Transfer Student Success Guide 2014 - 2015

Developed by

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST
and
OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Welcome to the New College family!

In 1960, several pioneering men and women decided to forge ahead with what some believed was an odd educational framework. Though principled, the academic contract system was anomalous. Attaining high grades and accumulating credit hours within a pre-determined major was the college experience for most. There were a few experimental programs within the United States at the time but few survived the changing sociopolitical and economic landscape of the last 50 years. In fact, there are fewer than a dozen schools like New College of Florida in the country today. These schools are not as novel as they seem for two reasons. First, at their core is a love of the liberal arts, teaching students to learn to learn. Moreover, liberal arts institutions such as New College offer the critical thinking skills and capacity for innovation many employers say they want in employees.

Your new scholarly community shed its *experiment* moniker officially in 2001 when it became the 11th institution in the State University System of Florida. Though you are entering the New College family as a "frog and not a tadpole," there is still much for us to share with you. Using data collected from your New College peers, we developed a guide to aid in your success.

Advice from your transfer peers

Things to be happy about!

You're going to be in small classes with other students who really love what they are doing and it shows. Expect great classroom discussions.

You're going to have lots of opportunities: speakers, events, clubs, etc. GO!

It's going to be fun, interesting, insightful, challenging, mystifying, terrifying, and lots of other adjectives. So, expect anything!

Campus Contacts
(941-487-XXXX)

Office of the Provost	4200
Humanities	4360
Natural Sciences	4370
Social Sciences	4380
Academic Resource Center	
Quantitative Resource Center	4772
Writing Resource Center	4506
Language Resource Center	4318
Educational Technology Services	4306
Jane Bancroft Cook Library	
Reference Desk	4301
Office of Student Affairs	4250
Beth Bowen	4494
Campus Ministry	4250
Career Services	5002
Counseling and Wellness Center	4254
Office of Enrollment Services	
Financial Aid	5000
Registrar	4230

Transfer Student FAQ

What or who is a transfer student?

There are many definitions of transfer student in higher education but New College Admissions makes a distinction. If a student completes any college courses after high school graduation, you are a transfer student. If you are enrolled in high school while completing college courses, you were dual-enrolled and New College Admissions considers these students as first time in college students. Dual-enrolled students can receive transfer credit if they request a transfer credit evaluation.

What is Transfer Shock?
Why does New College seem so foreign to you? Even though New College is the center of the universe, what you are feeling is perfectly normal. As a transfer student, you have had success within a college environment. However, unless you attended a residential public, honors, liberal arts college like New College (and even if you have), you may view New College as a little quirky and a lot hectic. The lingo alone can be overwhelming: contracts, criteria, SATS, and advisors who are sponsors as well—oh my! If so, you are not alone. This is "transfer shock," and because of it, many transfer students do not do as well academically in their first or second semesters at New College as they did at their previous schools. In addition, though New College is small (110 acres total), you are learning new names, faces, and campus offices.

Here are some simple tips to be successful at New College:

1) **Attend New Student Orientation**

   There are many stories about why the founders' decided to call this small experimental college in Sarasota *New College*. One story is that they wanted to convey to everyone that the campus is perpetually new. Faculty and students would use new modes of teaching and learning to explore the most engaging questions. The thesis room is a testament to the new knowledge developed by students in collaboration with faculty members.

   Social and academic integration are important to your success and throughout orientation, you will have an opportunity to get to know the campus and meet your academic advisor. During your individual advising meeting later this week, you can discuss developing a plan for the completion of your New College degree.

   During the academic year, you can always visit your academic advisor, Provost Office staff, or Student Affairs Office staff if you have questions.

Advice from your transfer peers

General information I wish I knew my first week!

There are requirements for your concentration.

Classes work on a 2-year cycle, so what classes offered this semester might not show up again for another year. Plan accordingly!

You cannot just sign up for a class and you're in.

2) **Balance your Contract**

   If you earned an AA degree prior to transferring to New College, the Office of the Registrar evaluated your transcript and determined if you could receive the maximum credit of 3 academic contracts and 1 independent study project. All students must be in academic residence for a minimum of four contracts and two Independent Study Projects. When applying, Admissions told you that transfer students awarded the maximum transfer credit may need to enroll longer than the minimum remaining four semesters to

complete requirements for a concentration and a senior thesis, and may not be eligible to do study abroad except with special permission from the Student Academic Status Committee.

