



Being Human in STEM Transfer Student Survey Summary

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INTRODUCTION



Haley Utendorfer
She/her
Biology and
communications.



Lydia Hall
she/her
Biology



Ben Searle
He/They
Physics Teaching/
Educational
Psychology



Lauren Mickelsen
She/her
Mathematics

What is a transfer student?

We have defined a transfer student as someone who has come to the University of Utah after attending a different college/university (2 year, 4 year, etc.).

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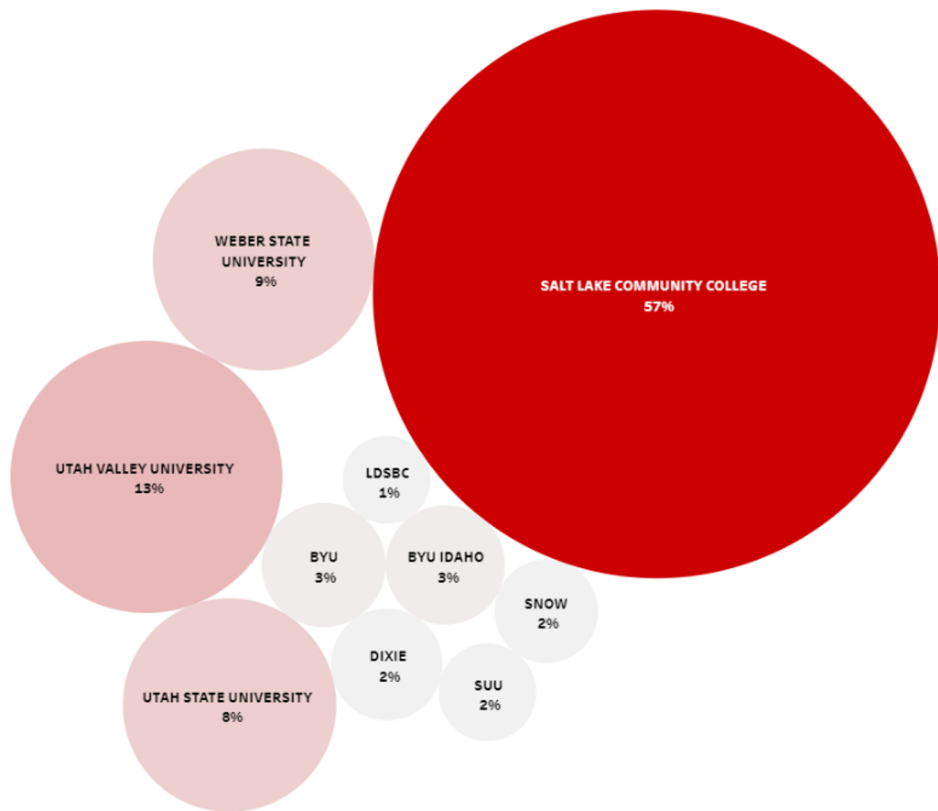
What percentage of our student body is transfer students?

At the University of Utah, almost 40% of
the entire student body are transfer
students.

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Where are transfer students coming from?

Top Institutions Students Transfer From



23

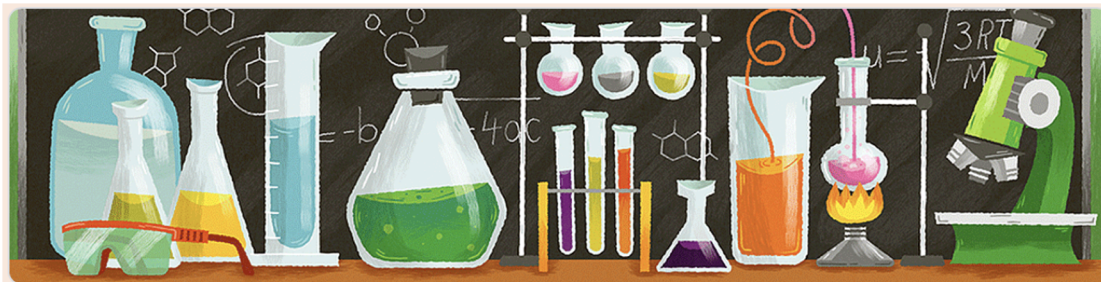
Average Transfer Age

3.32

Average Transfer GPA

59

Average Transfer Credits



Share your stories as a transfer student in STEM at the U

The Being Human in STEM (SCI3900/HONOR3990) class is interested in your feedback! As a project for our class, we are seeking insight into your experiences of being a transfer student. The purpose of this survey is to gather feedback from current transfer students to inform initiatives to aid future transfer student enrollment at the University of Utah.

