Student Transfer Information - Questions and Answers

CCC Advisement, Transfer and Career Services Office

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Cumberland County College provides students with the first two years of their college career. For some, a certificate or an Associate Degree will be all they need to start their careers. Others will be using these two years and earning their Associate Degree to mark the half-way point toward a Bachelor’s Degree. This document was prepared to help transfer students stay on task and assist with the process of finding your four-year college to transfer to and complete your Bachelor’s Degree.

Frequently asked questions about transfer....

1. **Mid-Year Transfers - Yes, you can transfer in January:** Students most often transfer in September at the start of a new year. But January or mid-year winter/spring semester transfers work just fine if that fits your timetable better. Fall transfers are more common.

2. **Should I get my Associate Degree before I transfer?** Yes, generally it is better, but not required. It helps to do this. You will save money by earning your Associate Degree before transferring. The chances of you receiving full Junior standing at the 4-year college also increases with a degree. But it is not required. Special circumstances that your advisor may discuss with you might warrant you to transfer before receiving your degree, but they are the exception. *Special Note – All NJStars must transfer with their AA or AS before transferring in order to keep their Stars II Scholarship.*

3. **Middle States Accreditation:** The good news first; Cumberland County College is fully accredited by the proper organizations in order for your credits to transfer to any college or university throughout the country. Providing you are accepted by having a good grade point average, your credits will transfer to colleges from Maine to California. Cumberland’s Nursing, Radiography and Paralegal Programs also have additional accreditations.

4. **How do I submit a college application to transfer?** In virtually all cases you will apply online. This will be found on the college’s web site. Be sure to submit the Transfer Student Application. You will also need a debit or credit card to pay your application fee and have Cumberland send them your official college transcript(s). You will not usually be asked for your high school records or test scores like the SAT. These apply to entering Freshman. As a transfer student your acceptance will be based on you transcript at the college(s) you have attended after high school.

5. **What is the difference between a public and a private college?** Public colleges receive tax dollars from the state whereas private colleges depend primarily on tuition dollars to meet their expenses. Public colleges will are therefore less expensive to attend. If you transfer out of the state you will pay a higher tuition as an out-of-state resident. Private colleges have fixed tuition rates for all students from any state.

6. **What should I look for in a college when I transfer?** Investing in your AA and BA degree will be one of the largest investments you will ever make in your life. Not only in terms of money but...
time and energy too. It’s important that you pick a college that is the right fit for you. Look at their web page repeatedly, visit the school. Attend an Open House or Transfer Visitation Day which all colleges host for potential transfer students. Remember, they want you to apply and attend their college and are interested in meeting you and answering your questions. Do not be shy about approaching them and sending emails to their admissions offices.

7. **What is the University Center on campus?** The University Center located on Cumberland’s campus will be one of the most seamless transfer experiences you can have. Located right here, it is most convenient for students who do not have the ability to travel or relocate to complete their studies. Stop into the UC just north of the Library to see what they have to offer. There is a link to their offerings on Cumberland’s home page. [http://www.cccnj.edu/universityCenter/default.aspx](http://www.cccnj.edu/universityCenter/default.aspx)

8. **What are Articulation Agreements?** In the current college catalog on page 128 there is a summary of these agreements. These agreements call attention to and reinforce student transfer to colleges outside of New Jersey. Also, they affirm transfer from our AAS Degrees to other Bachelor’s degrees in the state. This list does not represent the only schools one can transfer to. They call attention to schools we have developed agreements with.

9. **The New Jersey Lampitt Bill Legislation:** This NJ law ensures that students who transfer from a NJ community college into a four-year public NJ college with an AA or AS degree while perusing the same BA or BS track will receive Junior Standing at the four-year college. The student is assured that one half of their studies are complete upon transfer. There may be exceptions, but this is the “spirit” of the law which all colleges in the state abide by.

10. **Must I transfer when I graduate?** No, but the sooner you do the more likely it is for you to graduate and enter your career.

11. **There are different types of colleges and universities, which should I choose?** This is an excellent question and asked often. If you need to remain home and finish your Bachelor’s Degree locally you have several options: (1) Attend a college in Cumberland’s University Center. Our college web page identifies eight University Partners and the majors they offer that you apply to. Most of these offer Bachelor’s degrees; (2)Online Bachelor’s degree programs are growing in popularity and seem to be right for independent learners with a high level of discipline and are comfortable with the use of technology; (3) Commuting is another option for a “location bound” transfer student. There are three commutable colleges in South Jersey, Rowan University, Rutgers University and Richard Stockton State College. If you are willing and able to commute into Philadelphia, there are many other fine colleges there. There are 4-year colleges and universities in 50 states you may choose to apply and transfer to.

12. **What services does Cumberland offer to help me transfer?** There is a Transfer Services page on the college web page under Career Cervices. The Advisement Center has staff to provide individual assistance. On the Third Tuesday of each October we hold an annual event called College Night. This is an open event to the public cosponsored by our local high schools. There we have dozens of your-year institutions visit us to meet you to discuss their schools. In February we hold an annual event called **Transfer Day.** All students near graduation are invited to participate in this event at which you can register, apply, and have an admissions interview.
with a representative from various colleges and universities. This is coordinated by the Advisement, Transfer and Career Services Office.

