Paige Spencer

Professor Paal

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The Transfer Situation

Transfer Students often find themselves under much scrutiny for switching schools, particularly from their parents, professors, and often, their friends. This comes from other people thinking they know better for the student than they know for themselves. This becomes an ethical dilemma when arguing whether a student should transfer because why would you deny them the right to be happier at another school? I think that is the most important thing in a college decision, the importance of the happiness of the student.

Some things to think about before coming down hard on students who are thinking of transferring is that not only could the student be happier? Could they feel more successful in the long run? Transfer students undergo much scrutiny from their parents which can make the transition period very difficult for the student. Most colleges offer some sort of program for parents of incoming transfer students to see what their new campus must offer, and why they think their child would fit in well at the new school. According to an article from the [Washington Post](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answersheet/wp/2017/01/29/why-so-many-college-students-decide-to-transfer/?utm_term=.58f8cae73f98)), more than a third of college students decide to transfer, and half of those do it more than once.

[US News](https://www.usnews.com/news/national-news/articles/2016-11-22/when-credits-dont-count-transfer-students-face-debt-more-classes) reports that by transferring in from another school, the student will lose on average 13 credits that have already been obtained. This becomes difficult for the transfer student when they are trying to graduate at the same time as if they hadn’t transferred. This becomes a financial burden on many families and can become a reason that some families prevent their child from switching schools. Being supportive and willing to send the student in another direction can do a lot for the student’s moral and overall happiness.

There are different types of transfer students. According to [Inside Higher Educations](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2009/04/17/transfer), the first type of transfer student is one who transfers “laterally” and the second who transfers in “reverse.” The student who transfers laterally is one who does so from one four-year institution to another. These students are the ones who typically are familiar with the college experience and have a general goal in mind of what they want to be. Even though the reverse transfer students have the same attitude as the lateral transfer student, the reverse transfer is typically looked down upon. The reverse transfer students are the ones who go from a four-year university to a community college. Both should be treated as equals because they are both trying to better themselves and receive a good education. There is no need to classify them into two different levels and types of people just because they feel the need to transfer.

According to another recent article posted by the [Washington Post](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2017/01/29/why-so-many-college-students-decide-to-transfer/?utm_term=.58f8cae73f98) , they simply ask the question, “Are there valid reasons to transfer colleges? Absolutely, and there are valid reasons to resist a rush to judgement.” Students and transfer students can agree with this because there are different reasons to do everything regarding one’s college situation. Personally, as a transfer student, I had financial reasons for transferring, but as I have grown to know a few of my peers here at my current school, it is interesting to find out that we all have different reasons for transferring. One reason that I heard was because the sports team that a student was one while at their other was school was too time consuming so instead of quitting the team, they transferred schools. There were people I personally knew at my other school who only came to that college because their parents wanted them to go and they planned on transferring to another school shortly after the semester was over. There are all different reasons to do the things one does in college but most importantly, the student must do what is best for the student.

Some advice given by the [NY Times](https://thechoice.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/04/27/transfer/) is to look at the transfer rate given by the University of the students choosing to further see why people are transferring and when they do so. This will be helpful information in the long run to find out if it is mostly after the first semester or after the first year. Another bit of advice given by a writer for the [Odyssey](https://www.theodysseyonline.com/advice-transfer-students-transfer-student) who is also a transfer student is to plan out your four years in college so you will not fall behind when trying to catch up on everything. I can personally say that if I would have done that, it would have been a much easier transition.

I think that it is about where the student feels happiest. Whether that means going to a school that their parents want them to go to, or going to a school that gives them the most money, it is about finding the right fit. Sometimes, however, it may take more than one try to get it just right.