BRIDGING THE GAP:
SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND BEYOND

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Preparedness for Community College

This is for REAL!

- It’s time to step up
  - It’s not *Junior College* and this is *not* 13\textsuperscript{th} grade
    - You’re starting your Bachelor’s degree now
  - Don’t expect parents, friends, counselors, Twitter, Wikipedia, RateMyProfessor, etc. to do it all for you.
    - You are in charge of your own future!
Preparedness for Community College

This stuff just got REAL!

- It really is your permanent record!
  - Your college GPA is cumulative, even after transfer
  - C’s may not cut it
    - (In some ways they’re worse than D’s or F’s!)
How to do Community College Right

- Take the right classes in high school
  - Being ready for college level courses is just as important for community college as for a university
  - Foundations in English and math are crucial
- Use AP classes & tests to earn college credit
  - See a counselor to learn the limitations of AP credit
    - Differences when used for major vs. G.E., and may be counted differently at various colleges & universities
How to do Community College Right

- Apply early (CCCApply)
  - Be sure to submit H.S. transcripts, any other college transcripts, and AP/IB scores

- Take placement tests seriously
  - Utilize practice tests and other prep resources take
  - Make sure you’re taking the right level for each test
How to do Community College Right

- Go to New Student Orientation
  - Use online version if you must, but in person is preferred

- Get your mind on your money and your money on your mind
  - Spring before CC: Research fees and financial aid
  - Complete FAFSA and list all schools you may attend
How to do Community College Right

- Explore majors and transfer plans early
  - Succeeding in college is a process
  - Transferring is a process
  - The sooner you start these processes, the better!
Create an education plan

State law now requires at least a one semester plan upon entry to the CC

Do it better: Meet with a counselor and create a complete plan!

Ed plans, number of units earned, and other factors affect your registration priority

It’s often better to make a choice early, even if you change along the way, then to wait
Adjusting to College

- Don’t be a zombie!
  - Talk to people
  - Get involved on campus
  - See profs during office hours
    - Do something really wild – get to know them!
Adjusting to College

- Learn time management
  - Take a counseling class, read a book, and learn from successful students
    - You probably don’t need to work as many hours as you think you do!
- Life is not Wikipedia - Use the Experts
  - Counseling, Transfer, EOP&S, Vet Svcs, DSPS, Fin Aid, tutoring, etc.
Adjusting to College

- You get to choose your counselor
  - No one picks your classes for you
  - Learn about units, prerequisites, and course numbering
  - Be really original - read the college catalog!
- You can earn scholarships - sometimes lots of them!
Adjusting to College

- You can & probably should get an Associates degree
  - In many cases, transfer requirements are very similar to AA/AS requirements
  - Associate Degrees for Transfer (AA-T/AS-T/ADT) have admission benefits for CSU transfer
  - You never know where life will take you, and how an AA/AS may benefit you
  - People might give you graduation presents!
Adjusting to College

- Learn about opportunities like TAG (UC), TAP (UCLA), Honors programs, etc.
- Understand that the targets sometimes move
  - GPA, major requirements, etc., change
- Learn that DEADLINES ARE REAL!
  - Transfer apps, Financial Aid, graduation, and more all have very firm deadlines
Moving on to the Next Step

- You can get there from here!
  - We transfer students to the Ivy League, Cal Tech, UCLA, Berkeley, internationally, etc.
- Yes, community college transfers get high admission priority (Except where they don’t)
  - TAG, TAP, etc. really do work
- UC Blue & Gold Program, CA Middle Class Scholarship, Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE), can all make higher ed much more affordable
Keep in Touch

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