feel/felt at home at my institution			I feel/felt safe at my institution			I am/was confident navigating campus		
	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value
College of Agriculture	4.1	3.5	< 0.01	4.0	3.2	< 0.01	4.2	3.4	< 0.01	3.9	3.8	0.40	4.3	4.2	0.48	4.0	4.7	< 0.01
College of Design	3.3	3.4	0.74	3.7	3.4	0.52	3.9	3.7	0.62	3.7	3.2	0.32	4.1	4.1	0.85	3.6	4.5	< 0.01
College of Engineering	4.1	3.1	< 0.01	3.7	3.0	0.72	3.7	3.3	0.24	3.8	3.5	0.25	4.4	4.3	0.36	4.2	4.2	0.81
College of Human Sci.	3.4	3.0	0.25	3.3	3.3	0.77	3.8	3.3	0.04	3.9	3.6	0.29	4.4	3.8	0.02	3.7	4.6	< 0.01
College of Business	3.5	2.7	< 0.01	3.5	2.7	< 0.01	3.9	3.1	< 0.01	3.8	3.4	0.10	4.6	4.2	0.01	4.0	4.6	< 0.01
College of Lib. Arts and Sci.	3.4	3.0	0.04	3.5	3.0	< 0.01	3.8	3.4	0.02	3.6	3.3	0.11	4.3	4.1	0.11	4.1	4.6	< 0.01

Students were asked to what degree to they agree with the following statements
 1 = strongly disagree; 3 = neither agree nor disagree; 5 strongly agree

Pre- and Post- Transfer Academic Experiences

PRE- AND POST-TRANSFER ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES AND ACADEMIC CONFIDENCE

	I struggle (d) to balance academics with work/etc.		
	Post-	Pre-	P-Value
College of Agriculture	3.1	2.6	< 0.01
College of Design	3.7	2.8	0.04
College of Engineering	3.6	2.9	< 0.01
College of Human Sci.	3.3	2.6	< 0.01
College of Business	3.0	2.4	< 0.01
College of Lib. Arts and Sci.	3.2	2.6	< 0.01

Students were asked to what degree to they agree with the following statements
1 = strongly disagree; 3 = neither agree nor disagree; 5 strongly agree

PRE- AND POST-TRANSFER ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES AND ACADEMIC CONFIDENCE

	I struggle (d) to balance academics with work/etc.			My institution challenges(d) me academically		
	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value
College of Agriculture	3.1	2.6	< 0.01	4.4	3.5	< 0.01
College of Design	3.7	2.8	0.04	4.7	3.3	< 0.01
College of Engineering	3.6	2.9	< 0.01	4.7	3.6	< 0.01
College of Human Sci.	3.3	2.6	< 0.01	4.4	3.8	< 0.01
College of Business	3.0	2.4	< 0.01	4.2	3.4	< 0.01
College of Lib. Arts and Sci.	3.2	2.6	< 0.01	4.3	3.6	< 0.01

Students were asked to what degree to they agree with the following statements
 1 = strongly disagree; 3 = neither agree nor disagree; 5 strongly agree

PRE- AND POST-TRANSFER ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES AND ACADEMIC CONFIDENCE

	I struggle (d) to balance academics with work/etc.			My institution challenges(d) me academically			I was/am capable of completing work in my classes		
	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value
College of Agriculture	3.1	2.6	< 0.01	4.4	3.5	< 0.01	4.4	4.6	0.05
College of Design	3.7	2.8	0.04	4.7	3.3	< 0.01	4.0	4.5	0.03
College of Engineering	3.6	2.9	< 0.01	4.7	3.6	< 0.01	4.2	4.3	0.25
College of Human Sci.	3.3	2.6	< 0.01	4.4	3.8	< 0.01	4.3	4.4	0.75
College of Business	3.0	2.4	< 0.01	4.2	3.4	< 0.01	4.5	4.4	0.30
College of Lib. Arts and Sci.	3.2	2.6	< 0.01	4.3	3.6	< 0.01	4.4	4.5	0.18

Students were asked to what degree to they agree with the following statements
 1 = strongly disagree; 3 = neither agree nor disagree; 5 strongly agree

PRE- AND POST-TRANSFER ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES AND ACADEMIC CONFIDENCE

	I struggle (d) to balance academics with work/etc.			My institution challenges(d) me academically			I was/am capable of completing work in my classes			I did/do feel comfortable asking questions		
	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value
College of Agriculture	3.1	2.6	< 0.01	4.4	3.5	< 0.01	4.4	4.6	0.05	3.4	4.0	< 0.01
College of Design	3.7	2.8	0.04	4.7	3.3	< 0.01	4.0	4.5	0.03	3.3	3.7	0.15
College of Engineering	3.6	2.9	< 0.01	4.7	3.6	< 0.01	4.2	4.3	0.25	3.5	3.7	0.22
College of Human Sci.	3.3	2.6	< 0.01	4.4	3.8	< 0.01	4.3	4.4	0.75	3.6	3.9	0.05
College of Business	3.0	2.4	< 0.01	4.2	3.4	< 0.01	4.5	4.4	0.30	3.7	3.7	0.79
College of Lib. Arts and Sci.	3.2	2.6	< 0.01	4.3	3.6	< 0.01	4.4	4.5	0.18	3.6	4.0	< 0.01

Students were asked to what degree to they agree with the following statements
 1 = strongly disagree; 3 = neither agree nor disagree; 5 strongly agree

