

# Supporting Transfer Students at UCI

Presented by SSI - Transfer Success Team- 12/3/2020

Adeeva Myers  
Blanca Villagomez  
Janet Perez-Molina  
Laney Stucki  
Rocio Zamudio  
Joanna M. Hernandez



# Agenda



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## UCI TRANSFER STUDENT FACTS

What do we know about UCI Transfer students?

02

## TRANSFER SUCCESS PROGRAMS

What SSI is doing to support transfers now.

03

## LESSONS LEARNED

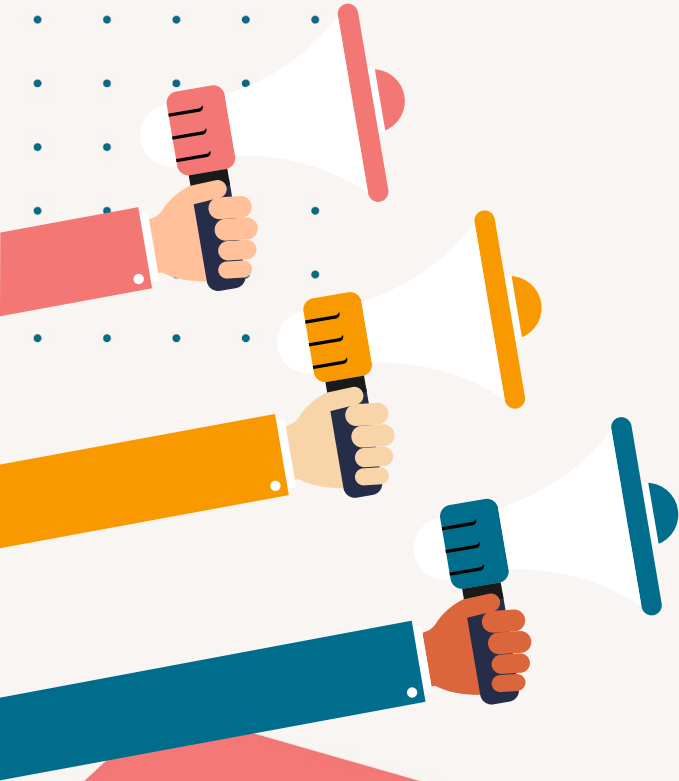
What have we learned about our transfer student needs.

04

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUPPORTING TRANSFER STUDENTS

What we can do to better support transfer students

# DISPELLING TRANSFER STUDENT MYTHS



# Kahoot! Instructions

1. Use your cellphone to play
2. Open a browser and join our game at [kahoot.it](https://kahoot.it)
3. Use **Game Pin** and enter your name
4. Selection of answers depend on response time and accuracy;  
each question is worth **1000 points**
5. Final score rankings shared at end

Good luck! :)

# WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT OUR UCI TRANSFER POPULATION?

Getting to know our transfer students



# Transfers by Numbers

6588

Fall 2020 enrolled Transfers

50.1% Male / 49.9% Female

Gender

23 years old

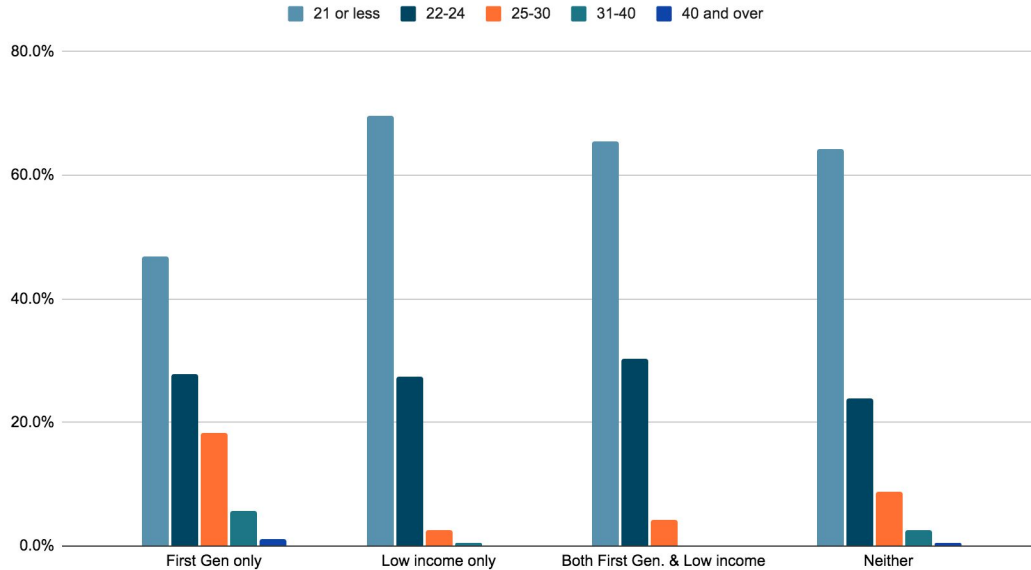
Average Age

Data provided by UCI - CAAR Office

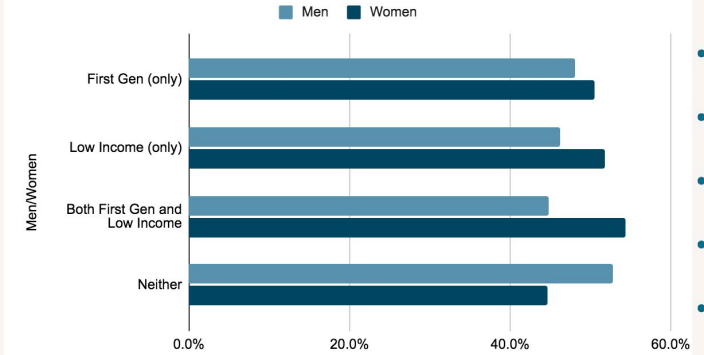


# First Generation & Low-Income Transfers

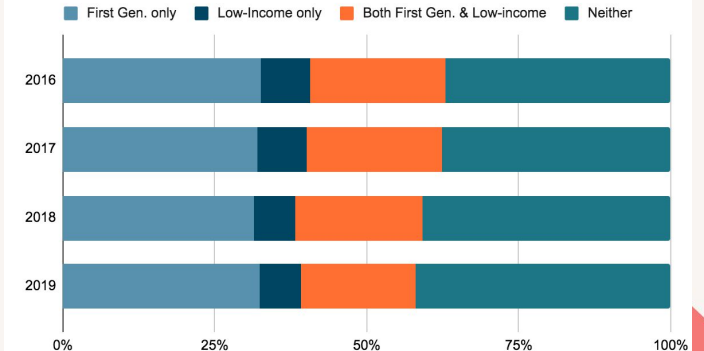
UCI Transfer Age Ranges



2019 UCI Transfer Gender



First Generation & Low Income Transfer Enrollment 2016-2019



# RETENTION & GRADUATION RATES

		1 Year Retention	2 Year Grad. Rate	3 Year Grad. Rate
First Gen (only)	<b>2016</b>	91.8%	52.9%	83.5%
Low Income (only)		92.6%	57.1%	86.2%
Both First Gen and Low Income		92.6%	49.0%	81.7%
Neither		92.7%	58.4%	87.6%
First Gen (only)	<b>2017</b>	92.6%	56.3%	84.8%
Low Income (only)		92.3%	50.4%	81.6%
Both First Gen and Low Income		92.0%	53.7%	85.5%
Neither		92.0%	58.9%	88.1%
First Gen (only)	<b>2018</b>	91.3%	56.9%	
Low Income (only)		90.8%	64.2%	
Both First Gen and Low Income		92.8%	59.4%	
Neither		94.0%	59.7%	
First Gen (only)	<b>2019</b>	93.2%		
Low Income (only)		94.0%		
Both First Gen and Low Income		93.9%		
Neither		91.8%		

Data provided by UCI - CAAR Office





**UCI Transfer Success  
Programs**

# Transfer Student Hub Services

UCI's Transfer Student Hub provides programs and services for transfer students that affirms their value to the UCI community and increases their visibility on our campus. Our programs and services are designed to GUIDE, INFORM, SUPPORT, and CONNECT all transfer students at UCI

## 1-1 Counselor Appointments

30 minute consultations with a Transfer Counselor around the topics; Adjusting to UCI, Time Management, Connecting to Faculty, Graduate School & Goal Setting.

