

Office of Transfer Services

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

September 2015

Happy New Year!

Welcome to the Fall edition of *Talking Transfers*, the newsletter of Appalachian's Office of Transfer Services. Thank you to the people who responded to our needs assessment survey, sent out in June. In the light of your responses, this edition features an extended section on some of the transfer student support initiatives we offer at Appalachian. We also include some of the ways in which prospective transfer students can find out more about Appalachian and become familiar with the campus. Additionally, we have a short piece from one of our transfer student mentors, Ashley Newman.

Transfers Talking



Hi! My name is Ashley Newman. I transferred to Appalachian from Wilkes Community College in 2013. I am double majoring in Public Relations and Communication Studies with a minor in Political Science. In my experience, the most difficult aspect of transferring was getting involved. While there are plenty of clubs and organizations on campus, I found it hard to break my routine of going from campus to home straight after class. Living off campus, you aren't as connected as if you had lived on campus.

I wish I had known how easy it is to get involved. I also wish I had been less hesitant and more proactive. You have to be proactive. Sometimes as transfer students we are just coming for two years and can feel as though that means we can't be as involved as those that stay their entire four years. I wish I had known that this wasn't the case. My one piece of advice is simple: get involved and spread your wings. College is about making those lasting relationships and memories. Be a part of the Mountaineer family! Seize the day! Take advantage of these moments, they pass quickly and before you realize you are preparing to walk the stage.

General Education 2.0

Appalachian has a new general education curriculum, General Education 2.0. The new curriculum applies to students with a catalog year of 2015~2016 or later. You can find more information at <http://generaleducation.appstate.edu/>.

Visiting Appalachian

Appalachian offers a range of events to facilitate student visits to the university. Here is some information about each.

- **Open House** Open House is a great way for prospective transfer students to meet faculty, tour campus, and learn more about financial aid, scholarships, admissions, and what student life at Appalachian is really like. In addition, there are transfer-student specific sessions which provide information on how credits transfer, and the importance of getting connected on campus. The next Open House is on **Saturday, September 26, 2015**. For more information: <http://openhouse.appstate.edu>
- **Transfer Track** Transfer Track sessions are campus tours designed specifically for transfer students who are considering Appalachian. During the Fall 2015 Semester, Transfer Track sessions will be held each Monday and Friday, starting at 1pm. These sessions are designed to allow prospective transfer students to "get a taste of life of a transfer student" at Appalachian. More at <http://appstate.edu/transfertrack>
- **Transfer Pre-Orientation Program (T-POP)** T-POP is a day of activities designed to help newly admitted Appalachian transfer students find the answers to all of their questions. A typical day involves sessions on financial aid, transfer of credit, advising, and involvement in campus life. There is also a Q&A session with the transfer student mentors and a tour of the campus. The aim of the day is to help students prepare for Orientation. Students attending T-POP will still be required to attend an on-campus Orientation session. The next Transfer Pre-Orientation Program will be held on November 13, 2015 for students admitted for Spring 2016. Find more information at <http://orientation.appstate.edu/tpop>.

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Getting connected at Appalachian

The research shows that students who get connected at college are more likely to be successful.

Appalachian has a number of programs and organizations in place to help students get connected.

- **Jump Start Appalachian**

Jump Start Appalachian is a transfer student support program at Appalachian State University. Jump Start helps students find information and resources to make their transfer successful. You can find out more about the program at <http://jumpstart.appstate.edu/>

- **Transfer Student Mentors**

The Transfer Student Mentors are the heart of the Jump Start Program. There are currently 16 transfer student mentors at Appalachian. They assist incoming transfer students by providing accurate information and helping students get connected with the Appalachian campus. They can answer questions, help students navigate their first semester on a new campus, direct students on ways to get involved or just meet them for coffee and conversation. Check out the Transfer Student Mentor page (<http://jumpstart.appstate.edu/student-mentors>) for more information.

- **Jump Start Facebook Group**

Students planning to transfer to Appalachian are able to friend “Jump Start Appalachian” on Facebook, whereupon they will be invited into the Jump Start private group. This is a great place to get updates and reminders, as well as a way to contact the transfer student mentors, and to ask students already studying at Appalachian for information about their majors and how they like it here.

- **Transfer Student Organization**

The Transfer Student Organization is one of Appalachian’s official clubs, registered with the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership. As the name suggests, the organization consists mainly of transfer students who come together to meet people and make friends. The organization is very active, organizing hiking and camping trips, as well as sports teams, trips to games, film nights and a variety of other activities.

Getting connected at Appalachian continued...

- **Walker College of Business Transfer Student Association**

The Walker College of Business Transfer Student Association began as a means to introduce new business majors to helpful resources and opportunities within the College of Business including the Academic Advising Center and BB&T Student Leadership Center. In addition to helping get business majors connected in the college, in their bi-monthly meeting they provide professional development programs on topics including resume building, networking, interviewing and building an effective LinkedIn profile.

- **Tau Sigma**

Tau Sigma is a national transfer student honor society, recognizing and promoting academic excellence and the involvement of transfer students. Students with a 3.5 or higher GPA in their first semester at Appalachian will be invited to join in their second semester. From its beginning at Appalachian, Tau Sigma has grown to be a bit more than just an honor society, organizing both social and community service events for its members each semester.

Office of Transfer Services – Resources

The Office of Transfer Services has a number of resources available to help community college counselors and students navigate the transfer path. Our last newsletter introduced our informational videos and the Course Equivalency Search. This time, we’d like to bring to your attention to the Baccalaureate Degree Programs (BDPs) and the Transfer Four Year Guides. BDPs provide coursework information for North Carolina community college students who intend to complete an Associate in Arts or an Associate in Science degree prior to transferring. Transfer Four Year Guides help students intending to transfer without an Associate’s degree. Click Transfer Guides (<http://ncccfouryearguides.appstate.edu/>) to find out more about both of these guides.
