



TRANSFER TIMES

Volume 1 Issue 4

Nov/Dec 2008

Avoiding Transfer Shock

'Transfer Shock' refers to the tendency of transfer students to experience a decline in grade point average (G.P.A.) during their first or second semester at their four-year college (Hills, 1965). This temporary drop in academic performance is attributed to problems adjusting to the new academic environment.

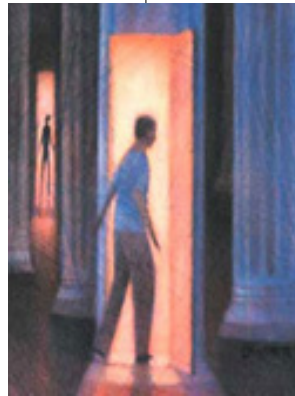
Is transfer shock inevitable?

Not necessarily! There are definite steps you can take to ease your transition to the senior college and to avoid the potential effect of transfer shock. Here are a few steps you can take:

Learn about the transfer process

Many students are surprised that graduation from BMCC and subsequent transfer to a senior college is not an automatic process. You must file a transfer application. The priority application deadline for CUNY colleges is October 1st for spring admission and March 15th for fall admission. Applications are available on-line, through the CUNY Portal.

The application deadlines and transfer policies and procedures will vary at the private colleges and universities. For specific information check the individual



college's web site.

Expect that things will be different at the senior college

You may find that classes at the senior college are larger and that you receive less personal attention from your profes-

sors. Most professors do want to interact with their students, but they may expect you to take the initiative. Your professors may also expect you to be independent and self-motivated. While they are interested in your progress they expect that you will reach out and ask for help when and if you need it.

Arrange a campus visit

Try to arrange a campus visit prior to the first day of classes. Many colleges have open house events or informational sessions to introduce students to the college and its programs. Visit college web sites for a schedule of these activities.

Ask for advice from the beginning

All colleges offer student support services such as academic advisement, financial aid and general counseling. These services, however, are only useful if you take advantage of them. Schedule an



Inside This Issue

- ◆ ***Open House Events***
- ◆ ***Educational Pathways: Preparing for Law School***
- ◆ ***Tips for Transferring to Hunter College***

appointment with an academic advisor at the beginning of your first semester. Your advisor can explain the degree requirements, help you select courses and help you to balance your course load. Your advisor can also direct you to other campus resources.

Join a club or campus organization

One way to feel connected at your new college is to join a club where you will meet people who have similar interests. Many careers have affiliated professional organizations with active student chapters located on college campuses. Membership in one of these student chapters will let you tap into the most up-to-date information and developments in a chosen field. You will also meet other students who are on a similar educational pathway. Research indicates that students who have a sense of community and who feel connected at the senior college level perform better academically.

Complete the associate's degree

Finally, research indicates that students who transfer from the community college to the senior college with junior-level standing earn higher grades and have higher graduation rates than students who transfer in their freshman or sophomore years. Transfer shock appears to have less of an impact on students who transfer with the associate's degree.

References

Ceja, B.D. (1998). Transfer Shock in an academic discipline: The relationship between students' majors and their academic performance. *Community College Review*.

Hills, J.R. (1965). Transfer Shock: The academic performance of the junior college transfer. *Journal of Experimental Education*, 33, 201-215.

Thurmond, K.C. (2007). Transfer Shock: Why is a term forty years old still relevant? Retrieved 10/7/2007 from NACADA Clearinghouse of Academic Advising Resources Web site:

<http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/ClearinghouseAdvisingIssues/Transfer-Shock.htm>

Open House Events

City College Center for Worker Education

Students can earn a B.S. degree in Early Childhood Education or a B.A. in interdisciplinary arts and sciences with concentrations in Human Services; Public Administration; Cultural and Historical Studies; Literature, Communications and the Arts; and Labor Studies. To learn more, students are invited to attend an admission workshop:

Thurs., Nov. 13, 6pm	Wed., Dec. 17, 6pm
Wed., Nov. 19, 4pm	Thurs., Jan. 8, 4pm
Sat., Dec. 6, 10am	Tues., Jan. 13, 6pm
Thurs., Dec. 11, 6pm	

For more information visit the web site: www.ccnycuny.edu/cwe, or call (212) 625-1444

All workshops are held at the Center's campus: 25 Broadway, 7th floor



The CUNY Baccalaureate/Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies

The CUNY BA provides students with a flexible, academically challenging way to earn the bachelor's degree.

Fall 2008 Informational Sessions

Daytime, 12:30pm	Evening, 5:30pm
Fri, Nov. 21	Wed, Dec. 3
Fri, Dec 5	

Sessions will cover the program's profile, degree requirements and the application process. To sign up for a session call: (212) 817-8220.

