

Pre-Transfer Advising at Rutgers-New Brunswick: Easing the Way for Students in Transition

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Abstract:

For students transferring from a New Jersey county or community college (NJCC), NJ Transfer is a useful platform that provides course equivalencies and transfer credit evaluations to all the public 4-year schools in the state. Unfortunately, this type of transparency is unavailable to students transferring between NJ's four-year schools, as well as out-of-state 2 and 4-year schools.

- 70% of transfer students originate from NJCCs. Due to decreased enrollment at these colleges, there is a need to expand our recruitment efforts outside of NJ.
- NJCCs are experiencing increased staff turnover. Therefore, the pipeline of information regarding transfer processes is disrupted. Students are not adequately prepared for the transition.
- A Pre-Transfer Advising Center may help increase enrollment of transfer students, foster student success, and improve "on-time" degree completion.

Primary Stakeholders:

- Prospective transfer students to Rutgers-New Brunswick
- Admitting schools, their academic departments, and advising staff and faculty, including EOF
- Office of the Chancellor-Provost
- Enrollment Management
- Academic support units for student athletes, veterans/active military, and other non-traditional students

Key Steps/Activities:

- Feasibility study
- Meet with post transfer students about their transition experiences, academic partners, and Enrollment Management
- Revision of transfer policies and practices
- Develop a strategic plan for implementation
- Establish unit
- Evaluation of services

Effectiveness Measures:

- Increases awareness, academic planning and preparation, and overall readiness of transfer students to Rutgers-New Brunswick
- Increase in enrollment for 2-year out of state students and 4-year in and out of state students
- Implementation of equitable transfer policies and practices
- Establishes a "welcoming and equitable learning environment for all students and prioritizes on-time graduation with minimal debt for all students"

Communication/Engagement:

- Stakeholder communication via transfer student committee meetings and emails
- Outreach to prospective students via the Office of Admissions through emails and Salesforce Marketing

Proposed Timeline:

- May-June 2023: Submit proposal to key stakeholders
- July 2023-Sept 2023: Feasibility study
- AY 23-24: Develop unit, hire and train staff
- AY 24-25: Implementation

Current Status/Future Directions:

- This unit is currently in the pre-development stage. After discussions with appropriate stakeholders, feasibility can be determined.
- Based on results and feedback from stakeholders, the unit will be established.