## Transfer Talk Tuesdays

Transfer workshop series that occurs each quarter addressing the topics of academic, personal, and professional success.

## SSI Gateway Initiatives

A set of services designed to provide low-income, 1st generation students with the necessary resources, academic skills, and appropriate referrals

that will allow them to reach their maximum potential. This includes: Book Loan Program, LARC Scholarship, and Workshops.

## Transfer Success Programs

We have **seven cohort** based programs that aim to address the more specific needs of various transfer student identities.

# First Generation Transfers and First Year Transfers

## Challenges

### First Generation College Students

- Limited familial support in the college process.
- Disproportionately come from ethnic and racial minority backgrounds with lower levels of academic preparation. (Engle & Tinto, 2008)
- Tend to be older, less likely to receive financial support from parents, and more likely to have multiple obligations outside college, like family and work, that limit their full participation in the college experience (Engle & Tinto, 2008).

### Students in Transition

- Constant learning curve
- Shorter time at the university

## Transfer Success Program Support



### Gateway Scholars Program

Assists majority first generation, low income students from various educational partnerships cultivated by the Center for Educational Partnerships. Four of those partnerships are with Community Colleges.

**Santa Ana College Promise**  
**Compton College Initiative**  
**Cypress College**  
**Fullerton College**

### Benefits

1-1 Counseling	LARC Scholarship
Weekly Workshops	Book Loan Program
Social Activities	SOAR Peer Mentorship



### First Year Transfer Experience (FYTE)

The First Year Transfer Experience Program aims to ease and enhance the academic and social transition of first year transfer students.

**All incoming transfers are encouraged to apply.**

### Benefits

1-1 Counseling & Academic Intervention  
Transfer Workshops  
Graduate School Support  
Social Activities

# Pathways for Adult Learner Success (PALS)

## Challenges and Needs

- Often balancing multiple life roles
- Challenges in students' allocation of time for both academics and campus orgs/activities

(Ross-Gordon, 2011)



## PALS Program Support/Benefits

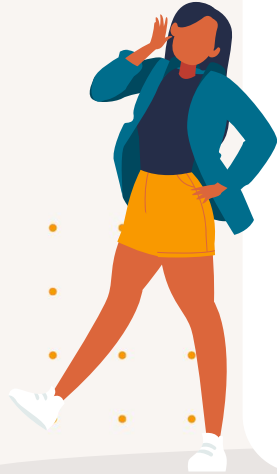
- Sense of community through events & workshops
- Flexibility in 1:1 Advising and requirements

(Council for Adult and Experiential Learning, 2000)

# STEM Transfer Scholars

## Challenge

- Hit the ground running
- Often want to get involved with research or internships early and feel extra pressure with limited time



## Support

- Mentorship (Peer, Faculty, Staff)
- Open opportunities specifically for transfers

(Apriceno, Levy, & London, 2020)



Transfer Triumph is here to assist first year transfers on academic probation or academically struggling.

### TOPICS AND RESOURCES

- Time Management/ Study Skills
- Goal Setting
- Campus Resources

### TRANSFER TRIUMPH SEMINAR OPTIONS WEEK 1

- Tuesday: 11AM-12PM
- OR
- Wednesday: 4-5PM



# TRANSFER TRIUMPH

Participation benefits...