After reading this, you may believe your first contract should list 5 or 6 courses. We want you to know that this is not a sprint but a journey with a destination—New College bay front for a lovely sunset commencement in late May. After meeting with your academic advisor, you will get a better sense of how best to plan your first contract.

For financial aid eligibility, a full-time course load is 12 credit hours or 3 full-time academic activities. If you decide to take 5 full-time academic units, set contract certification criteria of 5 out 5, but feel that this is too much, you can work with your academic advisor to renegotiate your contract.

Deadlines are important at the College. Visit the Registrar's website to view the academic calendar.

Advice from your transfer peers

Balancing your contract starts with mini-classes.

1. Attend mini-classes and make sure you sign in. Do not just attend the mini-classes of your first choice. Have second and third choices as well because it is not unusual to be capped out of your first choice.

2. Take a moment to introduce yourself to the professor. Consideration is given to transfer students, so use that to your advantage.

3. Once mini-classes are over, e-mail the professors of the classes that you REALLY want to get into. Let them know you are interested and serious.

4. Sign up for the class online. Use the Course Request System (CRS).

5. Most professors will assign homework for the first day of class, do it, then attend the class and discuss it. Just because you go to the first class does not mean you are IN the class. The professor will usually e-mail everyone he/she is letting in sometime during the first week. (Attend your second and third choice classes as well…just in case. You might attend 7 – 8 classes that first week).

NEWDLE is an online portal that contains links to the classes and their readings. Many professors post assigned readings on NEWDLE. Books and articles are also on reserve in the library.

Utilize the NCF website for contract/ISP forms and due dates. Don't wait until the last minute to review your contract with your advisor and get it turned in.

3) Be Patient

Educator and reformer Booker T. Washington once said, "Nothing ever comes to one, that is worth having, except as a result of hard work." While there may be some truth to this statement, give yourself time and permission to adjust to life at New College. We do not want you to burn out first module. Do you still have questions for the Office of the Registrar about transfer credit? This is fine because you still have time to meet with someone from that office this week. We know it seems like all of your time from now until commencement is scheduled but make use of that wonderful smart phone calendar app to schedule yourself time to get things done and schedule some down time as well.

A word about working: Students with financial burdens should keep in mind that a full contract with 4 or 5 courses while working much more than 20 hours a week at a job may prove excessively counter-productive. An unsatisfactory performance in a course may lead to an unsatisfactory contract that may lead to academic probation or dismissal. Just because you were able to work and go to school successfully in the past does not mean you can do so at New College. Contact the Office of Financial Aid for information about student financial aid.

4) Utilize faculty

Although New College faculty members are busy with teaching and research, they care about you and willing to help. Here are some ways to connect with faculty members:

- Drop in for office hours.
- E-mail them and use good e-mail etiquette when emailing your instructor.
- Be prepared for class.

Why would you meet with faculty? You may not need to meet with all of your teachers, but it is wise to develop relationships with at least 1 faculty member in your area of interest, either in your concentration or in a related field. You may need to get information about research or tutorial opportunities. You may also want information about graduate programs. (On the other hand, you may simply want to clarify something a teacher has said in class, ask about an assignment, or review an exam or paper.)

Note: Academic Rules and Regulations The General Catalog, including academic rules and policies, are available online. There is a petition to gain an exception to academic policy and some deadlines but the Office of the Provost takes such requests seriously and does not simply approve every petition submitted.

Advice from your transfer peers

Let's talk Advisors and Professors!

Think about your advisor as a mentor or colleague. Go to visit them often and regularly, for advice, suggestions, and input. They will be your biggest supported. Your advisor and professors welcome your ideas. They will work to accommodate them.

Keep in mind that the main idea here is that you truly learn the material and be your best. You professor is there to help you accomplish this. Having trouble with a paper or idea? Go to them! Their insight is invaluable, take advantage of it. NCFs professor and advisors want a personable and amicable relationship with you; in fact, they expect it. If you don't feel like you have that with your advisor, you can change to someone new next semester.

