

Joint Senate-Administration Task Force on the Transfer Student Experience – Year 2

Prepared May 2025

[Link](#) to Year 1 Report

[Link](#) to Charge Letter (includes list of all members)

Background

In the Fall of 2023 the EVCP convened this task force to analyze the current state of the transfer student experience at UC Berkeley and to make a set of recommendations for improvement. During Year 1, the task force identified primary areas for improvement and during Year 2, the task force further refined and narrowed down the recommendations within 3 key priority areas.

Our Ask

Review the recommendations, evaluate financial feasibility to support additional workload, and provide feedback as we move into Year 3 where we will focus on implementation.

Recommendations

Communication & Outreach

- ❖ Conduct campuswide website reviews and update website language to be more inclusive for transfer students with edits focusing on all points of the transfer student experience (pre-admission, admission, yield, transition, admits, graduating students, and alumni).
- ❖ Actualize clear and intentional outreach during yield and other welcome events that make connecting with campus resources simpler and more accessible at the onset of the campus transition.
- ❖ Create a toolkit for departments to use with best practices for Transfer Student outreach.

- ❖ Communicate the value and positive impact departmental participation in Golden Bear Orientation (GBO) can have on transfer student retention and time to graduation with the goal of increasing L&S majors engagement during GBO L&S Transfer Specific Programming.
- ❖ Build intentional and direct lines of communication (and more public) to newly admitted transfer students upon admission from our Chancellor. For example, UC Davis' Chancellor shares a [welcome message](#) specifically targeted towards transfer students.
- ❖ Include transfer student specific language and resources on the following websites: Title IX Office, Disabled Students Program, and CalCentral.

Pathways to Major Declaration

- ❖ Identify the different pathways and processes to major declaration within L&S and review different experiences of students that are Direct Admit vs. Undeclared.
- ❖ Ensure consistency across majors within L&S by giving students clear guidance on how to prepare for the transfer onboarding process. This includes support with course selection, declaring the major, etc.
- ❖ Consider different time to degree pathways by changing the narrative that says “4-semester means success;” no one size fits all; Some students want to minimize costs and graduate as fast as possible. Other students may have other priorities. Options should be presented to students: for example providing both 4- and 5-semester pathways in the Major Maps.
- ❖ Analyze articulation agreements & impacts on California Community Colleges (CCCs)s changing their course curriculum.
- ❖ Establish intentional and proactive guidance & partnership with CCCs to support student transition.

Supporting DSP Transfer Students

- ❖ Conduct earlier outreach to transfer students so they are aware of exactly what documentation they will need when they enter UC Berkeley and are aware of the DSP services well before they arrive.

- ❖ Target communication to Transfer students that includes how to set up a meeting with DSP after they enroll in classes.
- ❖ Create a “cheat sheet” or “toolkit” for Transfer students that includes testimonials and advice from former DSP students.
- ❖ Explore a pilot partnership with one Community College system (e.g., partnering with the President of Peralta community college system).