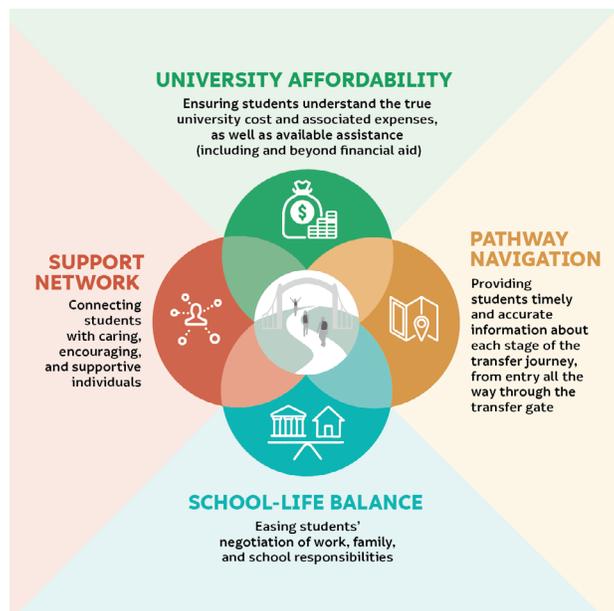


# Be a Transfer Advocate: How Faculty Can Strengthen Students' Transfer Success



Surveys and interviews with over 800 California Community College students conducted as part of the RP Group's Through the Gate transfer study reveal that four key factors can boost students' transfer capacity: university affordability, school-life balance, pathway navigation, and support network (see figure at right). Students also emphasized the essential role their teachers and academic programs play in holistically addressing these factors as they work toward their bachelor's degree.

**In collaboration with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC), we offer faculty the following suggestions for increasing students' transfer capacity.** Drawing on students' own ideas, we outline ways to help students experience these factors at the classroom and program levels and point to statewide action you can support to advance students' transfer success.



Student Transfer Capacity-Building Framework

## Address Transfer Readiness in Your Classroom

-  Share personal stories of success and failure during your own higher education journey, including how you learned about your academic options; financed your education; selected your undergraduate institution(s); built your own network of supportive individuals; and addressed school, social, and personal challenges (*support network*)
-  Welcome students to connect with you outside of class for transfer planning, advice, and moral support (*pathway navigation, support network*)
-  Embrace flexible, compassionate, and culturally-responsive classroom practices and policies that recognize the numerous demands on students' time and attention in order to help them stay on path toward transfer (*school-life balance*)
-  Familiarize yourself with college personnel and programs that can address academic and nonacademic issues impeding students' transfer progress; include this information in your course syllabus, including internal and external resources that can help with childcare, housing, food insecurity, and transportation, and other basic needs (*school-life balance, support network*)
-  Connect with key transfer personnel who know about institution-specific requirements, application information, and financial aid deadlines; invite them to class to announce transfer preparation activities and milestones (*university affordability, pathway navigation*)
-  Offer program-specific guidance and insights related to students' baccalaureate goals and desired careers, including transfer destinations to consider, courses to take at both the community college and university, and experiences that help students prepare for transfer (e.g., work-based learning, mentorship opportunities, professional conferences, undergraduate research) (*pathway navigation*)

## Build Students' Transfer Capacity as an Academic Program

-  Know your program's transfer data, including which student groups achieve transfer or stop short of this milestone, which universities serve as top destinations, and how current students perceive your program's support of their transfer journey (*pathway navigation*)
-  Align program outcomes with transfer institutions through discipline-level discussions with faculty from top transfer destinations; ensure the curriculum is preparing students for success in upper-division courses after transfer (*pathway navigation*)
-  Promote pathways to transfer in your program area, such as the Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) leading into related California State University (CSU) majors and University of California (UC) Transfer Admissions Guarantee (TAG) opportunities (*pathway navigation*)
-  Engage students in program-specific internships, hands-on experiences, and field trips within your discipline area (*pathway navigation*)
-  Assess and communicate the value of general education (GE) coursework to students' transfer pathways; make the whole curricular picture clear to students, including how GE courses support them in achieving their transfer goal, a baccalaureate, and beyond (*pathway navigation*)
-  Embed holistic support at the program level in a way that strategically integrates with the student experience (e.g., engage students in comprehensive education planning within the first year; incorporate guest speakers, mentors, university visits/speakers from specific programs; support the submission of applications for transfer at the 45-unit milestone) (*pathway navigation, support network*)
-  Schedule courses in ways that recognize the demands on students' time, resources, and energy (e.g., family responsibilities, work commitments) and ensure they can complete transfer requirements in a timely way (*school-life balance*)

## Support Statewide Action to Improve Transfer Outcomes

Get involved with your local academic senate as an avenue for systemwide transfer advocacy and change; specific opportunities for broadly addressing university affordability and pathway navigation include:

- Encouraging financial aid reform such as expanding Pell Grant and Cal Grant eligibility and increasing funding so this aid is more reflective of the true cost of education to students
- Supporting the expansion of ADTs and the adoption by university partners
- Participating in the ASCCC's Course Identification Numbering System (C-ID) and ADT workgroups
- Aligning local curriculum to C-ID and ADT models (where relevant)

The RP Group's Through the Gate transfer study aims to identify strategies for increasing transfer among "high-leverage learners" in the California Community Colleges — individuals who have completed all or most of their transfer requirements, but who do not make it "through the gate" to a university. Find more information and all project resources at [www.rpgroup.org/Through-the-Gate](http://www.rpgroup.org/Through-the-Gate). Funded by College Futures Foundation.