PRE- AND POST-TRANSFER ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES AND ACADEMIC CONFIDENCE

	I struggle (d) to balance academics with work/etc.			My institution challenges(d) me academically			I was/am capable of completing work in my classes			I did/do feel comfortable asking questions			Faculty/Staff are/were helpful when I have questions		
	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value
College of Agriculture	3.1	2.6	< 0.01	4.4	3.5	< 0.01	4.4	4.6	0.05	3.4	4.0	< 0.01	4.2	4.2	0.35
College of Design	3.7	2.8	0.04	4.7	3.3	< 0.01	4.0	4.5	0.03	3.3	3.7	0.15	4.2	4.4	0.24
College of Engineering	3.6	2.9	< 0.01	4.7	3.6	< 0.01	4.2	4.3	0.25	3.5	3.7	0.22	4.2	4.0	0.39
College of Human Sci.	3.3	2.6	< 0.01	4.4	3.8	< 0.01	4.3	4.4	0.75	3.6	3.9	0.05	4.3	4.2	0.83
College of Business	3.0	2.4	< 0.01	4.2	3.4	< 0.01	4.5	4.4	0.30	3.7	3.7	0.79	4.4	4.1	0.03
College of Lib. Arts and Sci.	3.2	2.6	< 0.01	4.3	3.6	< 0.01	4.4	4.5	0.18	3.6	4.0	< 0.01	4.4	4.2	0.01

Students were asked to what degree to they agree with the following statements
 1 = strongly disagree; 3 = neither agree nor disagree; 5 strongly agree

PRE- AND POST-TRANSFER ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES AND ACADEMIC CONFIDENCE

	I struggle (d) to balance academics with work/etc.			My institution challenges(d) me academically			I was/am capable of completing work in my classes			I did/do feel comfortable asking questions			Faculty/Staff are/were helpful when I have questions			I do/did not perform well on my exams		
	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value	Post-	Pre-	P-Value
College of Agriculture	3.1	2.6	< 0.01	4.4	3.5	< 0.01	4.4	4.6	0.05	3.4	4.0	< 0.01	4.2	4.2	0.35	2.9	2.3	0.01
College of Design	3.7	2.8	0.04	4.7	3.3	< 0.01	4.0	4.5	0.03	3.3	3.7	0.15	4.2	4.4	0.24	3.0	2.1	< 0.01
College of Engineering	3.6	2.9	< 0.01	4.7	3.6	< 0.01	4.2	4.3	0.25	3.5	3.7	0.22	4.2	4.0	0.39	2.9	2.6	0.19
College of Human Sci.	3.3	2.6	< 0.01	4.4	3.8	< 0.01	4.3	4.4	0.75	3.6	3.9	0.05	4.3	4.2	0.83	2.7	2.6	0.45
College of Business	3.0	2.4	< 0.01	4.2	3.4	< 0.01	4.5	4.4	0.30	3.7	3.7	0.79	4.4	4.1	0.03	2.7	2.4	0.05
College of Lib. Arts and Sci.	3.2	2.6	< 0.01	4.3	3.6	< 0.01	4.4	4.5	0.18	3.6	4.0	< 0.01	4.4	4.2	0.01	2.6	2.4	0.17

Students were asked to what degree to they agree with the following statements
 1 = strongly disagree; 3 = neither agree nor disagree; 5 strongly agree

Learning Community Participation

POST-TRANSFER LEARNING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

	I participated in a learning community post-transfer		
	No	Yes	Total
College of Agriculture	57 (55.3%)	46 (44.7%)	103
College of Design	21 (84.0%)	4 (16.0%)	25
College of Engineering	29 (55.8%)	23 (44.2%)	52
College of Human Sci.	57 (75.0%)	19 (25.0%)	76
College of Business	55 (65.5%)	29 (34.5%)	84
College of Lib. Arts and Sci.	109 (84.5%)	20 (15.5%)	129

**Transfer Shock
Measured as a Drop
in First-Semester
GPA**

TRANSFER SHOCK

DEFINED AS A DROP IN GPA FOLLOWING TRANSFER TO A
NEW INSTITUTION (HILLS, 1965)

	Is transfer shock significant?			
	Avg. ISU GPA	Avg. Transfer GPA	Avg. Difference	P-Value ¹
College of Agriculture	2.90	3.15	-0.25	<0.01
College of Design	2.79	2.91	-0.12	0.38
College of Engineering	2.74	3.07	-0.33	<0.01
College of Human Sci.	3.01	3.14	-0.13	0.01
College of Business	2.92	3.01	-0.09	0.05
College of Lib. Arts and Sci.	2.82	3.02	-0.20	<0.01

¹A P-value of <0.05 indicates differences that are statistically significant

CONCLUSIONS

- These results show differences in collegiate activities, academic confidence, and level of comfort on campus among students from different academic colleges within the same university
- There is need for overarching transfer programs that promote onboarding at the university level **HOWEVER:**
- Care should be taken to understand all of the programmatic differences across colleges or academic units
- Larger institutions need comprehensive transfer programming at the university, college, and departmental level

NEXT STEPS

- Detect statistical associations between demographics, plan to transfer, pre- and post-transfer resources used
 - Analysis on a per college basis
- Collect a second round of data from the fall 2020 cohort
 - Compare differences between the 2019 cohort and 2020 cohort

Thank you!

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