Responses remain anonymous unless you indicate further interest in sharing your story. Data will be presented at the Being Human in STEM Symposium on May 3rd, 2022. If you have any further questions about this survey, contact u1311650@utah.edu.



Introduction

How our survey began

We are specifically focusing on STEM Transfer Students

For the purposes of this study we will be specifically analyzing transfer students majoring in:



Mathematics



Biology



Computer Science



Mechanical Engineering



Physics



Biochemistry

Going into this project, we expected that transfer students have unique challenges:

- Lack of connections to professors and peers.
- Not knowing about resources available.
- Difficulty transferring credits.
- Trouble finding a campus community they belong to.
- And more.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

- We designed a survey to gain insights into the experiences of transfer students in STEM at the University of Utah.
- We used a mixed methods approach, with several quantitative and qualitative questions.
- Despite our best efforts, this data may have some biases due to the small sample size (n=31) of our survey, 22 of which were STEM students.

This survey used multiple-choice questions and numerical scales to gain quantitative data.

The process of transferring: *

Very difficult 1 2 3 4 5 Very easy
○ ○ ○ ○ ○

I felt informed on how the transfer process worked. *

Strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Strongly agree
○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Where did you transfer from? [Select all that apply]

- 4-year institution
- 2-year institution or community college
- An out-of-state institution
- An institution outside of the United States of America
- A religious institution
- A private college
- Other...

In conjunction with open ended questions to gain qualitative data.

Do you have ideas for academic, community, or other types of support at the University of Utah that could help transfer students?

Long answer text

Is there anything that you would like the university to know about your experience as a transfer student that has not been collected already? Please answer in under 300 words.

Long answer text

Would you like to be contacted further to discuss your experiences as a transfer student? If so, provide your name and email in the box below.

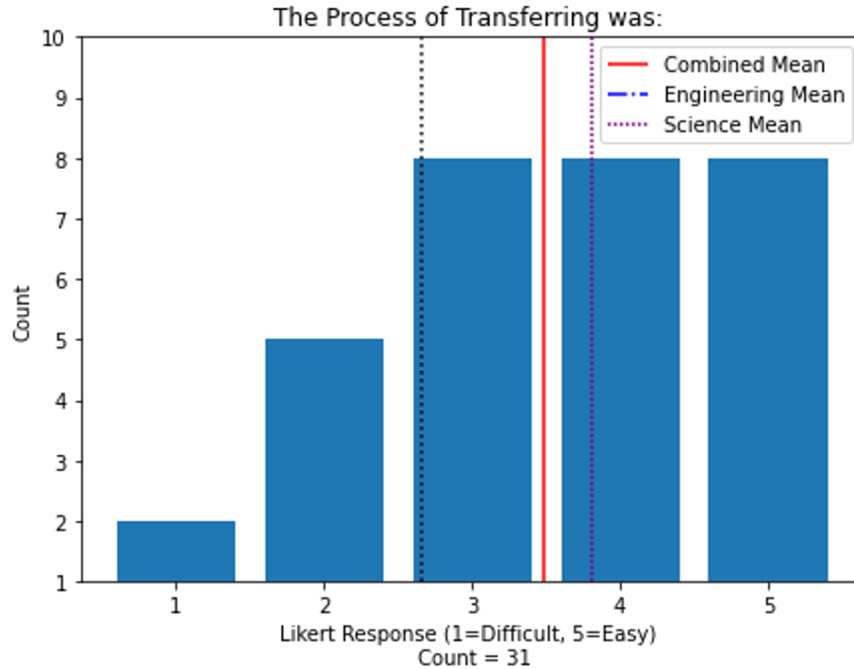
Short answer text



Quantitative Data

The numerical data

How students felt about the transfer process on average:



