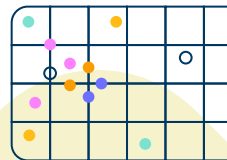
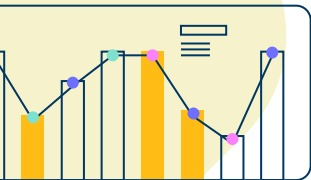


UCSB Transfer Student Experiences

Malaphone Phommasa
Yasmine Dominguez-Whitehead
Caitlin Ng
Kari Weber
Nate Emery
Anthony Lopez
Tate Universe
Vanessa Woods



Session Outline

01.

Who are our UCSB students?

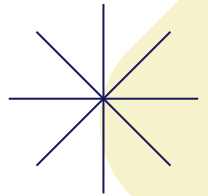
02.

Existing transfer data/projects from OTL and partners

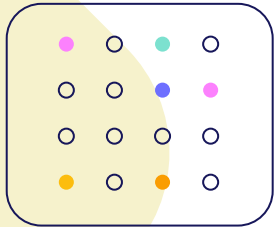
Transfer Connection Project, Transfer Climate Survey, Transfer Student Center

03.

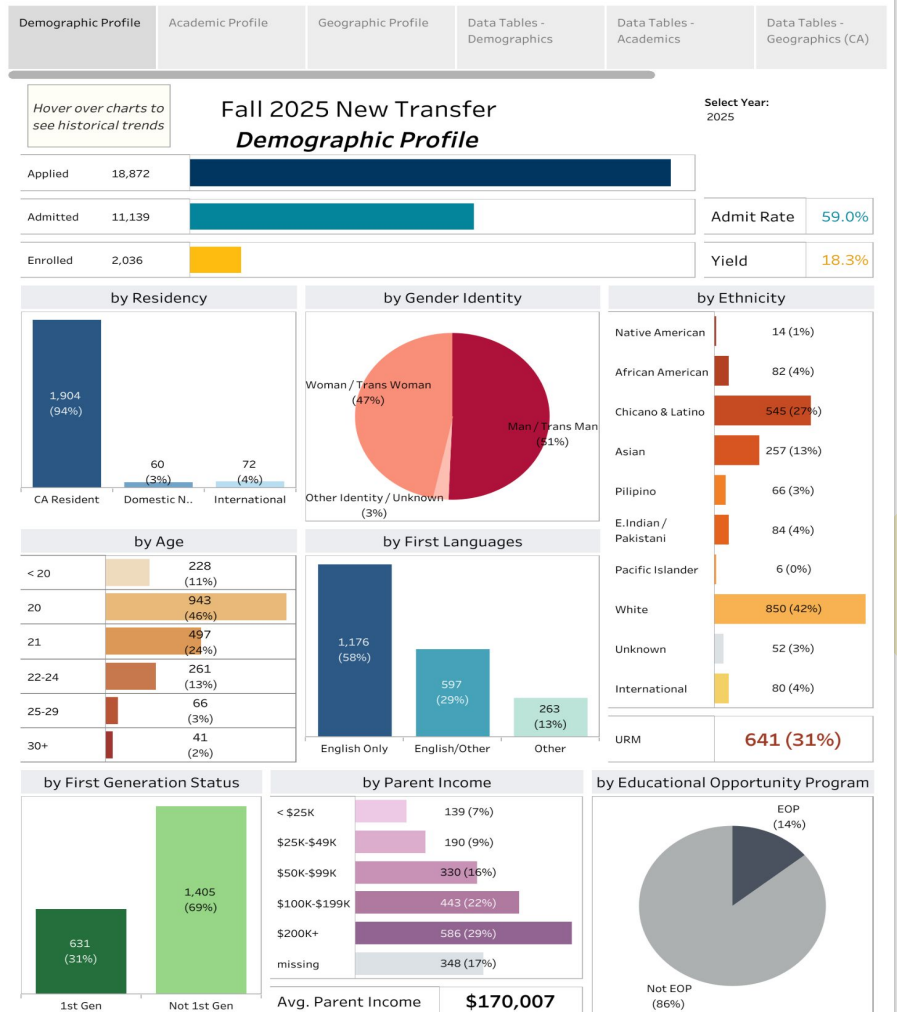
Discussions and share out



Who are our UCSB Transfer Students?