5) Concentrate on your concentration

We do not assign a concentration automatically when you enter New College; therefore, you will have to give some thought to this rather quickly. If you received credit for 3 contracts, by next spring, you will be asked to choose a concentration because you are entering your 5th term. Consult your academic advisor to find out whether you should re-think your concentration if had trouble with fall courses related to your chosen concentration. As a rule, students should select a concentration they enjoy—delving into topics of interest to them—and in which they can succeed academically.

For career advice, visit Career Education or Alumnae/i Affairs to find out what jobs real graduates have landed and with what concentrations. You will notice that in some cases, there is little correlation between the concentration and the career. Therefore, you do not need to major in economics (for example) to work in a business field. In many cases, you may also pursue post-baccalaureate degree programs to prepare for specific professions.

6) Make an impression

Attend every class; leave extra time for class and exam preparation and for researching, writing and revising your papers before you submit them.

Advice from your transfer peers

Have good attendance!

If you must be absent, notify your professor as soon as possible. This will come back to haunt you on your evaluations.

Faculty expect students to be independent and self-motivated, to follow the syllabus without reminders, to review handouts and course notes independently, and to complete every homework and reading assignment on time, even if the specific material is not under discussion. New College professors also expect students to think critically about the material on their own: that means thinking of questions as you read or prepare for class, breaking down the material into smaller units of analysis, and grasping the concepts behind problems or formulas.

Advice from your transfer peers

BE PRO-ACTIVE!!!

Need an extension on a homework deadline? Take the initiative to ask for it.
Want to become involved with a project? Express that interest.
Want to start a new program? Take the steps to do it.

NCF is set up to teach you self-advocacy. They will work to make things happen on their end, if you reach out first to make them happen on your end.

7) Get involved in at least one student group, campus or department organization

Because you are starting at a different time than most students your year, it is very important that you get involved with campus activities. Students who get involved in one way or another have a richer experience, learn more about themselves and others, meet people, feel more connected to the college, and may even do better academically. Getting involved on campus is a great way to gain leadership experience and strengthen your résumé.

New College emphasizes the life of the mind but we also realize that you must eat, sleep and play. The "work hard, play hard" adage is slightly appropriate here. At New College, you will learn about various important societal transitions or seemingly irrelevant theories about how the world around you works. For some, the learning is fun in and of itself but for many New College students, there is a desire to test the theories. There are many clubs and student groups. If you do not find one that suits your interest, you can work with a campus life coordinator to develop one.

8) Manage your time

Is managing your time the same as time management? We want to do everything but may not be able to do everything with the time we have. There are only 7 days in a week and 24 hours in day. A full-time student will work 40 or more hours per week on 4 to 5 courses. As you consider the time you have, make time to take care of you. Balance is important. A good start will begin with reviewing syllabi with care for information about evaluation policies and due dates. You may want to note assignment due dates and expect to spend approximately 5 to8 hours outside of class per week studying for each class.

9) Ask for help

At New College, we spend a great deal of time on individual responsibilities but we also note that you will need the help of faculty members but may also choose to ask for help from the many academic support units on campus.

Visit the Academic Resource Center in the library or Counseling and Wellness Center if you are at all doubtful about your study skills or feel overwhelmed. In addition, staff members hold workshops on various topics during the semester and you should watch out for these opportunities for success. For other forms of support, please contact the Office of the Provost or Office of Student Affairs.

Advice from your transfer peers

It's okay to FREAK OUT! It's okay to feel OVERWHELMED! (You may even cry—you may even see people in class cry.) In fact, I would be worried about you if you didn't 'eel overwhelmed the first semester. You're not alone, no matter how cool, calm, and collected other students appear…they are slightly overwhelmed too. NCF is designed to push you, and you will feel the heat. That's OK!

10) Relax

You are now a Novo Collegian. If you ask for help, we are here to provide answers because we want you to succeed.

Advice from your transfer peers

You may feel intimidated in class in the beginning. My advisor gave me the best advice the first week, "They talk a big game but they are either repeating what they heard a professor say or talking about something they just learned. Don't let it get to you."

Seriously, the best advice EVER!