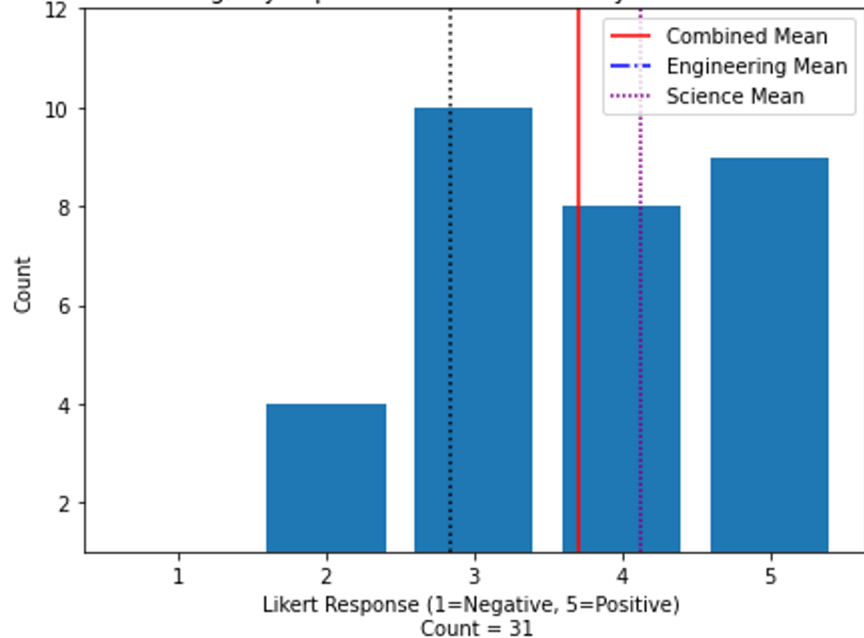
Results skewed towards moderately easy!

The majority of responses (9) in College of Science were from Biology.

Means:
STEM: 3.5
COE: 2.67
COS: 3.81

How students' experiences have been since transferring on average:

Since transferring, my experience at the University of Utah has been mostly:

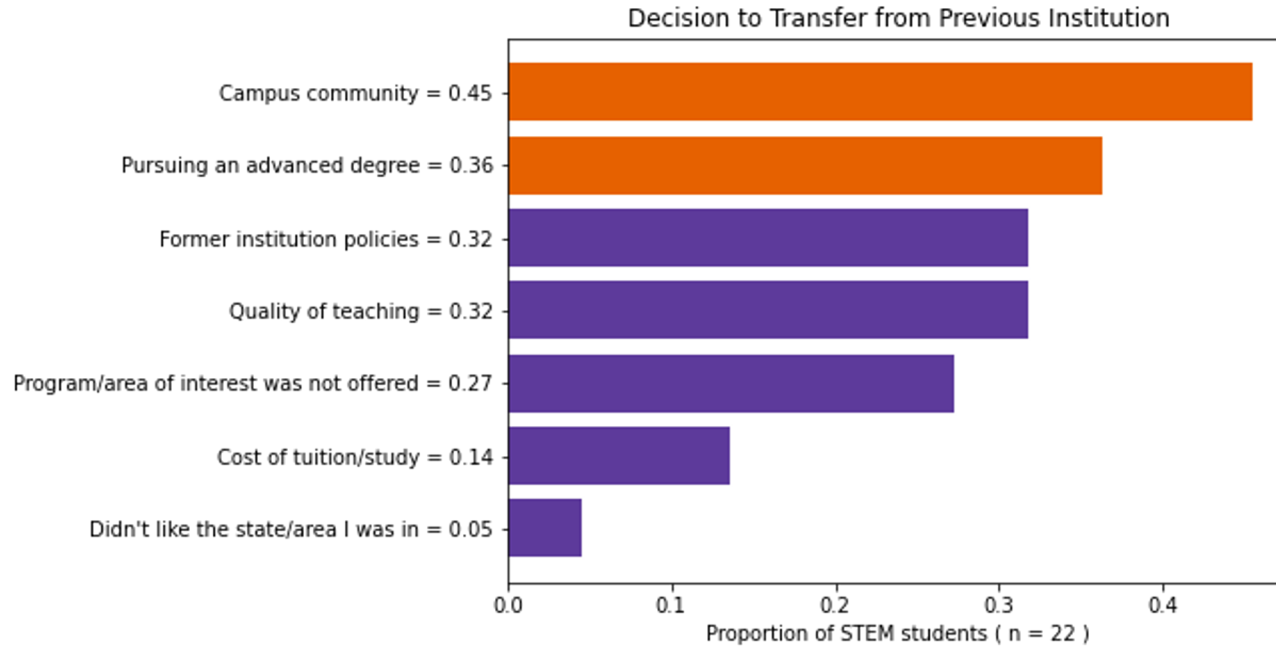


Responses from students from College of Engineering were lower than College of Science with a statistical significance (p -value = 0.003)

