



THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

COLLEGE EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

Planning Your Community College Transfer Strategy

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Please sit with your college team.

AGENDA

- **Website Deep Dive**
- **Practice Brainstorm**



Website Deep Dive

Imagine you are a student who is about to register for classes at your community college.

You want to study business administration, and transfer to the local four-year university. Go to your college's website, and find the information that you need to select your courses and transfer successfully. Try to figure out what courses you will need to take in your first semester in order to transfer and enter the business program at the four-year institution.

Then, go to the four-year university's website and try to confirm that you are taking the right classes. Think about the following questions:

- **As the student:** who would you need to go see to help you register for classes? Where would you go on campus to find that person? How easy or difficult was it to find this information on your website?
- **As the student:** What classes will you need to take in your first semester if you want to transfer into the business program at the local four-year college? How easy or difficult was it to find this information? How many clicks did it take?
- **As the student:** Is there a structured pathway to transfer to the four-year and study business? What career options are available to you after you transfer and complete the degree? What do salaries look like for these career options? Is this information available to you on either website?

Quick takeaways? What did you find?

What is causing these gaps?

- Look at the assessment tool that you completed with your institution.
- Where did you score your college “minimal” or “beginning?” What connections do you see between these practices with limited adoption and the gaps you saw during the website activity? Where are the biggest gaps in your college’s transfer process?
- Spent 15 minutes talking with your college team.

Practice Brainstorm

- Each table will have a large piece of paper broken into quadrants: one for each strategy on the self-assessment.
- Talk with your table:
 - What practices are you already implementing to support each of these strategies?
 - What practices *could* you implement in the future to support each one of these strategies?
- Write your ideas in each quadrant, taking your own notes on your individual handout.
- Take 15 minutes to work with your table.

Practice Brainstorm

- Now, swap sheets with the table next to yours.
- Read the practice ideas you've just gotten from the table next to you.
- Take 10 minutes to discuss.
 - What practice ideas suggested by your partner table do you think could have the biggest impact back at your own institution?
 - How could these practices begin to close some of the gaps in transfer processes that you identified in the last exercise?
- Record any new ideas on your individual organizer.

Quick takeaways?

What can you bring back to your college team?



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**THE TRANSFER PLAYBOOK:
ESSENTIAL PRACTICES FOR
TWO- AND FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES**

<http://highered.aspeninstitute.org/>