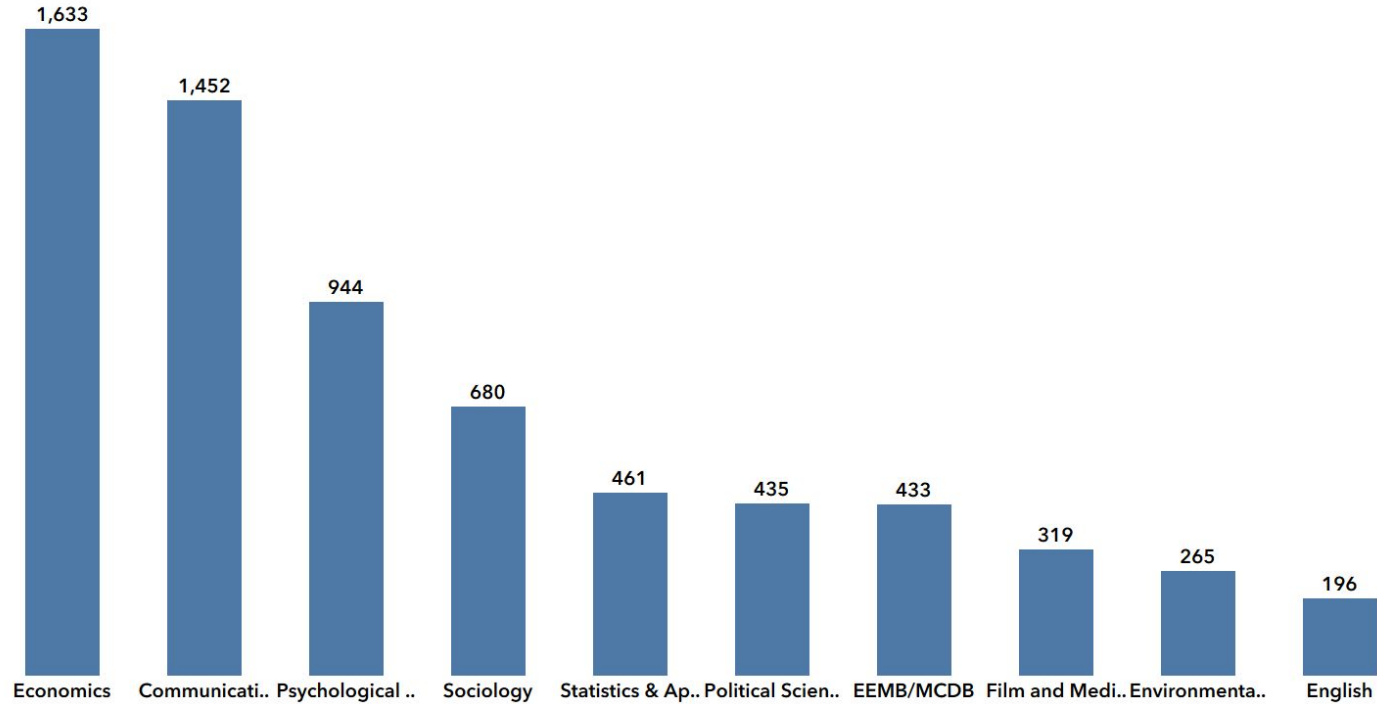


Access to Transfer Student Demographic Data



Top Incoming Majors

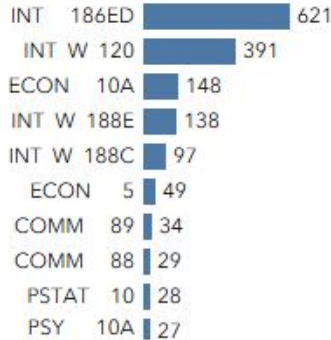
Cohorts 2021-24



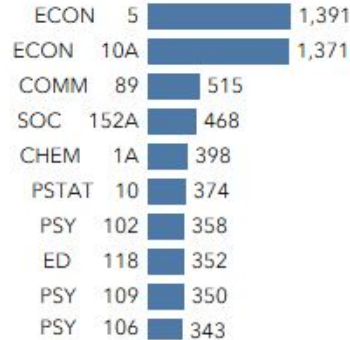
First-Year Enrollment Courses

What courses are transfer students enrolling in in their first year?
(Fall 2021-2024)

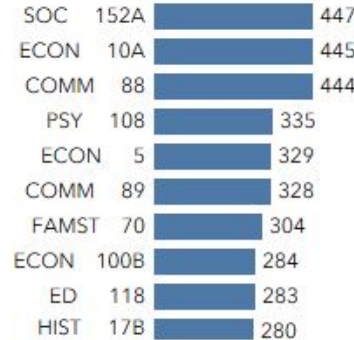
Course Enrollment
Before First Fall



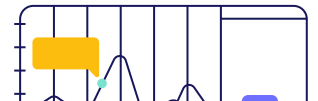
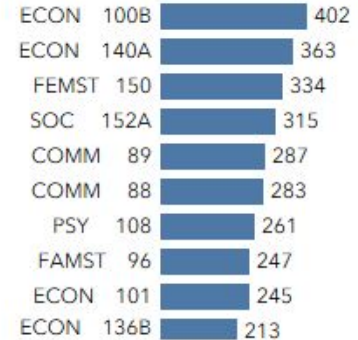
Course Enrollment
First Fall



