

Transitions Information for Parents

Freshmen – Stages of Assimilation into college:

1. Separation from communities of the past
 - ~ Most students find stressful to some degree, students dissociate themselves from their former communities of family, high school, and residence
 - ~ Many readily accept the move toward adulthood, but some find the process so stressful that they leave college
2. Transition between high school and college
 - ~ Students recognize that new norms and patterns of behavior define the college community
 - ~ Base acceptance on the new environment on the degree of change they must undergo to become assimilated
 - ~ If students backgrounds (norms & behaviors) very different from those of the college are likely to experience more stress then those from similar backgrounds
3. Incorporation into the collegiate society
 - ~ Some students depend largely on other members of the community for support
 - ~ Others make significant personal contacts on their own: others need formal structures to become involved in college
 - ~ Each year of college, academic integration appears to influence the development of academic skills
 - ~ Freshmen & sophomores, academic integration seems to be the most important influence on the development of academic skills during those years
 - ~ Junior year, the influence of academic integration declines and social integration become more influential

Circumstances that contribute to a first-year students lack of fit on college

1. Academic boredom
2. Irrelevancy
3. Limited or unrealistic expectation of college
4. Academic under preparedness
5. Difficulties in transition or adjustment
6. Lack of certainty about a major and/or career
7. Dissonance or incompatibility
8. Financial security