Sessions are held at the Graduate Center
365 Fifth Avenue at 34th Street

Educational Pathway:

Preparing for Law School

Most law schools require three years of full-time study to earn the Juris Doctor (JD) degree. The admission process is highly competitive, as is the educational environment once you have been accepted. You will need to plan ahead and expect that you will have little time for outside activities.

What should I major in?

The American Bar Association (ABA) does not recommend any particular undergraduate major. Students are admitted to law school from almost every academic discipline. History, English, philosophy, political science and economics are among the majors traditionally considered as undergraduate preparation for law school. The best advice is to pursue a course of study that fuels your interests and intellectual curiosity. The subject area is less important than the development of excellent writing, research, and critical thinking skills.

What courses should I take?

Take challenging courses that develop your analytic abilities, critical reading skills, writing and research skills and oral communication and listening abilities. Take courses from many disciplines in order to acquire a broad understanding of history, political thought, mathematics, human behavior, diverse cultures, and world events.

What are the criteria for law school admission?

Most law school admissions committees evaluate applicants using a combination of objective and subjective criteria. The objective measures include your undergraduate GPA and your score on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). The subjective criteria

include a personal statement and letters of recommendation from professors and/or employers. Your work experience, undergraduate extracurricular activities, internships, and any volunteer work will also be considered.

What is the LSAT?

The LSAT is a standardized test administered by the Law School Admission Council (LSAC). The test is required for admission to LSAC-member law schools, most Canadian law schools, and many non-ABA-approved law schools. This multiple choice exam is designed to measure your ability to read complex materials with understanding and insight; to make deductions; draw logical conclusions about the structure of relationships; and to understand, analyze, criticize, and complete a variety of arguments.

What else should I do to prepare?

Start early and do the research. Visit law school websites. Plan your curriculum carefully. Take challenging courses that develop your writing and critical thinking skills. Learn about the different steps in the admission process and develop a timetable to complete each step. Allow adequate time to prepare for the LSAT. Stay in contact with your advisor.



References

American Bar Association: Preparing for Law School
<http://www.abanet.org/legaled/prelaw/prep.html>

Cornell University (Cornell Career Services)
<http://www.career.cornell.edu/law/guide/admissionCriteria.html>

Law School Admission Council:
<http://www.lsac.org/AboutLSAC/about-lsac.asp>

Tips for Transferring to Hunter College

Hunter College consists of four schools: the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Education, the Schools of the Health Professions and the School of Social Work. They offer more than 55 undergraduate programs, which lead to the degrees of bachelor of arts, bachelor of science, bachelor of fine arts and bachelor of music as well as 15 dual bachelor's/master's program. For information about a specific program visit the web site:

<http://registrar.hunter.cuny.edu/subpages/college.shtml>.

- ◆ Hunter will accept a maximum of 70 transfer credits.
- ◆ It is highly recommended that you obtain the associate's degree (A.A. and A.S. preferably) before you transfer. The A.A. and A.S. degrees will generally exempt you from most, if not all, core requirements.
- ◆ Apply to Hunter by the priority deadline (October 1st for spring and March 15th for fall admission).
- ◆ When you receive your acceptance letter from Hunter, Be Sure To Read It. The letter will direct you to the website (<http://mychoice.hunter.cuny.edu>) where you will confirm that you plan to attend the college. If you do not complete this step, your transfer credits will not be evaluated.
- ◆ You will receive a second letter from Hunter. This letter contains your Hunter email address. At this point all communication between you and the college goes electronic. You must check your email regularly or you will miss information regarding orientation sessions and registration.
- ◆ Your immunization record will not travel with you to Hunter. You will need to make arrangements to have a copy sent to Hunter or you will not be permitted to attend classes.
- ◆ Visit <http://mychoice.hunter.cuny.edu> for general information about Hunter, student services, academic services, and the Technology Resource Center.
- ◆ For more information about transferring to Hunter College, visit the Academic Advisement & Transfer Center (S-763).

About the AATC

The Academic Advisement & Transfer Center provides students with comprehensive one-on-one academic advisement and transfer services to facilitate well informed decisions about appropriate senior college choices after graduation.

Additionally, the AATC:

- ◆ administers the Title V program for liberal arts students and the Out-in-Two Scholarship Program
- ◆ houses and maintains a transfer library with both print and electronic resources
- ◆ offers e-advisement, distance learning advisement and nontraditional career advisement
- ◆ Sponsors 6 senior college transfer fairs annually

We are here to serve you 7 days a week

Please check our web site (<http://bmcc.cuny.edu/transfrcntr>) for our most up-to-date office hours