Course Enrollment
First Winter

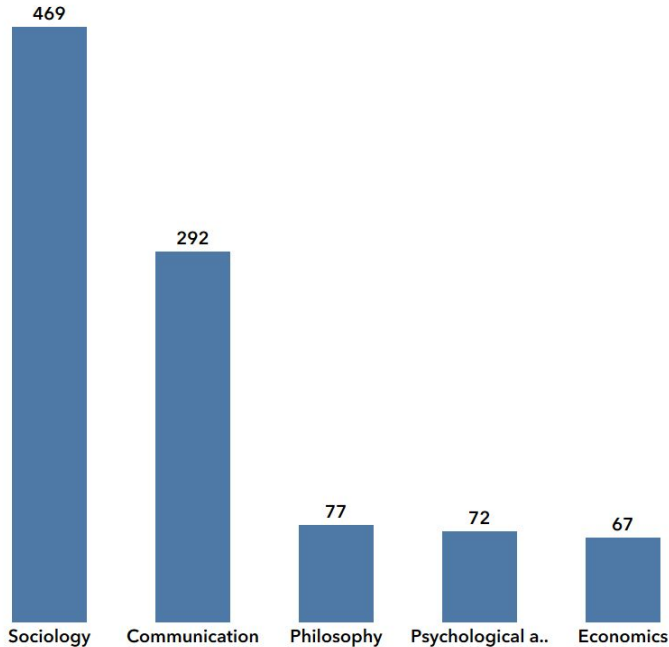


Course Enrollment
First Spring



Top 5 Influx Majors/Major Transitions

Cohorts 2021-24



Major Transitions

Economics → Communication

Psych and Brain Sciences → Sociology

Economics → Sociology

Communication → Sociology

Economics → Philosophy

Academic Outcomes & Graduation Timeline

First-Year Academic Notice Rate
(Fall 2014-23 Cohorts)

13.57%



First-Year Retained at University
Rate (Fall 2014-23 Cohorts)

92.68%



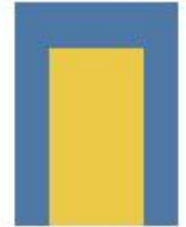
Two-Year Graduation Rate; Gold
bar indicates same department
(Fall 2014-21 Cohorts)

61.84%



Four-Year Graduation Rate;
Gold bar indicates same
department (Fall 2014-21
Cohorts)

87.37%



Freshmen Entry and Transfer Entry Graduation Rates “Normative” & Extended Timelines

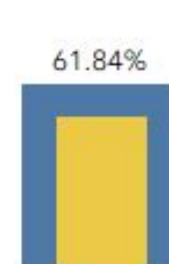
Four-Year Graduation Rate; Gold bar indicates same department (Fall 2014-20 Cohorts)



Six-Year Graduation Rate; Gold bar indicates same department (Fall 2014-18 Cohorts)



Two-Year Graduation Rate; Gold bar indicates same department (Fall 2014-21 Cohorts)



Four-Year Graduation Rate; Gold bar indicates same department (Fall 2014-21 Cohorts)



◆ Transfer Projects






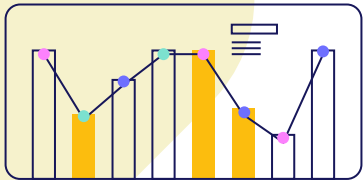
Connecting Students Before They Arrive at UCSB: Transfer Connection Project



Office of Teaching & Learning
Nate Emery
Anthony Lopez
Malaphone Phommasa



Psych & Brain Sciences
Vanessa Woods



Goals of the Transfer Connection Project


→ Produce a personalized guide for each transfer student entering UCSB

- **Transfer Students:** Help them get connected early and create/reinforce awareness of campus programs, resources, and support systems
- **Campus Partners:** Share relevant data with campus partners who would benefit from having this information
 - e.g. Academic Advisors, student support offices (TSC, Undergraduate Research, Education Abroad, etc.)
- **Systemwide:** Offer project consultation and share materials with other UC campuses interested in carrying out a Transfer Connection Project on their campus