ONE-ON-ONE  
GUIDANCE



ONLINE  
SUPPORT



CAMPUS  
NETWORK



**\*Application filing period December 23rd- January 4th**

# Student Parents

## CHALLENGES

- Higher rates of economic insecurity
- Access to childcare
- Meeting basic needs
- Balancing parenting and college
- Working full time
- Caregiving demands
- Impacted schedules
- Lack of familial and social support
- Sacrificing mental health

Most student parents are women; a single mothers balancing parenting, school, and often work, without the support of a spouse or partner (Cruse, Gault, & Holtzman, 2020)

## SUPPORT

- Fall 2020
  - 80% First-generation
  - 90% Transfers
  - 70% Single Parents
- 1:1 Counseling
- Quarterly workshops
- Academic support and resources
- Graduate school preparation and career readiness
- Community of support
- Referrals to on-campus liaison (i.e: Campus Social Workers, Counseling, and Fresh Basic Needs Hub)



**Student  
Parents & Families**  
STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVES



# Former Foster Youth

## CHALLENGES

- Mental health issues as a result of trauma with their foster care experience
- Lack of familial and social support
- Multiple employments
- Navigation of Financial Aid Processes/Academic Appeals
- Securing basic needs/Affordable Housing
- High debt/Lack of financial literacy
- Early pregnancy and Parenting
- Enroll part-time & academic probation

The presence and quality of supportive relationships of former foster youth are critical for a successful transition into adulthood, such as consistency, mutuality, and empathy (Fernandez, Huang, Joseph, & Rhoden, 2018)

## Foster Youth Resilience In Education (FYRE) Scholars Program

- **Fall 2020**
  - 90% First-generation & Low-Income
  - 55% Transfers
- Priority Registration
- Priority On-Campus Housing
- 1:1 Counseling sessions
- Securing Basic Needs
- Textbook Scholarships
- Quarterly Workshops
- Academic Support & Resources
- Peer Mentors/ Community of Support
- Referrals to on-campus liaison (i.e: Campus Social Workers, Counseling, and Fresh Basic Needs Hub)





# DREAM Scholars Transfers

## FALL 2020 STATS

100% First-generation

52% First-Time Transfers  
in New Cohort

20% Do not possess a  
work permit

60-70% are Seeking  
Community of Support,  
Faculty Connections & PD  
Opportunities

## CHALLENGES

- Impacted sense of belonging
- Constant discrimination and prejudice on national level
- High levels of uncertainty
- Inaccess to federal financial aid
- Risk and fear of deportation
- Temporary or no authorization to work
- High level of mental health concerns

## SUPPORT

- Community of undocumented students
- Partnership with DREAM Center
- Newsletter & Canvas Page
- Peer Mentoring
- 1.3 unit Year-Long Seminar
- Support Navigating the Hidden Curriculum
- 1:1 Counseling Sessions
- Quarterly Workshops
- Book Loan Programs
- On-campus and Off-campus Referrals

Data obtained via Fall 2020 DREAM Scholars Needs Assessment

# 2nd Year Transfers

## Challenges

- Pressure to graduate within two years
- Building a strong sense of community with peers and faculty
- Negotiating multiple identities and demands



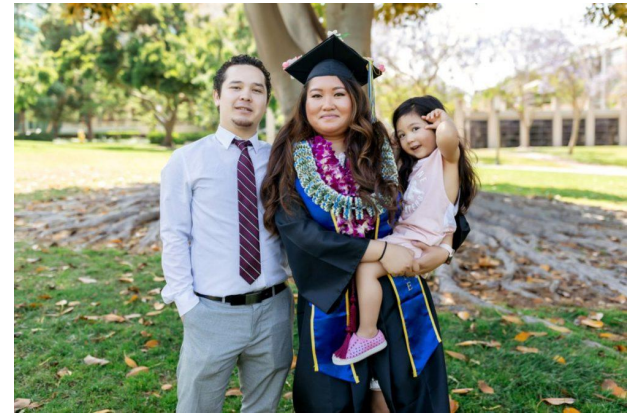
## Support

- Community building opportunities
- Graduate school workshops
- Career readiness workshops
- 1:1 Counseling Sessions



# What have we learned about our transfer population?

Lessons learned this past summer and fall quarter.



