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## Looking to transfer?

You may think it's too soon to start thinking about transferring, but you're wrong! The sooner you start thinking about transferring, the smoother the transition will be for you.

If you think you'll be transferring from a two-year school to a four-year school or even from a four-year school to a different college or university, be sure to remember these pointers:

### It's never too early

Believe it or not, you should get in touch with a transfer coordinator the summer after high school.

If you have an idea of what you want to major in and you have already identified four-year schools you want to attend, you can get started.

Beth Minard, assistant director and coordinator of transfer admissions at SUNY ESF and immediate past president of New York State Transfer and Articulation Association, says, "Before you step foot into a classroom you need to be in touch with me!"

"The sooner they start planning the better, because they will have their general education courses out of the way," Minard says.

### Communication is key

Keep lines of communication open with your current school and also with the school you plan to transfer to. Talking to admission representatives at your current school will help you choose

courses that will transfer early on and ensure you're on the right track. These discussions can also reveal articulation agreements between community colleges and four-year schools, which can help ensure you'll graduate on time.

Meanwhile, discussions with the four-year school's transfer coordinator will help ensure you're following deadlines and meeting course expectations.

"The horror stories you hear about transferring ... I would be willing to bet money they weren't talking to anyone," Minard says.

### What about financial aid?

The financial aid process does change a bit. However, you'll still fill out the FAFSA renewal for your new school. Remember, colleges and universities will have a separate budget for transfer students, so apply for it! Don't forget to ask about merit scholarship opportunities and remember that transfer scholarships and grants may go beyond the typical two-year period—you just have to ask!

### NOTES:

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### ASK THESE QUESTIONS WHEN VISITING A POTENTIAL TRANSFER SCHOOL

- How many of my credits will transfer toward my degree?
- How many more credits will I need to take to complete my degree?
- Can I complete my requirements within two years of full-time study?
- Is there a minimum GPA required for acceptance into the program?
- How are transfer students assigned housing?
- What student services are available, such as tutoring?
- When do I have to select my major? Is it possible to change majors?
- What is the student-faculty ratio in upper-division classes?



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