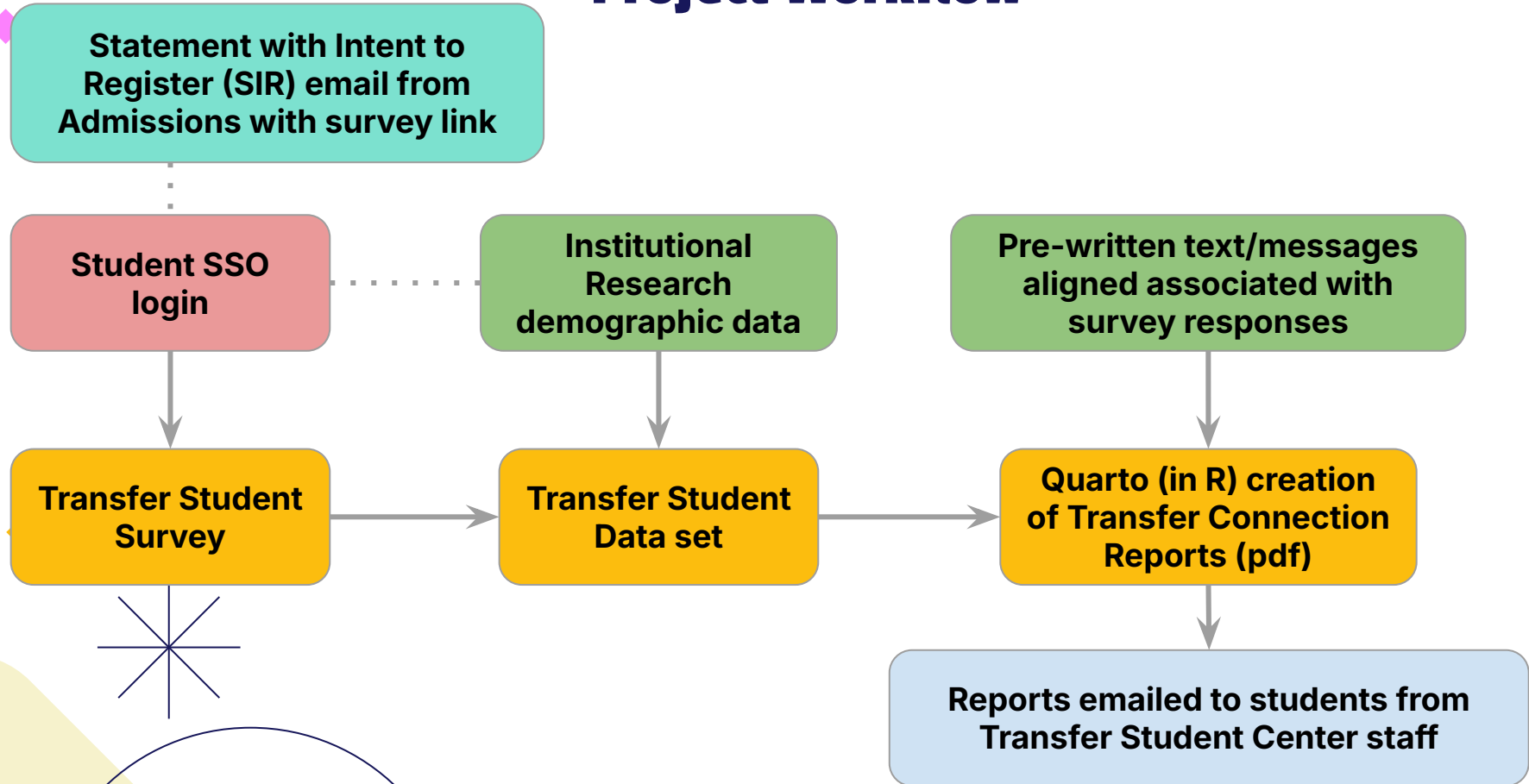


Student Survey Components

- 
- Welcome message
 - Consent form - IRB
 - Student experiences prior to UCSB
 - Interest in High Impact Practices at UCSB
 - Questions/language around mentoring before/during UCSB
 - College Student Mentoring Scale (CSMS) Instrument
 - Student clubs and extracurricular activity interests



Project Workflow



Personalized Resource Guide

UC SANTA BARBARA

Welcome to UCSB!

We are so happy you transferred here!

Summer 2023

Hello Mateo,

Engaging with campus resources and the community is a very important factor in student success. We also understand that as a transfer student you might be feeling crunched for time at UCSB. Therefore, our goal is to help you find resources, activities, and programs that are relevant to your interests and aspirations.

Your survey responses helped us identify some resources below that could really benefit you and your experiences at UCSB. Of course, please know that these are only some of the resources that are available to you – be sure to visit the [Transfer Student Center](#) if there are additional resources you would like to learn about! Have you started noticing that we use a lot of acronyms at UCSB? Yes, we do! The [Successful Student Transitions Office](#) breaks down many UCSB acronyms.

