

University of La Verne

Transfer Students: who are they, where do they fit into the traditional undergraduate population, and how do we integrate them into our curricular reformation?

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A private comprehensive university, designated a Hispanic Serving Institution

Four colleges: Arts and Sciences, Business and Public Management, Education and Organizational Leadership, and Law

College of Arts and Sciences serves the majority of undergraduate students
this year: 630 new Freshmen

209 Transfer students

1640 Continuing students

20 Non-matriculated students

2499 total undergraduate students

*Each year this is the general expectation for actual enrollments

A student population that mirrors the demographics of Southern California

	All Undergraduates	Transfers
Hispanic	46%	44%
Caucasian	30%	32%
African Amer	8%	2%
Asian Amer	5%	5%
Native Amer	1%	1%
International	2%	---
Other	3%	7%
First Generation	46%	36%

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Average GPA is another issue:

	All Undergraduates	<i>Transfers</i>
Ave GPA	3.40	3.08

Assumption: Transfer students will seamlessly fit into the traditional undergraduate population

Realization: They don't.

Confounding (but good) issues:

A new president

Revived interest in curricular reform

Challenge to redefine ourselves while retaining our core values (a reflection of our Brethren heritage: community-diversity-inclusivity-values-respect for the world around us)

Strategic Planning

Reformation of the curriculum:

La Verne Experience (learning communities that capture theory-to-practice, experiential learning, integrated learning, reflection)

Defining Baccalaureate Goals

Redefining General Education (from distributive to ???)

Interdisciplinary curriculum

Co-curricular experience threaded across the curriculum

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So what about the *transfer students*??

Goal: Integrate transfer students into the curricular reform *seamlessly*

Challenges:

- Extending the La Verne Experience to transfer students

- No additional time spent in their programs

- No additional requirements placed on transfer students

- Insure transfer students are integrated into community of undergraduate students

- Establish learning communities within majors

- Integrate transfer students into learning communities

- Develop co-curricular opportunities within majors

- Foster transfer-friendly environment within majors

- Academic preparation of transfer students

- Advising + articulation agreements + transfer courses

Making it happen. We've only just started and have miles to go before it is a reality.