

Upper Division GE New Transfer Student Project, Fall 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](#), an online gateway to 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 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. Here's how to find them: www.csun.edu/findadvisor

Resources:

- A. The [New CSUN Transfer Student webpage](#) with a calendar, FAQs, 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 the following resources on your Canvas course page. Or just link to the [Matadors Rising resource page](#), which includes all these and many other campus essentials:
 1. [Career Center](#): services include StrengthsQuest, Pathways, & Handshake (new for 2019).
 2. [Counseling Center](#)
 3. [ExCEL](#): the free video and student guide help address psycho-social challenges to learning.
 4. [Financial Aid & Scholarships](#): encourage your students to apply for both types of support.
 5. [Klotz Student Health Center](#): low-cost prescriptions, massages, and more; practically free health care.
 6. [Learning Resource Center](#) for free tutoring and writing help. Newly expanded: the [Grammar Lab](#).
 7. [Matador Involvement Center](#): clubs, organizations, Greek life, and volunteer opportunities.
 8. [Oviatt Library](#) and the [Learning Commons](#): research, study space, and the IT Help Center.
 9. [Technology for CSUN students](#): free software, myCSUNbox, Portfolium, Zoom, and much more.

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

- 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). Follow up with an in-class social quiz.

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

- A. Schedule a serious, discipline-based icebreaker during week one. Relate it explicitly to your course content.
- B. [Teach your students how and why they should go to office hours](#). Don't assume they already know.
- C. Incorporate social learning approaches: use teams, groups, pairs, study groups, collaborative projects....
- D. Conduct a [knowledge survey](#) in week one to pique student curiosity about 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" (see [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 campus speakers, movies, and events:

- A. The President's Picnic: choose lunch or supper on Thurs. 8/29/19, Bayramian Hall Lawn: free.
- B. The [Associated Students Fair](#): free bottles, shirts, food, etc. Tues. 8/27/19, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sierra Quad.
- C. [New Student Convocation](#): Thurs. 9/12/19 at 6 p.m. on the Oviatt Lawn. It's not just for freshmen anymore!
- D. Remind students that on-campus employment opportunities are listed on their portal under Financial Matters.