

# Student Transfer Guide

This guide is for the do-it yourselfer; that person who rarely, if ever, asks for help. What you have in your hands or on your screen is a synthesis of working with countless transfer students. I hope it serves you well.

Ideally you want to begin this process one year in advance. The reason for this is deadlines.

- Even though you don't see deadlines in October – December you need to have paperwork gathered, information researched, have specific dates for deadlines known.
- January is a deadline month for healthcare fields and selective institutions; earlier is rare.
- February 1<sup>st</sup> is a common scholarship deadline for most of your Top Universities. Most institutions require application for admission to be completed before or at the same time as the scholarship application.
- March 1<sup>st</sup> is another common date for scholarships. Selective universities will set this as an admission deadline. Most schools will simply not process more applicants after their deadline.
- Most colleges and Universities begin registration for currently enrolled students in April. Some universities will allow early applicants to attend an orientation and register during this month.
- By May elite transfer opportunities will have passed, and most others will be winding down. This is the very last minute for FAFSA, and most college applications.
- By summer you will have received acceptance letters and be finalizing all decisions.

<b>October</b> Research	<b>November</b> Research	<b>December</b> Research	<b>January</b> Selective Scholarships
<b>February</b> Most App / Scholarship Deadlines	<b>March</b> Some App Deadlines	<b>April</b> Registration begins	<b>May</b> Financial Aid Deadline App deadline
<b>June</b> Orientation	<b>July</b> Last Minute Details	<b>August</b> Move in and get books/etc.	<b>September</b> Begin University

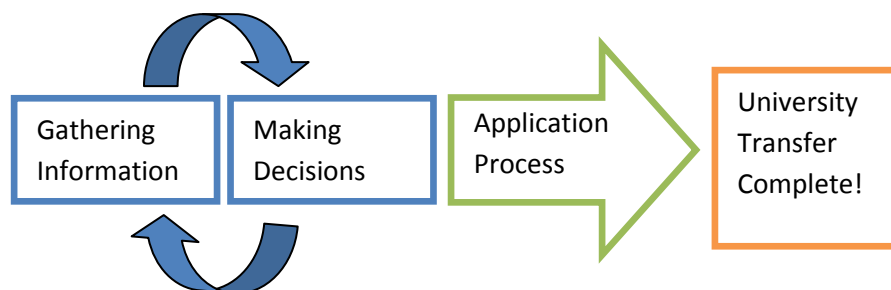
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## *Procrastination Kills Dreams:*

*If you wait too long and something goes wrong, you won't have the time to fix it before the deadline.*

**DO IT EARLY!**

Look at the following diagram: The time for gathering information and making decisions begins the year ahead of time. You will notice that as you gather information you make decisions, and your decisions may bring up more questions...



Texas Common Application: [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org)

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## Gathering Information

When getting prepared to transfer you want to begin with gathering information about the school you want to attend and about yourself.

First about the school you want to attend:

- What are the admission deadlines?
- What academic programs do they offer?
- Does the university offer the services you need? (Disability, Veteran's Services)
- Does the university offer the extras you want? (Greek Life, Sports, proximity to home or vacation spots, etc.)

Take a list of your wants and needs and make a checklist of what each school does and does not have.

Need	School X	School Y	School Z
<i>Married Housing</i>	✓		
<i>Evening Classes</i>		✓	
<i>Low Cost of Attendance</i>		✓	✓
<i>Agribusiness Major</i>	✓		✓
Want			
<i>Internship Services</i>	✓	✓	✓
<i>Fitness Center</i>	✓		
<i>Good Medical Facilities</i>	✓		✓
<i>Good Local Schools</i>	✓	✓	✓

Next, you want to know as much about yourself as possible. If you can answer all of the following questions you are in perfect shape to transfer.

1. What is your major, or field of study?
2. What is your end career goal?
3. What college(s) are you considering for finishing this?
4. Do you know the application deadline for each school?
5. What about the scholarship deadline?
6. Do you know how to get the application?
7. What materials need to be turned in with the application? (Fee, transcripts, etc.)
8. Do you know the GPA and other requirements for admission to the university?
9. Do you know the requirements for admission to your major or department?
10. How does the advising process work there? Do they have an advising center or is it handled by faculty advisors?
11. Have you spoken with an advisor?
12. Does your major have a specific course sequence where courses are only offered during certain semesters? (ex. a graduation requirement only offered every other Fall)

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## Making Decisions

There comes a time when you must “fish or cut bait”. The decision has to be made because the alternative is to sit idle and allow the world to pass you by. When you are stuck on a decision seek guidance from someone you can trust:

- A professional: Advisor, Counselor, Life Coach, etc.
- A close friend
- A supportive family member
- A mentor or someone who has gone through this before
- A professional in the field you intend to pursue

The important thing to remember about other’s opinions is that they are opinions. You want to be selective about who you ask for advice and consider the source. People who are close to you may know you best and be able to guide you through tough decisions better than a stranger; but sometimes it is hard for them to remain objective and keep their desires for you out of it. That’s why many students find it hard to get advice from parents, spouses, girlfriends, and others who are very close. A stranger may not know you well enough to be truly helpful, but it is easier for them to be completely objective. I suggest using all available resources, look for common threads in all of the advice and take everything with a grain of salt.

## Contact Us:

If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact your advisor at South Plains College, your advisor at the university, or one of the transfer specialists at SPC:

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