

## If They Were in Charge: How Transfer Students Would Change Orientation and Engagement

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In today's session, we will

- Explore the roadblocks transfer students experience as they navigate various institutions;
- Gain a student perspective on the transfer orientation experience; and
- Discuss how transfer students became engaged and empowered within the UIC community.



Where is the research on the transfer  
student experience?



### The Transfer Student: A Snapshot

- During the 2015-2016 academic year, 9 million undergraduate students were enrolled in public two-year institutions. Over 3.9 million of them were enrolled full-time.
- In fall of 2015, over 30 percent of undergraduate students attended two-year colleges. Students at community colleges made up 24 percent of full-time undergraduate students.
- Nearly 50 percent of undergraduate students who graduated in the 2015-2016 academic year had been enrolled in a two-year college within the past decade.

[National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, 2017;  
National Center for Education Statistics, 2017]



### The Challenges Transfer Students Face

- The process of transferring between institutions is influenced by many factors (Hagedorn 2005).
- Barriers to overall success for transfer students include lack of academic preparation, minimal or nonexistent family support, and insufficient financial resources (Dennis et al, 2008; Packard et al, 2012).



### The Challenges Transfer Students Face

- The application process is frustrating due to the non-transfer of credits (Townsend, 2008).
- Orientation programs are not always designed to be inclusive of transfer students. These orientation sessions are critical, as they introduce transfer students to an array of services on campus (Gordon, 1992).
- Wang and Wharton discuss how the lack of awareness of support services contributes to lack of usage among transfer students (2012).
- Student engagement with peers and faculty play a significant role in persistence (Astin, 1984; Wang & Wharton 2010).



### Fall Enrollment of Undergraduate Transfer Students at the University of Illinois at Chicago 2013-2017

Enrollment Overview					
UIC Student Level	Fall_13	Fall_14	Fall_15	Fall_16	Fall_17
Undergraduate	1,640.0	1,718.0	1,589.0	1,947.0	2,176.0
Grand Total	1,640.0	1,718.0	1,589.0	1,947.0	2,176.0

  

College	Fall_13	Fall_14	Fall_15	Fall_16	Fall_17
Applied Health Sciences	85	120	126	140	157
Architecture, Design, & the Arts	111	81	80	109	110
Business Administration	281	261	247	349	398
Education	21	37	25	61	35
Engineering	287	336	316	359	398
Liberal Arts & Sciences	674	705	599	731	876
Nursing	102	131	146	172	168
School of Public Health	6	13	12	13	18
Urban Planning & Public Affairs	13	14	18	23	25
Grand Total	1,640	1,718	1,589	1,947	2,176

This enrollment overview was created from the Student Data Book Dashboards on the website for UIC's Office of Institutional Research - <http://www.oir.uic.edu/>.



### Panel of Experts

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Transfer Assistance Center

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College of Liberal Arts & Sciences



**SPRING 2018  
TRANSFER SUCCESS EVENTS**

**TRANSFER STUDENT WARM-UP**  
FEBRUARY 1  
11AM - 1PM  
850 UH  
DROP IN FOR FREE  
HOT CHOCOLATE  
& LAS GEAR

**INTERNSHIPS**  
MARCH 15  
11AM-12PM  
850 UH

**REGISTRATION REFRESHER**  
APRIL 4 3-4PM  
APRIL 5 11AM - 12PM  
401 UH

RSVP AT [STUDENT.TAS.UIC.EDU](http://STUDENT.TAS.UIC.EDU)

The poster features a blue and white color scheme with red accents. It includes icons for a hot chocolate cup, a briefcase, and a checklist. The text is arranged in a vertical layout with event details for each date.