

WCU Transfer Top 3 Tips for Student Success

For new and returning transfer students

As a transfer student new to Western Carolina University, we recognize that you are ready to build upon your existing foundation, and already possess a range of experiences and unique perspectives framed by prior educational opportunities. We are excited for you to pursue your Bachelor's Degree with us at WCU!

1. Be ready for Culture Shock- It's a Whole New World at WCU!

Your experience at WCU will be completely different from your experiences at previous institutions. Approach WCU as new, uncharted territory to be navigated instead of assuming the processes might be the same. But don't worry! We have tons of resources available to you, and helpful staff to assist you—make sure you check them out and don't be afraid to ask for help!

Stages of culture shock include: "Tourist stage", "Crises stage", "Re-integration stage", "Autonomy stage" and finally "Independence stage". Just as with moving to a new country, transfer students nationally often experience a slight dip in GPA during their first semester at a new school ("Crises stage"). Transitions are challenging, even for the most resilient of human beings. Give yourself time and space to adjust. Find ways to get connected to your new community. Seek out events, clubs, or groups of students with similar interests. Students who have a sense of belonging are happier and more likely to do better academically, so get involved!

With a full toolbox of resources, transfer students tend to bring their GPAs right back up after that first semester ("Independence stage")!



2. Communication is Key- It's All About Knowing the Who, What, When and How



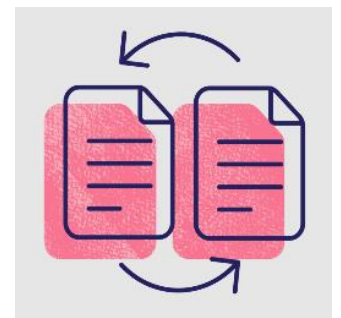
Check your catamount email account regularly so you don't miss out on important information! Overwhelmed? Search for names and offices that are a priority! Knowing the name of your advisors is crucial, for example.

Admitted and needing answers before your New Student Orientation? Browse the [Transfer Students Advising page](#) to find information like the **Checklist for Admitted Transfer Students**. You can also email transferadvising@wcu.edu.

See the Registrar's Office [Credits Earned Elsewhere page](#) for information about what will and won't transfer, and to see the Frequently Asked Questions page. **ALWAYS ASK** if you have questions about your transfer credit, or if you think you should be getting credit for something you didn't.

3. Make it Official- Send Your Final Transcripts!

Don't forget to request all official transcripts to be sent to WCU! Courses won't be applied to your record until we have them. This is the only way your advisor will have all the academic information they need for you. You'll also need to request an updated transcript any time you've finished in-progress courses. Bear in mind that degrees are often awarded some time after grades have been posted for a semester.



You are not alone. We are glad you are here, and we are here to support you!