Through the Gate Transfer Survey

The Research and Planning Group for California Community Colleges’ (RP Group) “Through the Gate” transfer study aims to identify strategies for increasing transfer among “high-leverage learners” in California Community Colleges (CCCs)—individuals who have completed all or most of their transfer requirements, but who do not make it “through the gate” to a four-year institution. The survey was distributed in spring 2019 and 162 students from De Anza College participated in this survey.

Most students already transferred or are planning to transfer
162 responses

- Already transferred and enrolled in a university (47.92%)
- Actively planning to transfer (42.71%)
- Still deciding if I want to transfer (5.21%)
- Considered transfer in the past but decided not to (2.08%)
- Never intended to transfer (2.08%)

It is very important to students to transfer and earn a bachelor's degree
85 responses

- Very important (72%)
- Moderately important (8%)
- Not at all important (1%)

Students close to transferring still need to complete GE courses, including math courses
58 responses

- 40% Multiple GE & required transfer courses
- 16% Ready to transfer
- 5% KNES/PE courses
- 3% History courses
- 12% Math/Calculus
- 5% Raise my GPA
- 3% Take the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS)
Students close to transferring need additional financial support
57 responses

- Financial aid/resources for financial support: 40%
- More counselors with more specialized knowledge of my major: 19%
- Family support: 11%
- Tutoring support: 11%
- No more support needed: 9%
- Highlight opportunities and methods that increase chances of transfer: 5%
- Better support from teachers/more compassion: 4%
- Guidance during transfer application process: 4%
- Mental health support: 4%
- Offer more courses so that they are less impacted: 4%
- Peer support: 4%
- Better advertise/promote on campus programs and activities: 2%
- Institutional support: 2%
- Internship opportunities/resources: 2%
- Provide counseling online: 2%
- Simplify application process and clearly communicate requirements: 2%
- Support to achieve school/work balance: 2%

Challenges to transfer
69 responses

Students were concerned about their grades at De Anza and were concerned about being successful after transferring.

Concerns about my grades from my community college classes:
- Very challenging (43%)
- Moderately challenging (45%)
- Not challenging at all (12%)

Concerns about my ability to be a successful transfer student:
- Very challenging (35%)
- Moderately challenging (50%)
- Not challenging at all (15%)

Students feel supported by their families and the De Anza community.

Lack of support from my community college:
- Very challenging (18.81%)
- Moderately challenging (40.39%)
- Not challenging at all (40.59%)

Lack of encouragement from my family:
- Very challenging (22%)
- Moderately challenging (32%)
- Not challenging at all (46%)

Students have many transfer options close to home.

Lack of friends who are transferring:
- Very challenging (4.04%)
- Moderately challenging (35.35%)
- Not challenging at all (60.61%)

Absence of universities I can attend near my home:
- Very challenging (11.88%)
- Moderately challenging (34.65%)
- Not challenging at all (53.47%)
Most students have family or friends who have successfully transferred
79 responses

- I have close family who transferred but never got their bachelor's degree
  - Agree: 20%
  - Strongly agree: 1%
  - No opinion/ Don't know: 30%
  - Disagree: 36%

- My family would be upset if I moved away to attend a university
  - Agree: 10%
  - Strongly agree: 7%
  - No opinion/ Don't know: 29%
  - Disagree: 36%

- I have a sibling or close family member who transferred and got their bachelor's degree
  - Agree: 10%
  - Strongly agree: 23%
  - No opinion/ Don't know: 22%
  - Disagree: 17%
  - Strongly disagree: 28%

- I feel pressure to prioritize supporting my family over pursuing my education
  - Agree: 6%
  - Strongly agree: 10%
  - No opinion/ Don't know: 41%
  - Disagree: 25%

- Most of the people I grew up with never attended a university
  - Agree: 1%
  - Strongly agree: 23%
  - No opinion/ Don't know: 39%
  - Disagree: 35%

- I know people from my college who transferred to universities
  - Agree: 4%
  - Strongly agree: 55%
  - No opinion/ Don't know: 35%
  - Disagree: 3%

- Most of my college friends don't plan on transferring
  - Agree: 17%
  - Strongly agree: 35%
  - No opinion/ Don't know: 35%
  - Disagree: 38%

Students found online resources and counseling sessions to be helpful when planning to transfer
79 responses

- Online resources (e.g., ASSIST, UC TAP, University websites)
  - Somewhat helpful: 54%
  - Very helpful: 28%
  - Not helpful at all: 4%
  - Did not use: 10%

- Community-based organizations (e.g., College Track, Boys and Girls Club, religious organization, public library)
  - Somewhat helpful: 9%
  - Very helpful: 16%
  - Not helpful at all: 15%
  - Did not use: 49%
  - Did not know about: 10%

- A college club, group, or honors society
  - Somewhat helpful: 8%
  - Very helpful: 22%
  - Not helpful at all: 9%
  - Did not use: 54%
  - Did not know about: 8%

- College honors program
  - Somewhat helpful: 7%
  - Very helpful: 21%
  - Not helpful at all: 7%
  - Did not use: 56%
  - Did not know about: 9%

- Special programs (e.g., EOPS, MESA, Umoja, TRIO)
  - Somewhat helpful: 12%
  - Very helpful: 18%
  - Not helpful at all: 7%
  - Did not use: 47%
  - Did not know about: 18%

- Guidance from a community college professor
  - Somewhat helpful: 21%
  - Very helpful: 32%
  - Not helpful at all: 13%
  - Did not use: 26%
  - Did not know about: 7%

- Transfer centers on the university campuses
  - Somewhat helpful: 9%
  - Very helpful: 40%
  - Not helpful at all: 2%
  - Did not use: 34%
  - Did not know about: 15%

- University tours organized by your community college
  - Somewhat helpful: 10%
  - Very helpful: 21%
  - Not helpful at all: 6%
  - Did not use: 40%
  - Did not know about: 24%

- University representatives visiting your community college (e.g., individual appointments or at a Transfer Fair)
  - Somewhat helpful: 26%
  - Very helpful: 26%
  - Not helpful at all: 4%
  - Did not use: 35%
  - Did not know about: 7%

- Transfer preparation workshops at my community college (e.g., assistance with university application)
  - Somewhat helpful: 15%
  - Very helpful: 28%
  - Not helpful at all: 7%
  - Did not use: 43%
  - Did not know about: 7%

- Counseling session(s) focused on transferring
  - Somewhat helpful: 36%
  - Very helpful: 31%
  - Not helpful at all: 12%
  - Did not use: 19%
  - Did not know about: 1%

- My college's Transfer Center website
  - Somewhat helpful: 18%
  - Very helpful: 41%
  - Not helpful at all: 12%
  - Did not use: 19%
  - Did not know about: 10%

- My community college's Transfer Center (transfer resource office)
  - Somewhat helpful: 24%
  - Very helpful: 40%
  - Not helpful at all: 6%
  - Did not use: 22%
  - Did not know about: 9%