Personalized Resource Guide

For All
Transfers

Academic Advising

Each student has a College advisor and a Department/Major advisor. College advisors help students understand the requirements to earn a degree from UCSB. Department/Major advisors help students understand the requirements to earn a degree in their intended major or minor. To learn more about your College Advising: [Transfer Student Advising](#)

If applicable, follow the link below to learn more about your Department/Major Advising: [Philosophy Advisor](#)

Custom Field:
Major Advising

Resources and Programs

Based on your responses to the survey you completed earlier this summer, we've compiled various campus resources, programs, and organizations that might interest you. Please note that you'll have to log in to [UCSB's Shoreline](#) using your NetID and password for some of these links.

[Student Wellbeing](#) is integral to academic success, student development, and life satisfaction. We hope you take advantage of these resources.

Transition courses are valuable for learning more about the university and your academic discipline. We're glad you are interested in taking these courses! University-wide transfer transition courses include ED118, which is offered in the Fall, but we also strongly recommend that you keep an eye out in your UCSB email for discipline-specific courses that may be offered by your department.

Custom Field:
Expressed interest
in a job at UCSB

Job and Internship Opportunities: At UC Santa Barbara, there are multiple paths to acquiring a job or internship. UCSB is subscribed to the [Handshake system](#) for finding jobs. To access this resource, use

Email from TSC

Your Personalized Transfer Guide! >



Transfer Student Center <tsc@tsc.ucsb.edu>

Sat, Sep 21, 1:00 PM (13 days ago)



to [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED]

My name is Kari, and I'm part of the [Transfer Student Center](#) (TSC) team! We're excited to welcome you to UCSB.

You completed a survey shortly after committing to UCSB, letting us know a little more about yourself and the different experiences you'd like to have during your time here. [Click here](#) to access your personalized guide to UCSB!

We hope you find it valuable for connecting with resources, programs, and the UCSB community. If you have any questions about any of these resources or more, please don't hesitate to reach out to us in the TSC or drop by the center when you're on campus! We're [located](#) on the first floor of the UCSB Library and open Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm.

Look forward to meeting you in the TSC!

Kari

Transfer Student Center

Office of Teaching and Learning

Email: tsc@tsc.ucsb.edu

Phone: (805) 893-7799

[Follow Us on Instagram!](#)

[Visit our Website!](#)

UC SANTA BARBARA

Link to personalized PDF



Same Data: High-Impact Practices (2023-2025 Cohorts)

N = 1357: What opportunities do transfers plan on participating in?

Effectors of Opportunity	Undergraduate Research	Student Organization	Networking	Campus/Off-campus Job	Mentorship
0	75%	86%	93%	85%	90%
3	86%	87%	92%	88%	92%

Effectors of Opportunity: Racially minoritized students, Low socioeconomic status, First-generation

◆ **Transfer Climate Study**

Vanessa Woods
Malaphone Phommasa
Yasmine Dominguez-Whitehead
Caitlin Ng
Tate Universe



Snapshot of Transfer Students in the Study

Percentage of Students (n=570) Data Collected Spring 2024

Demographics of Survey Sample

First-generation college student	Self-identified as low income, working, or lower middle class	URM* (Underrepresented Minorities)	Live on campus/locally
39%	45%	30%	87%

Gender Identity					Effectors of Opportunity			
Female	Male	Non-binary	Diff. Identity	Trans	0	1	2	3
59%	37%	2%	2%	3%	39%	29%	16%	16%

Racial/Ethnic Identity**

Black or African American	East Asian	Indigenous or Native	Indian from India	Latin a/o/é	Middle Eastern	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	South Asian	White	Southeast Asian
3%	13%	2%	3%	27%	4%	2%	2%	51%	7%