Means:
STEM: 3.77
COE: 2.83
COS: 4.125

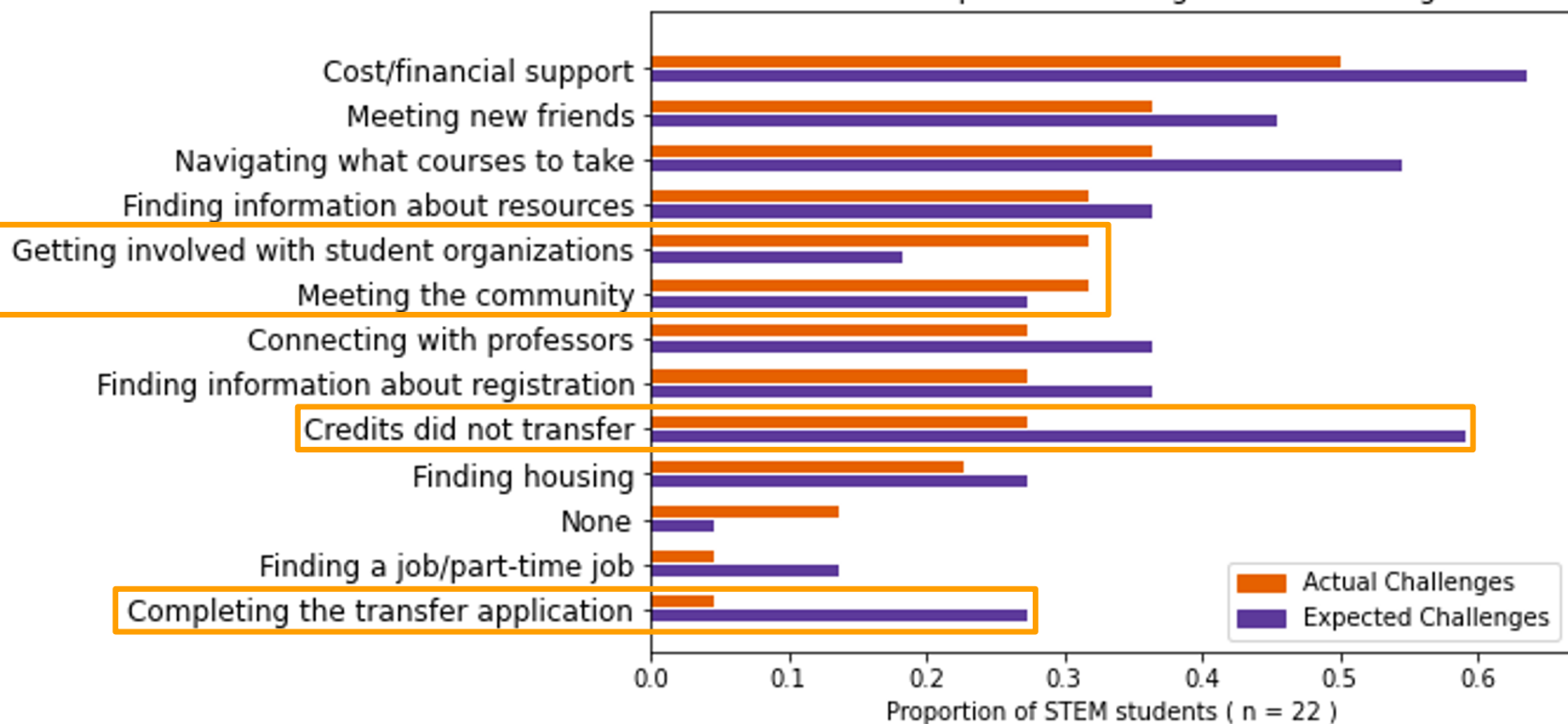
Maybe because the engineering programs are very strict?

