

TRANSFER PLANNING TIMELINE

Your situation is unique. Therefore, it is important to begin planning your educational path early in order to meet the requirements of your intended major. Follow the guidelines below to reach specific check points each semester. This guide is a suggested two-year timeline at Sandburg. While 12 credit hours per semester is considered full-time for Financial Aid, in order to graduate in two years, you will need to take 15+ credits per semester (excludes summer courses and developmental courses).

First Semester at Sandburg (Four Semesters before Transferring)

✓ Familiarize yourself with transfer degrees: Associate in Arts (AA) or Associate in Science (AS). Access Sandburg's Transfer Advising page at http://sandburg.edu/life/academic-advising . Another resource is www.transferology.com
✓ Think about your choice of major and/or career. Ask friends, family, and counselors. Enroll in PSY 152 Career & Life Planning or make an appointment for a one-on-one appointment with a Sandburg career counselor. Check out www.careercruising.com
✓ Attend our College Night in October and meet other college and university admissions reps. Meet with college reps that visit our campus throughout the year.
✓ Meet with your Academic Advisor to discuss educational plans and majors. Map out your educational plan in Student Planner .
✓ Explore the transfer partnerships and 2+2's that Carl Sandburg College has in place with colleges and universities.

Second Semester at Sandburg (Three Semesters before Transferring)

✓ Do some research. Begin researching college and universities that interest you. Take into consideration: location, size, degree programs, cost, academic and social environment and job/internship opportunities.
✓ Begin to develop a list of four or five schools that best match your goals, career interest, and academic record.
✓ Visit your intended transfer institution and talk with both a transfer admission representative and an advisor for your program of study. It is important to "get a feel" for the campus and make sure it is where you want to be. If possible, visit a program coordinator and/or faculty member. Attend a class as a guest, if possible.
✓ Each major has different course requirements. Check with your transfer institution to see what specific requirements are needed.
✓ Refine your educational plan so that it is specific to your major at your transfer institution.
✓ Consider taking summer courses if you are not taking 15 credits per semester; this will keep you on track to transfer in two years.

Third Semester at Sandburg (Two Semesters before Transferring)

✓ It's University Application Time! Submit an application for admission to your four-year colleges of choice. When submitting an application, send an initial transcript so that the colleges can complete your application. Then, follow up with your final transcript after graduation. Transcripts are free at Sandburg!
✓ Both college admission and specific major admission can be competitive. Make sure you have a back-up plan.
✓ Start thinking about essay topics and recommendations. Be sure to give your recommendation writers at least a month to complete their letters.
✓ This is the time to look into housing. Many schools have waiting lists or advance deadlines to apply for housing.
✓ File your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after October 1.
✓ Find some money. Check with the Financial Aid office to learn how to apply for grants, scholarships, and loans. Universities are more expensive but there's a lot of money out there. Find out how you can get some of it! Many schools offer transfer scholarships!
✓ Apply for graduation at Carl Sandburg College when you register for your final semester.

Fourth Semester at Sandburg (One Semester before Transferring)

✓ Analyze your transfer credit evaluation and review your financial aid package. Compare the bottom line for each college before making your final decision.
✓ Consult with your Carl Sandburg College Academic Advisor before you make a final decision. Your advisor can help answer any questions or clarify details that might affect your choice.
✓ Make your decision. Weigh all the options and make the best choice that meets your needs.
✓ Be aware of deposit deadlines for housing. Housing can fill up quickly!
✓ Take advantage of orientation programs and other opportunities for transfer students at your college of choice. Meeting other students and getting acquainted with campus life will help ease your transition.

Note: This information is a tool to assist your transfer process. It does not replace advising information provided by your Carl Sandburg College Advisor. Timelines will vary student to student. 6/20/16