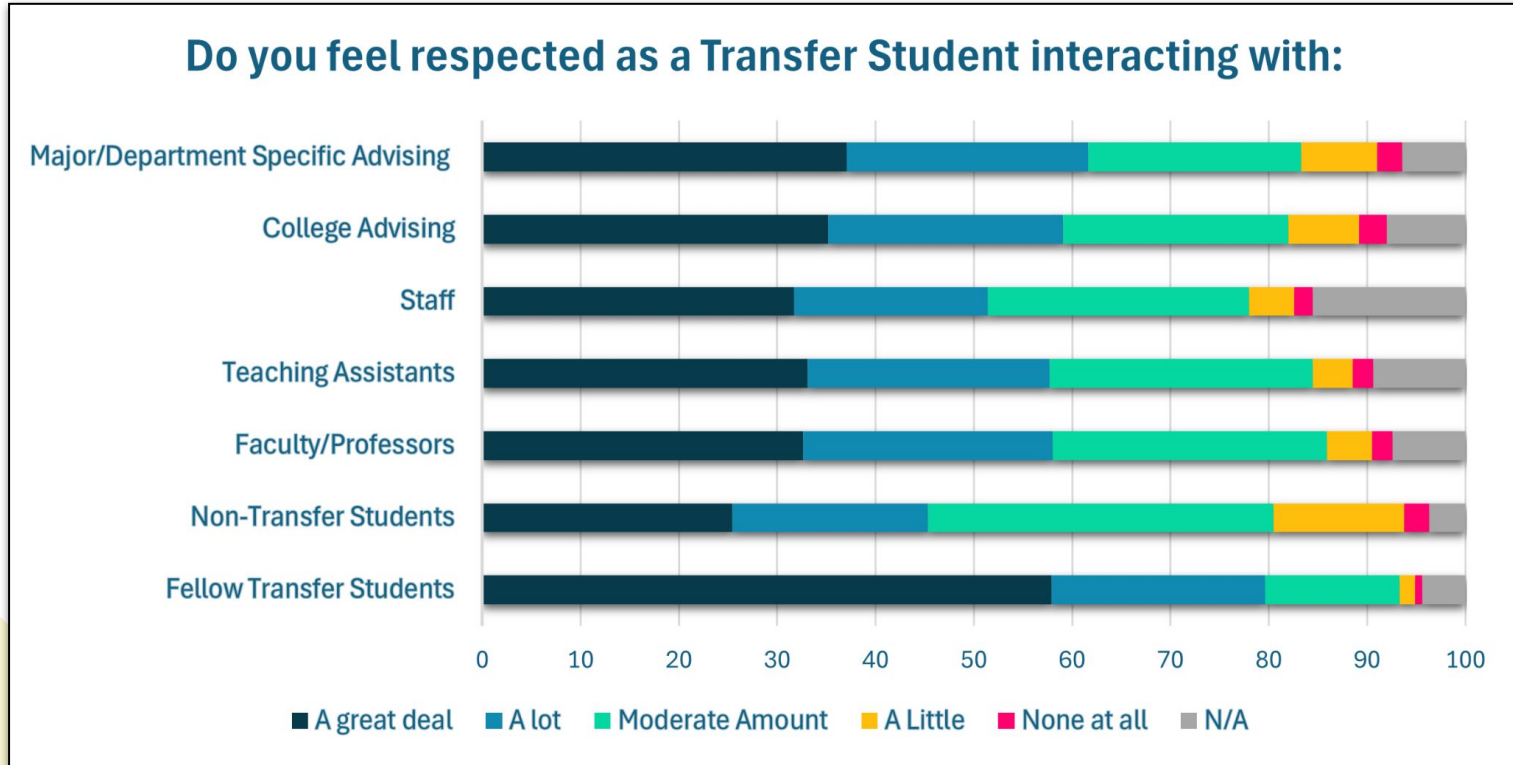
The focus group sample (n=23) was representative of the larger survey sample.

Demographics of Focus Group Sample

First-generation college student	Non-traditional student	URM*
39%	10%	33%

* URM UC Definition: Includes domestic students who self-identify as African American/Black, Native American or Alaskan Native, or Chicano/Latino (Hispanic). **Participants were able to choose multiple categories.

Respect and Reputation






Respect and Reputation

The qualitative data revealed that overall, transfer students feel they have a good reputation at UCSB.

○ ***"I feel like people usually...think I'm a freshman...not just academically, but kind of the social culture in Santa Barbara.***

*There's still a lot I don't know, and so I feel like I'm always bringing up that, "Oh, I transferred" as a justification of, "I promise I'm your guys' age, you know..." I feel like it's a good justification of why I feel so new to the area still, **even though** we're in our last quarter of my first year."*