Why STEM students wanted to transfer from Previous Institution:

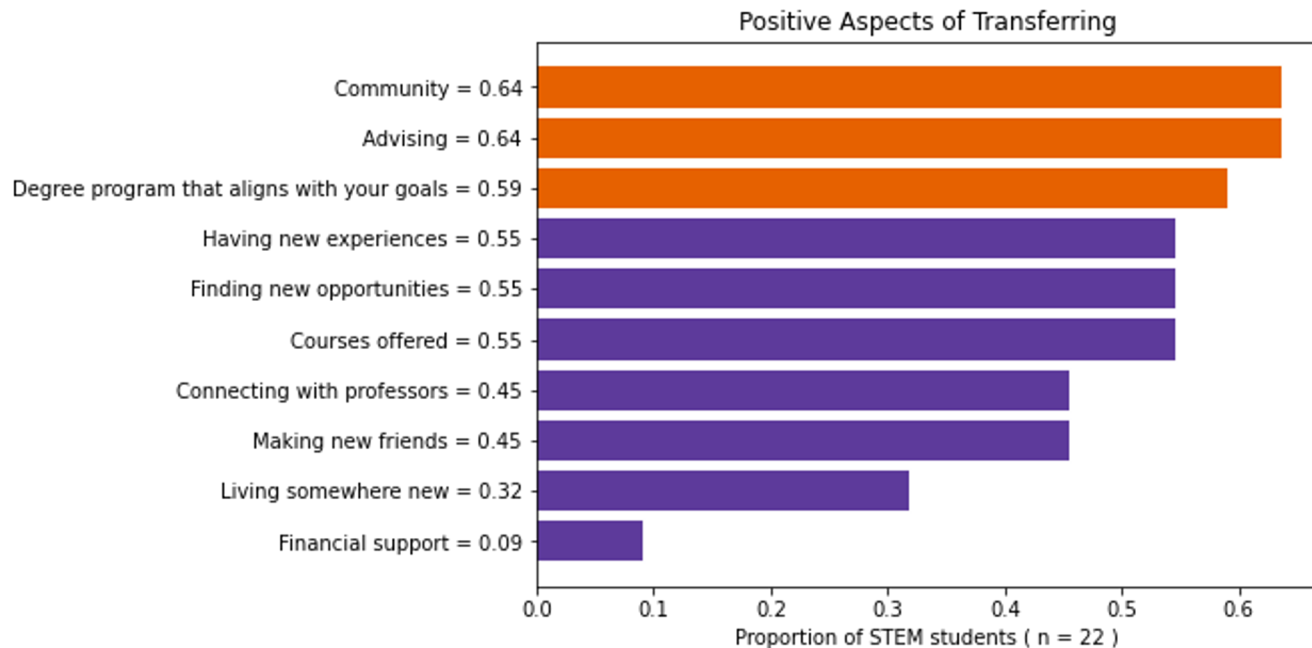


*Top answers in orange

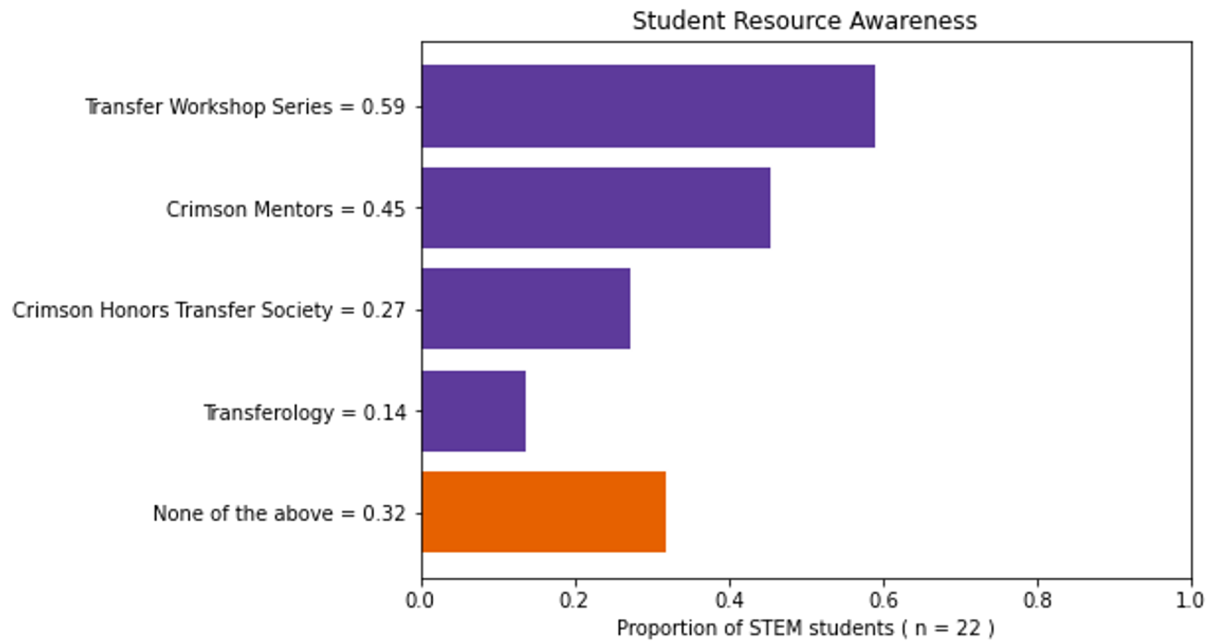
Actual vs Expected Challenges of Transferring



Positive aspects of transferring for STEM students:



STEM student transfer resource awareness:





Qualitative Data

Stories collected from students about their experience

Qualitative Data

“

As a transfer student I almost **felt left behind** in most of the college resources. Everything seems like a maze of online **links and loopholes**. It seems like a **fend for yourself** university. I don't know what is different from my last university but it seems that if you talk with someone they can't really help you. They just **direct you to a website** and that isn't ideal when you transfer. This leaves one in a tough situation because **on top of hard material to learn you have to learn so much about resources.**

”

Qualitative Data

“

... not **getting a scholarship** made me take a year off to save for money. A lot of the advertisement I got from the U was that it supported the students with scholarships and that was not the case for me. So **maybe providing feedback** on the way to apply for scholarships here, and what they are looking for, because **I felt not supported at all in that aspect** and it made me feel like people from the U did not care. I did not apply for any scholarships this year. ”

Qualitative Data

“

I think people who transfer from schools like BYU have very good and **often intense/emotional reasons for leaving**. I left and didn't realize until I started here that I had been **holding back a lot of trauma** from my time at BYU. If there was a way to help with that and **communicate** that would be incredibly helpful, while also **aiding in finding help/support** for those issues.

”

Qualitative Data

“ It feels very exclusionary that there are no scholarships for part time students.

I would say that a lot of class loads aren't keeping working students in mind.

