

# U Transfer students feel unprepared

Transfer students go through a smaller orientation than freshmen.

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David Steinman's transition to the University of Minnesota has been mainly smooth, but he wishes a few things could have been different.

As a transfer student from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, coming to a campus as big as Minnesota wasn't the issue for Steinman. He got into most of the classes he wanted and is "excited to be a Gopher," primarily because it means being closer to his hometown of Hopkins, Minn.

Becca Corness, a senior who transferred from the University of Colorado at Boulder two years ago, cites similar reasons for returning to Minnesota for the remainder of her collegiate career. Boulder was too expensive, and she liked being closer to home.

When Corness transferred to the University, she took an online orientation and a half-day program on campus. For her it just wasn't enough.

"It should have been a whole day, because I didn't really feel like I learned a lot," she said. "I feel like they could have given us a lot more information."

Information on the Campus Connectors and city bus system could easily have been integrated into the half-day event, she said.

For transfer students like Steinman, the process is slightly different than what Corness went through. Steinman came to campus for an all-day event, which he said lacked critical information, including ways to get involved, such as student groups.

Steinman says he's gotten e-mails about meeting other transfers but would like to be able to get involved with the whole student population.

Current and recent transfer students have one-day campus programs available to them, but this summer 80 percent chose to go through the online version of orientation.

Having the online option is convenient for transfer students who already have at least some college experience under their belt, Robert McMaster, vice provost and dean of undergraduate affairs, said.

"I think many of them feel they just don't need to be on campus to learn what's going on here and they can get that through the online version," he said.

For new students in the fall there is a much larger program known as Welcome Week, which McMaster said is "pretty much obligatory" for incoming first years.

"We talked with transfers a few years ago about a Welcome Week-like experience, and most of them didn't want that; they didn't want two or three days on campus," he said. "They felt they didn't need it."

## Transfer students a 'critical part of admission'

The amount of money spent on the integration and orientation process for both spring and fall transfer students at the University is significantly smaller than what is spent on Welcome Week.

The University spends \$150,000 on transfer student orientation programs throughout the year. By contrast, it spends nearly \$1.2 million on Welcome Week, a number McMaster said would be much larger if it weren't for the 400 volunteer

Welcome Week leaders and sponsorship the University seeks for the program.

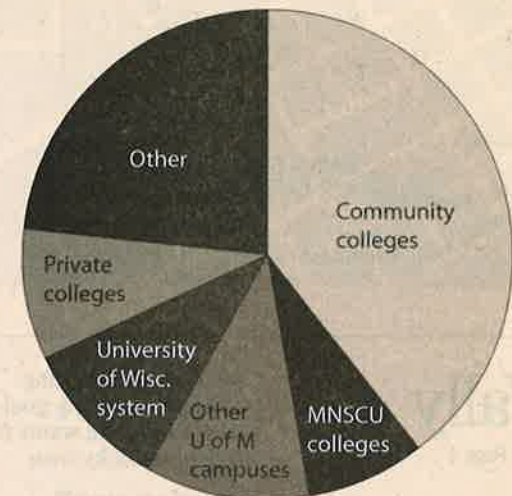
Other colleges and universities across the Big Ten work with their transfer students similarly.

Northwestern University offers an entire week of orientation programming open to all new students in the fall.

The college also provides transfer students with peer advisers who are there to help the students with any questions they might have, said Josh McKenzie, assistant director for orientation and parent programming at Northwestern. The transfer peer advisers are paired with one or two students and are available to them throughout the year, he said.

Unlike many schools in the Big Ten, the University of Michigan has a required transfer student orientation. Similar to Northwestern, the University of Michigan offers a peer advising program that is optional for transfer students and still relatively small because it is only in its second year of operation, said Erika Johnson, assistant director at the Office of New Student Programs at the University of Michigan.

## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA TRANSFER STUDENTS



SOURCE: VICE PROVOST ROBERT MCMASTER

Across the Big Ten, schools offer larger programs in the fall than prior to the beginning of spring semester.

Kasi Jones, who coordinates orientation at Purdue University, said her school offers both fall and winter programs. The fall program, the larger of the two, separates first-time college students from transfer students but offers many of the same activities to the two groups.

McMaster said the University has emphasized acclimating transfer students through access to the courses they need and overall activities on campus.

"What's really key, from my perspective, is sort of the renewed emphasis on transfer students," he

said. "They are a critical part of admission at the University."

Transfer Student Group, led by psychology junior Ashley Kaser, was formed two years ago. It offers students a chance to get to know other transfer students and talk about their transition, Kaser said.

The group hosts a coffee hour from 10 a.m. to noon every Wednesday in Coffman Union.

Kaser said she's pleased with transfer students' response to the program.

"We have a ton of transfer students that will come out, especially to the coffee hour," she said.

For Corness and Steinman, the group has made coming to the University a little easier.

## TRANSFER STUDENTS AND ORIENTATION FROM BIG 10 SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	NUMBER OF TRANSFER STUDENTS		LENGTH OF AVAILABLE ORIENTATION	
	FALL	SPRING	FALL	SPRING
University of Minnesota	2906	1006	1 day/5-6 days	1 day
University of Michigan	1032	241	1-2 days/6 days	1-2 days
University of Wisconsin-Madison	1300 approx.	400 approx.	1 day/6-7 days	1 day
Northwestern	100 approx.	20 approx.	7 days	1 day
Purdue	250	100	5-6 days	1 day
University of Iowa	1,135		5-6 days	1 day

ESTABLISHED IN CHARLESTON, IL  
IN 1983 TO ADD TO STUDENTS GPA  
AND GENERAL DATING ABILITY.

JIMMY JOHN'S

OK, SO MY SUBS REALLY AREN'T GOURMET AND WE'RE NOT FRENCH EITHER. MY SUBS JUST TASTE A LITTLE BETTER, THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO CALL IT JIMMY JOHN'S TASTY SANDWICHES, BUT MY MOM TOLD ME TO STICK WITH GOURMET. SHE THINKS WHATEVER I DO IS GOURMET, BUT I DON'T THINK EITHER OF US KNOWS WHAT IT MEANS. SO LET'S STICK WITH TASTY!

Amara

▶ from Page 1

McGeachy said.

ning the fees request presentation with Price before going before the Student Services Fees Committee on Sunday afternoon.

Amara said he still has