Campus Climate and Belonging

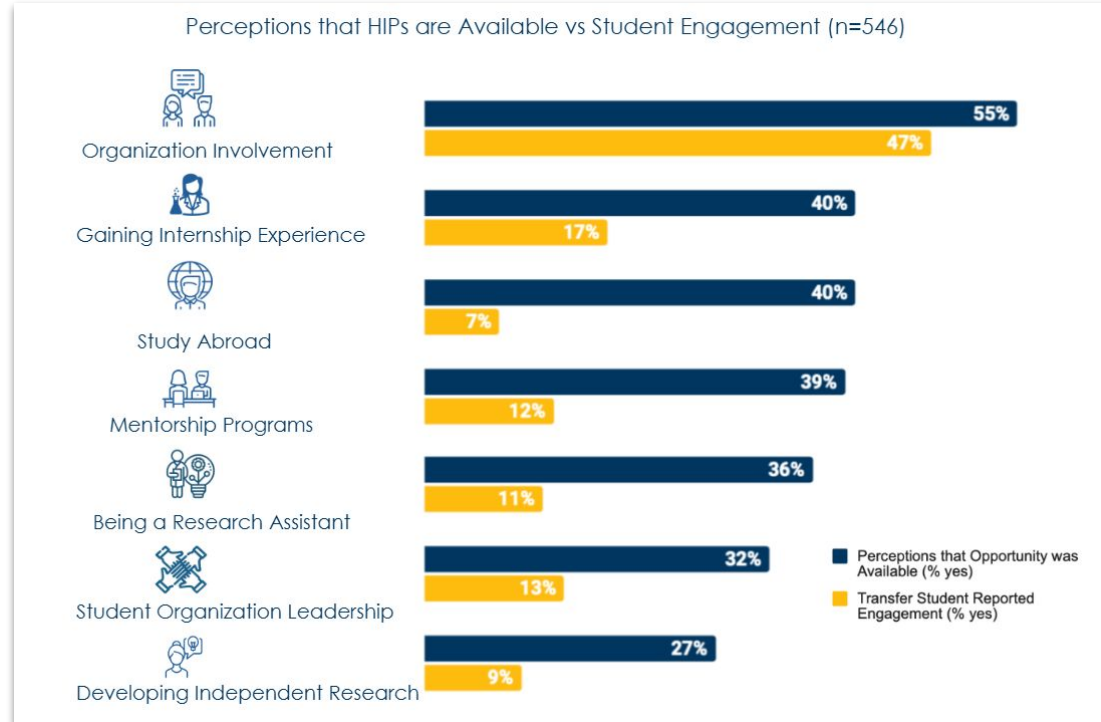
- 75% percent of students said they had a place at UCSB that felt like home
- 78% of transfers reported UCSB was welcoming to transfers, and found their major to be welcoming



*"I feel like a lot of people, especially people who aren't transfers, don't really understand what that entails. **They just don't really get the experience. It can be kind of lonely, you know at first, especially because it feels like everyone else has already figured it out.** And at least the freshman at least have that leeway. They have that time to get used to it. But then when you're a transfer, **you're just kind of thrust into your third year... I feel like people don't always understand what that experience is.**"*

High-Impact Practices

"I was really excited that this was a research institution, but I also had no idea what that entailed. I wanted to get involved and I still do, but I have no idea what they do or what qualifications they need to have. I don't know if I'm good enough or know enough, and so I feel like if I had those extra two years to just try things and not be so worried about everything else, it would have been nice to have at least tried those things. But now, I have no experience in this kind of thing, so I'm already not comfortable enough even trying it."



Networking, Mentoring, and On-Campus Jobs



Connections & Mentorship

- Only 26% reported that if they needed a letter of recommendation, they would have someone to ask

*“It really just **depended on me being in college more than a year or two before I felt comfortable approaching professors and TAs to ask to participate in their research** ...or feel a closer connection with them... my professors and my TAs were very welcoming when it came to research and other opportunities.”*



Professional Networks

- 12% of students reported having a job on campus; **however, if they had a job on campus, the majority (77%) reported the job made them feel like a part of the university community**
- **45% reported they did not agree that they have sufficient networking opportunities** to find a career after graduation

Time-to-Degree Impacts Everything

- 62% reported that it was stressful to think about their timeline
- 63% of students reported that they needed to graduate in two years

“Somebody might say, ‘Why not take a 3rd year?’ **Well, I’m a first-gen college student who’s poor. I pay for everything myself. Financial aid only gets me so far...**”

“A lot of times...a class I’m wanting to take is not offered that quarter, so then you have to plan your future quarters, or, a class fills up really fast. **That’s difficult just trying to build my schedule and ensure that I graduate on time...**to do a full third year you have to kind of put in a petition, which kind of scared me.”

○

To Access the Full Report:



◆

Want to know more?

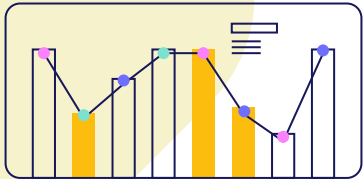
Wednesday at 9:45am
Symposium for Promoting Access for
Transfer Students

Talk: Examining Belonging and
Student Assets that Contribute to
Success

◆

Transfer Student Center Engagement

Kari Weber



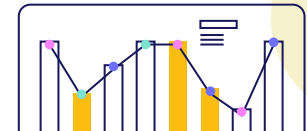
Transfer Student Center

Established 2016

****New Location** 1120 Kerr Hall**



Supports the holistic success of transfer students of all intersecting identities by providing a dedicated community space, peer mentoring, transfer-specific programming and access to campus resources.