13. The Economics of Transfer – How will I pay for my next degree? Most students rely on several sources of monies to fund their education. How have you paid for your college so far? Probably with a PELL Grant, perhaps a New Jersey TAG Grant, and perhaps you have even taken out a small student loan. Some students are fortunate to have earned a scholarship from an organization to help them. Many students on campus have received School Counts! or NJStars Scholarships for their outstanding work in high school. Other sources of paying for college come from your personal savings, your parents or other relatives may have helped and you probably worked at some point and used that money to buy books, bus passes, gas for your car and lunch in the cafeteria. Funding your four-year degree will work much the same way. Your tuition will be higher but most other costs will be about the same. The big difference that makes a Bachelor’s Degree more costly is the increase in tuition and Room and Board, assuming you live on campus. Keep in mind that four-year colleges need you on their campuses. They want you to attend their college and may offer you financial incentives for attending their school. These incentives come in the form of Transfer Scholarships. Basically, the higher your grades are the more you are likely to be awarded.

14. What’s the difference between a college and a university? Usually the size of the school and the highest degree it offers. They both offer Bachelor’s Degrees. Universities offer Doctorate Degrees and are usually larger than public or private colleges. A College may offer Master Degrees but not necessarily. A University would offer both Master and Doctoral Degrees.

15. Types of degrees: There are several types of Associate Degrees: AA, AS, AAS, AFA. These are all two-year degrees. You may take longer than two years to complete, but they are represent the first two years of college, Freshman and Sophomore years. Basically this represents 21 or 22 college level courses. There are also different kinds of Bachelor’s degrees: BA, BS, BSN, BSBA, etc. These are all four-year degrees and represent the last 2 years of college, the Junior and Senior years. If a student started school at a four-year college they would not receive an Associate Degree. They would attend for the completion of 120 to 130 credits and receive their Bachelor’s Degree only. All students working on either their Associate or Bachelor’s Degrees are considered “undergraduates”. Once you finish your Bachelor’s degree, if you continue for a Master’s Degree, then you are considered a “graduate” student. Thus, you would attend “graduate school” including Master’s and perhaps a Doctorate Degree. Medical, Dental, Law, Pharmacy, Veterinary schools are referred to as Professional Schools.

16. What is a traditional transfer student: About half of the students Cumberland are between the ages 18 to 24. These are referred to as traditional college age students. If you have the means, time, freedom and desire to move away to complete your college degree, this is the time to do it. At no other time in your life will this opportunity present itself. You might have a favorite state you have always wanted to live in, a special activity that only some colleges offer or perhaps relatives in another area you might reside with.

17. Starting your first semester and up to 12 credits: Declare a major. Meet your advisor and discuss your academic plan. Become aware of the courses you need to take to complete your
degree program and the prerequisites for these courses. Determine the best you can the date of your graduation from Cumberland.

**Timetable for Transfer Activities**

**If you have 12 to 24 credits:** As a Freshman, keep an awareness that you will eventually transfer to a four-year college to complete a Bachelor’s degree. Read the back few pages of the catalog found on the college web page. You will find the educational credentials of the college faculty, staff and members of the college administration there including the colleges they attended. This is a good way to start a conversation with your professor or advisor. Ask them where they went to college and a bit about that. Everyone loves to talk about their “college days”. It’s a good ice breaker.

**24 to 36 credits:** Drop into the Advisement Transfer Office in the Student Center. Look for publications about transfer on campus. They are usually available on tables or display stands. Page through them and see what catches your eye. The best resource for learning about how transfer between 2- and 4-year colleges works in New Jersey at www.NJTransfer.org. This page will show you every college in the state, their majors, locations, costs, course equivalencies and more. Also, look at the Transfer Services page on Cumberland’s home page. There are a lot of resources there.

**36 to 48 credits:** In the Sophomore year your transfer college search should become active. Pick three colleges, bookmark their web pages and visit them regularly. Look for transfer student events. “Open House” events are for you to attend. Go there and visit. Meet the staff, walk the grounds, eat the food, look at the dorms. Do you like it - do they offer what you want? Visit the schools you are interested in and discover if they have a major you want, if you can afford the college and decide if you would want to go there. When you apply for financial aid put that college on the list if you still want to attend there.

**48 to 60 credits:** Submit a petition to graduate in the enrollment Services Office. You should know where you will transfer at this time, or at least have narrowed the choice down to two. There will be a date at which you need to pay a deposit, usually about $100. Paying this deposit is a statement that you are likely to attend that college, but does not require you to attend. A deposit will hold a spot for you until a tuition payment is required. Campus housing deposits are often required as well. But you may have other plans for your room and board. Then again, you may commute.

**60 plus credits:** At this time you should be finishing up your degree. You may be in your last semester or need a summer session to complete your Associate Degree. Be ready to transfer now!

**Useful Transfer Web Sites:**

- [www.NJTransfer.org](http://www.NJTransfer.org)
- [www.njcollege2collegeTransfer.com](http://www.njcollege2collegeTransfer.com)
- [www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org) The World Education Services is used by students from other countries transferring their credits into US colleges and Universities.
Keep your eye on the Portal for news about transfer workshops offered on campus and stop into the Advisement Center for more information.