# Intervention Efforts & Mentorship

## Transfer Edge - Summer 2020

6 Week Early Start Program for Transfer Students, assigned a mentor and participating in weekly events and a course curriculum. This program sets a foundation and feeds into the Academic Year.

## FYTE Mentors - Academic Year 2020-2021

5 Transfer Mentors working 5 hours weekly in actively connecting with our Summer Edge Transfer Students who are continuing in this intervention effort (see below)

## Mentees and Measuring Success

39 Mentees are included in this effort, and we are measuring their success, retention, and providing multiple opportunities for their feedback

## Continued Training of Mentors

5 Transfer Mentors are being actively trained weekly, and are also a part of our data collection to learn about their mentoring experience and their perceived efficacy



# Why Mentorship for Transfers?



## Enrollment Increase

2:1 UCOP Mandate & General Enrollment Increase



## Equitable Support

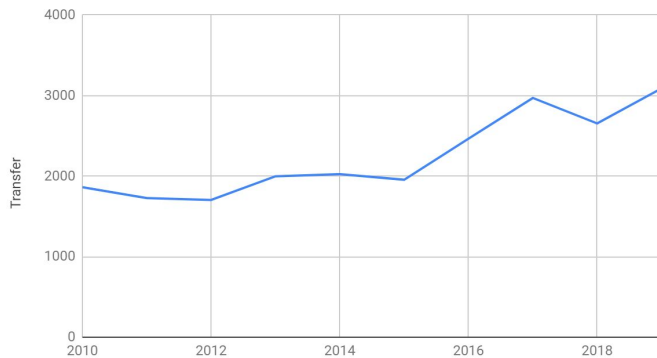
A student need exists.



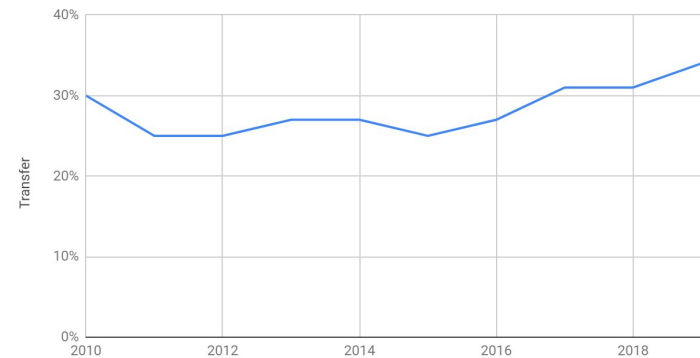
## Literature & Exp.


We know the potential for success is high.

Transfer Enrollment




Transfer Percentage of New Students





# What are we measuring from our Mentees?



## **Sense of Belonging**

Peer connections; knowledge/use of resources; campus involvement.



## **Academic Achievement**

GPA; coping with stress; confidence in classroom/engaging with faculty.



## **Retention**

Week 3 of Fall 2021 - Who is still enrolled; who graduated?



## **Distance Learning**

Further understand the opportunities and limitations of current OP - are there implications for commuters in the future?

# Role of Mentors for the Academic Year



Each mentor has a cohort of 7-8 Transfer Students that were participants in Transfer Edge, and are now participants in the First Year Transfer Experience



Each mentor will meet with their mentee's individually at least 1 time per quarter



Each mentor will outreach to these students weekly



Mentors will participate in weekly workshops and offer insight and support to all FYTE participants

## Survey Results

150 transfer students responded to our transfer student needs assessment survey.