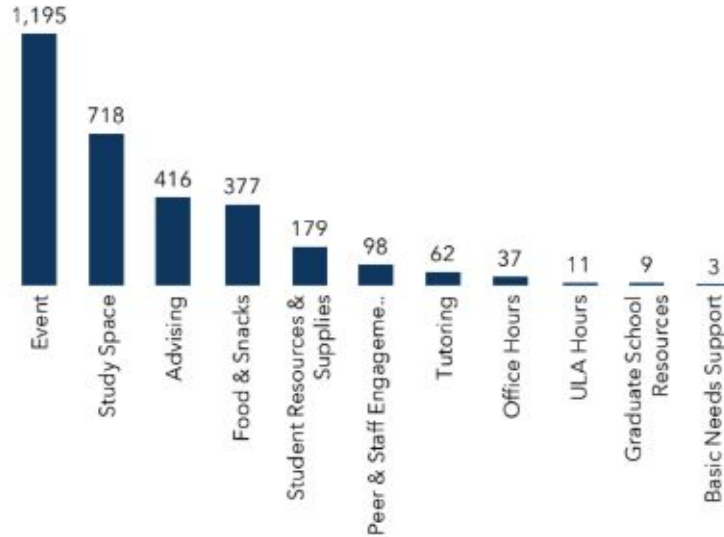
Transfer Student Center Student Usage

Year	% of Transfers Visiting	Individual Students	Total Visits
2017–2018	39%	2,125	6,903
2018–2019	41%	2,664	8,499
2019–2020	38%	2,044	6,037
2023–2024	34%	1,899	5,632
2024–2025	36%	2,053	9,002

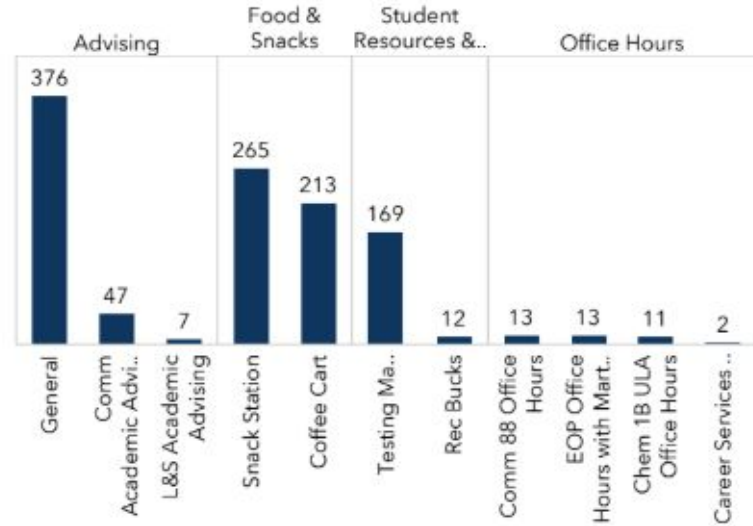
What Brings Students In:

Reasons for Visiting the Transfer Student Center; 2024-25 Academic Year

Overall Reasons for Visiting



Visiting Sub Categories

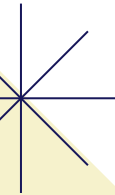




○ **Transfer Testimonials:**

*"I think one space where it's really nice so I don't even have to mention that I'm a transfer student is the Transfer Student Center...It's a nice little space where we can just kinda have it to ourselves. **It's nice not to have to explain that we're transfers...***

*"At UCSB there's the Transfer Center...and they have a lot of posters on the walls that advertise a lot of different events, and so that also kind of **exposed me to the existence of all these other events and opportunities** which I have slowly been utilizing throughout my UCSB experience."*



*"At first it can feel a little bit isolating, so I appreciate having events and the Transfer Student Center, you know, things going on that **you can meet other transfers and feel like there's a stronger sense of community...** you're not alone."*

Transfer Student Outcomes

Transfer students who use the TSC have a higher retention rate and higher graduation rate compared to transfer students in the same cohort who do not use the TSC.
(Fall 2021-2023 Cohorts)

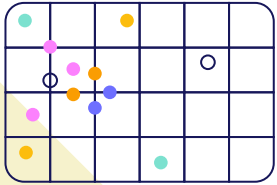




Discussion

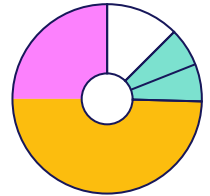
- What stood out to you about the data we presented?
- What surprised you? What didn't surprise you?
- **What is one actionable step you can take in support of transfer students in your area of work (teaching, programming, advising, etc.)?**

Thank you!



Questions? Collaborations?

Email Malaphone! mphommasa@ucsb.edu



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