

Upper Division GE New Transfer Student Project, AY 2018-2019: Issues, Resources, and Pedagogical Approaches for Faculty

Issues facing new transfer students: see [CSUN Counts](#) for data on transfer student success.

- A. Being new all over again: awareness, belonging, confidence, direction. [The CSUN mobile app](#) can help. So can [MataSync](#), a hub found online and in the portal for CSUN student clubs, organizations, and activities.
- B. Parking & getting around campus: [info. for students](#). Note the 50% discount for F10 North Campus parking.
- C. [Upper Division Writing Proficiency Exam](#): students must attempt the WPE no later than the semester in which they complete 75 units. That may be their first CSUN semester if they enter with 60 units and take 15.
- D. CSUN's [add and drop policies](#): our deadlines for both are often earlier than those at community colleges.
- E. New technology: Canvas, the Portal, SOLAR, CSUN Gmail, Box.... See [CSUN's "Need Help?" tech page](#).
- F. New advisors and how to find them: www.csun.edu/findadvisor

Resources:

- A. The [New CSUN Transfer Student webpage](#) offers links, FAQs, a calendar, and enrollment info for transfers
- B. [The First-Time Transfer Advising Checklist](#) (revised annually by [Undergraduate Studies](#))
- C. [Student Guide to Academic Advisement at CSUN](#): policies, procedures, and expectations
- D. Consider posting links to these offices on your Canvas course page. Or just post a link to the [Matadors Rising](#) resource list, which includes all these and many other campus essentials:
 1. [Career Center](#) (Bayramian Hall 4th floor): esp. StrengthsQuest, the new 2018 Pathways, & SUNlink
 2. [Counseling Center](#) and the [ExCEL](#) program with its free video and user's guide for students
 3. [Financial Aid & Scholarships](#): CSUN offers many scholarships. But students have to apply for them.
 4. [Klotz Student Health Center](#): low-cost prescriptions, massages, and more; practically free health care.
 5. [Learning Resource Center](#) (third floor, East wing, Oviatt Library) for free tutoring and writing help
 6. [Matador Involvement Center](#): clubs, organizations, volunteer opportunities
 7. [Oviatt Library](#): the [Learning Commons](#) now offers 3D Printing, the Creative Media Studio, & more
 8. [Technology for CSUN students](#): free software, myCSUNbox, Portfolium, and much more

Syllabus: note the details of CSUN's [syllabus policy](#); also check the [Syllabus Best Practices](#) page. At a minimum:

- A. Include your contact information and office hours at the top of page one on your syllabus.
- B. Provide designated, prominent space on the syllabus for classmate contact info (two or more classmates).
- C. Review your syllabus in class (and/or assign reading it as homework, with a social quiz to follow in class).

Pedagogy: help your students participate in class early, actively, and often

- A. Open with a serious, discipline-based icebreaker: relate the icebreaker directly to your course content.
- B. [Teach your students how and why to go to office hours](#). Don't assume they already know.
- C. Incorporate learning community approaches: teams, groups, pairs, study groups, collaborative projects....
- D. Conduct a [knowledge survey](#) in week one to pique student interest in your course content.
- E. Assess students' readiness to learn: follow the advice provided by former CSUN prof Jennifer Romack in "Enhancing Students' Readiness to Learn" (in [11 Strategies for Getting Students to Read What's Assigned](#)).
- F. Try out some [Classroom Assessment Techniques](#): minute papers, exit/entry cards, the muddiest point....
- G. Begin each class meeting with "Any questions?" and make it clear you really mean "any."
- H. If you use Canvas, consider creating posting your own version of these discussion forums:
 1. "Canvas Cafe": let students talk to each other online about anything they choose;
 2. "Got Questions?" so students can ask and answer classmates' questions about your course; and
 3. "Introduce Yourself": help students get to know each other. Post your own information first as a model.

Student engagement: announce discipline-related speakers, movies, and events.

- A. Offer opportunities for engagement such as the President's Welcome Picnic (choose lunch or supper on Thursday 8/30/18, Bayramian Hall Lawn: free to all CSUN peeps), the Associated Students Fair w/free CSUN planners and more (Tuesday 8/28/18, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Campus Store Lawn), and [New Student Convocation](#) on Thursday 9/13/18 at 6 p.m. on the Oviatt Lawn. It's not just for freshmen anymore!
- B. Remind students that on-campus employment opportunities are listed on their portal under Financial Matters.