LSEM Classes for Transfer Students

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All transfer students should be required to enroll in the Longwood Seminar (LSEM) course during their transition period at Longwood University in order to learn more about the University and be successful.

Transfer students that choose to attend Longwood University should be required to sign up for Longwood’s one credit Longwood Seminar class. This [course](http://www.longwood.edu/seminar/) is “required of all first-time freshmen”; however, transfer students should be required to take this course as well, regardless of how many credits they are entering the University with. It is always a struggle for transfer students to feel at home at a new university.

Along with the LSEM courses, Peer Mentors that are also transfer students will be assigned to each class. These Peer Mentors specifically will be able to relate stronger to the transfer students and will be able to better answer any questions about the transition. Learning about all the advantages this course offers can really enable them to be more successful throughout their time at Longwood.

Students may choose to transfer schools during their college years for many reasons. These [reasons](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/09/14/reports-highlight-woes-faced-one-third-all-college-students-who-transfer) can include, but are not limited to: “shifts in their educational needs or goal, dissatisfaction with the original institution, and changes in life situations.” Regardless of why a student decides to transfer, they should feel comfortable doing so. Transitioning to a new place with new people is not the easiest thing for every individual. Enrolling in the LSEM course not only allows transfer students to learn more about the University, but to make new friends in a comfortable classroom setting, with those who are in a similar situation as them.

A [transfer graduate of Longwood University, class of 2012](http://www.studentsreview.com/VA/LCF_comments.html?type=negative), reported that, “the transfer students receive a one day orientation that, to be honest, is quite useless.” It is difficult to communicate all useful knowledge to these new students in just one day. Even if it is possible to explain all of the information and resources that are available to students, it can be extremely difficult to remember all of this information. Completing the LSEM course can allow them to learn this information and understand how to use these resources can truly make a difference in the success of the transfer student.

The number of students that chose to transfer is increasing as the years continue. In 2015, the [National Student Clearinghouse Research Center](http://college.usatoday.com/2015/07/15/one-third-of-undergrads-transfer-colleges/) published that, “of the 3.6 million college students surveyed nationwide — all of who started their undergraduate careers in 2008 —  37.2% transferred between universities. In addition, of the students who chose to transfer, [45%](http://nscresearchcenter.org/signaturereport9/#more-4185) decided to change schools more than once.” Since this number is increasing year after year, Longwood must consider this and take action to benefit these students. The LSEM classes that these transfer students would be filled with other transfer students to help ease the transition. Longwood wishes to decrease the likelihood of students transferring twice, and wishes to increase the number of transfer students that choose to stay at the University.

Some may argue that older, transfer students do not want to spend the time or effort taking this extra one credit course. [US News](https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/slideshows/10-things-prospective-college-transfer-students-need-to-know?slide=10) states that, “College orientation isn’t just for incoming freshmen. NACAC data shows that 72.1 percent of schools offer separate orientation for transfer students.” Though orientation for all new students is necessary, this extra few weeks of classes will give these students the little bit of extra support they need to feel at home.

In conclusion, transfer students should be required to complete the Longwood Seminar course, just as first-year freshmen do. This will allow them to learn more about Longwood University, take advantage of the resources available to them, and encourage them to make new friends in the process. This change in requirements for transfer students may take a while to adjust to; however, it will show an overall increase in those student’s success.