A lot of my credits did not transfer and my advisors couldn't tell me why other than it's "policy."

*~30% of respondents had a hard time transferring credits

A lot of the support feels stressful because it feels very offhand. I wasn't specifically assigned a mentor or anything so it all felt optional.

It's hard transferring half way through school and not knowing any students or professors. It seems late to build relationship with professors especially since I will only have them once.

”



Next Steps

Here are some suggestions we made about supporting transfer students

Transfer student seminars where we can learn about **resources**, make **connections** and talk to **supportive** faculty and staff.

The administration being **more active** in reaching out to transfer students since I felt left behind/after thought most of the time especially in **advising for future courses**.

Clubs that provide **community**.

Transfer Workshop Series: [designed](#) specifically for transfer students to learn about a variety of university services and opportunities, and to connect with other students.

Crimson-Mentors: [Mentors](#) are available for support, and advise mentees about campus life at the University of Utah, as well as provide social, academic, and professional programs and workshops for their mentees.

Crimson Transfer Honors Society: [strives](#) to recognize the academic excellence attained by transfer students during their first semesters at the University of Utah. Eligibility is determined by both your GPA in first twelve credit hours and attendance of Transfer Workshop events during first semester(s).

Transferology: [tool](#) that can help you see how courses from other institutions will transfer into the university.

- Put together a page of resources for transfer students in the College of Science.
 - The College of Engineering has a great example:
<https://www.coe.utah.edu/students/transfer/>
 - Resources all in one place makes them easier to access or use.
- Advocate for these resources during Transfer Student Orientation and the like.

Thank You!

Questions?