

# Assessing the Needs of Incoming Transfer Students

**What are the needs of transfer students during the transition into their first quarter at DePaul and how can programming within the Division of Student Affairs support that transition?**

## Methodology

- An internally-created 24 question Qualtrics survey was developed with IRB approval and sent to all 1,400 incoming transfer students who entered DePaul in Fall 2018 and attended Transition DePaul orientation.
- Quantitative data were collected and analyzed using descriptive statistics such as counts/frequencies and percentages within an excel spreadsheet.
- Qualitative data were collected and analyzed using open-ended thematic analysis.

## Demographics

- Of 1,400 students invited to participate, 181 respondents (13%) completed the majority of the survey questions.
- Of the survey respondents, 87 (50.5%) identified as White, 31 (18%) identified as Latina/o, Chicana/o, or Hispanic, and 12 (6.9%) identified as Black, African American, or a Person of African Descent.
- Of the survey respondents, 92 (58.5%) identified as living off campus beyond the Lincoln Park and adjacent neighborhoods with 54 (34.3%) living outside the Chicago city limits.

“I think it would have been helpful to have someone to check in with [me] just to make sure I knew how to prepare for winter quarter and I was comfortable with my classes.”

## Key Findings

- When asked to identify the importance of specific feelings as result of their college experience, students identified that feeling confident in navigating campus resources (88.7%), confident in navigating campus location and space (89.3%), and knowledgeable of student processes (92.7%) were very important or extremely important.
- The majority of respondents stated they felt Transition DePaul fulfilled their needs “very or extremely well” related to feeling knowledgeable of student processes (70.0%), adequate in navigating campus location (62.3%), and adequate in navigating resources (61.9%).
- 56.3% of respondents stated they desired more personal attention and community building when asked how Transition DePaul could better meet the needs of incoming transfer students.
- 73.4% of respondents stated they desired more personal connections with staff and/or transfer students when asked how could DePaul better meet the needs of transfer students during their first quarter.

## Plan of Action

- The NSFE team will meet to discuss potential changes to the Transition DePaul orientation program, such as implementing a “Transfer Student Meet-up” or adding a tour of the opposite campus.
- Additionally, the NSFE team will discuss implementing quarterly transfer student specific programs starting Fall 2019 or Winter 2020.
- NSFE will support transfer specific peer mentoring programs beginning in the colleges starting Fall 2019.
- NSFE will identify ways to provide more personalized attention from either an advisor, another staff member, or a transfer student at DePaul for incoming transfer students.