## Transfer Student Needs Assessment





# COVID-19 Challenges

## Mental Health/ Wellness

- Higher levels of anxiety and depression
- Sleep insomnia
- Complex grief
- Less safer home environments

## Basic Needs

- Safety, Food Insecurity, and Housing Insecurity
- Lack of adequate technology and space to do course work

## Social Wellness

- Isolation/Alienation
- Difficulty building relationships/community



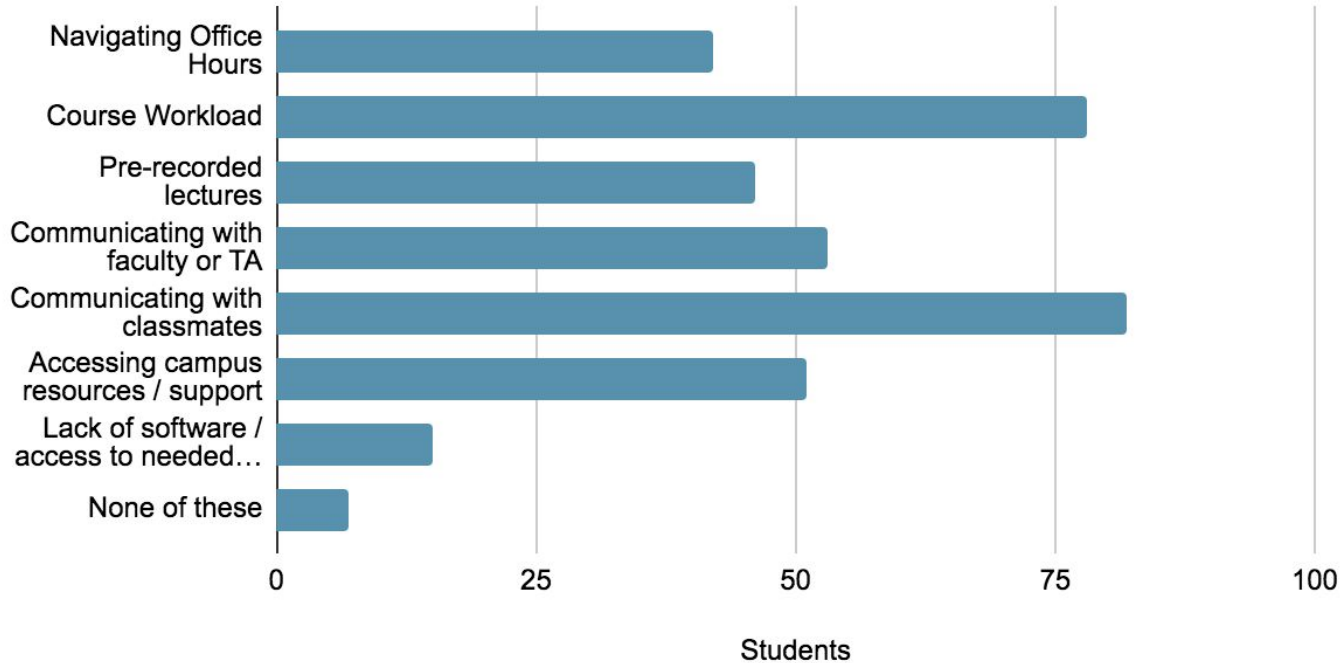
## Academic

- Difficulty transitioning to remote learning
  - Asynchronous vs synchronous
- Lower motivation & productivity levels
- Low levels of engagement



# Survey Results

What challenges, if any, are you experiencing with remote instruction?



# Recommendations for Supporting Transfer Students

## Empathy & Compassion

- Not normalizing the pandemic
- Flexibility with deadlines

## Blended Learning

- Group discussions & canvas calendar are helpful
- Interactive lectures

"We are navigating the same storm in different boats"

## Close Attention to Students' Well-Being

## Community Building

Messaging and chat tools to promote student interaction in class or as part of programming components

## Communication

Students can't ask questions they normally would ask in lecture to gain clarification or call academic offices.

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# Thank You!

Questions?

[Transferhub.uci.edu](https://transferhub.uci.edu)

[@UCITransferHub](https://twitter.com/UCITransferHub)

