

A Look at Transfer Student Resources at Cal Poly

Emily Garcia, Jaqueline Navarrete, and Ramiro Molina

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

A Look at Transfer Student Resources at Cal Poly

Introduction

Beginning a new life at a university could be a challenging feat for anyone. Transitioning into life at college comes with many difficulties: figuring out where your classes are, meeting new people, making new friends, and learning from unknown professors. Colleges attempt to remedy some of these challenges by providing accessible resources and services to students facing these issues. However, many of these resources are more tailored to excited first year college students. For example, during Week of Welcome at Cal Poly, students are able to form groups with their peers. Throughout the week, groups participate in activities together, helping the students find a sense of social identity early on at Cal Poly. Unfortunately, the transfer student Week of Welcome lacks in the sense that it does not help facilitate a similar lasting sense of social identity in its transfer students. Additionally, a gap between the number of non-transfer students and transfer exists at Cal Poly. In 2016, nearly 6000 students were accepted at Cal Poly, 5000 of which came in as a part of the freshman class. This leaves just under 1000 newly admitted transfer students (Sheeler, 2017). Finding another transfer student around campus is uncommon, so, when transfer students do meet and stumble upon one another, a sense of shared social identity is created. This is what created our interest on the lives of transfer students at Cal Poly. Our group was made up of two transfer students and one non-transfer student. While having a discussion about our start at Cal Poly, we were able to see a trend often seen with other transfer students as well. Our non-transfer groupmate admitted to having a fairly easy and smooth transition into life at Cal Poly while the remaining two transfer students expressed having a difficult time adjusting to their new lives. With this project, we aimed to figure out why

that is. Why is it that Cal Poly transfer students have a harder time adjusting to their new lives at college and is there something more the university could do to help?

Literature Review

Social Identity Theory

Individuals are always aiming to have a positive social identity (Trepte, 2006). In the early 1970's, Social Identity theory was developed by social psychologist Henri Tajfel in an attempt to explain how self-perceived membership in a social group affects one's social perceptions and attitudes (Greene, 1999; Trepte, 2006). Tajfel also developed the theory to better understand how psychological and social processes interact to produce big and small intergroup dynamics (Harwood & Giles, 2008; Tajfel, 1978). According to social identity theory, individuals look at social categories and group memberships to define their sense of self (Guan & So, 2016; Allen, 2011) they then place values and emotional significance on their in-group membership, with resulting perceptual and attitudinal biases. Most people categorize themselves into groups that they have made by splitting up their social world. Through this, people can more easily become aware of social groups that they do not belong to and compare their current groups to those; they discover and categorize themselves into in-groups and others into out-groups (Harwood & Giles, 2008). Harwood and Giles suggest maintaining psychological distinctiveness between the in-group and out-group is functional (2008). Many times people define themselves by how they are different to others; They know who they are because they are not them [a different group].

A person can have in-group status in multiple social identity groups (Allen, 2011) but the importance of the groups are not the same (Trepte, 2006). The social aspects of our lives shape

who people are and help guide how they think and what they do (Guan & So, 2016; Haslam, Jetten, Postmes, & Haslam, 2009). A social group has members who feel and distinguish themselves as someone who belongs in the group and has others who also say they are in and a part of the group (Trepte, 2006; Tajfel & Turner, 1979). When individuals identify with a specific group, they value and replicate the group's features (Guan & So, 2016). In an organizational setting, employees who have a strong identification with the workgroups, they are not as likely to resign; instead they become more involved in positive work-related behaviors such as punctuality and efficiency (Bartel, 2001). When a person strongly identifies with a group that advocates a particular behavior, the individual will have a higher level of self-efficacy in agreement with what that group advocates. Transfer students who do not find a club or program that they can identify with remain in the outgroup when on campus. Staying in the out-group can cause stress and after sometime they will lose the motivation to become a part of the in group, causing a negative perception of the community and a sense of not belonging.

When talking about social identity it is important to remember, identity is relational and humans develop their social identity mainly through communicating (Allen, 2011). This is a representation of social constructionism, which means our identity comes out of interactions with others and is based on language (Guan & So, 2016). Social identity is a product of communicative behaviors and is formed and developed through social interactions. Through social constructionism, we learn the messages we receive from different sources such as family and peers is the process of socialization. It is how people learn how to function by consciously and unconsciously internalizing the dominant values of their culture. Through socialization children will accept social identity categories as real and natural although they are not (Allen,

2011). People also learn about hierarchies of identity that are created by persons in power across history based on group characteristics.

Individuals try to maximize differences between in-group and out-group; because of this they perceive differences as greater between their group and others than they really are (Greene, 1999). When groups compare themselves to other groups, they try to have a positive distinction (Allen, 2011). The more strongly a person identifies with a group that advocates a certain behavior, that person will have a higher sense of self efficacy in agreement with what it is the group is advocating (Guan & So, 2016).

Tajfel suggested four underlying principles of social identity theory that include social categorization, social comparison, social identity and self-esteem (Trepte, 2006). Social categorization explains how people categorize people into groups to simplify our understanding of the world and guide us in our interactions. Transfer students may see their classmates as transfers and non-transfers, people they may be able to relate to and those they can not. It creates and defines an individual's place in society. Not only do people categorize themselves and others but they also evaluate other groups; commonly referred to as social comparison. Festinger's theory of social comparison assumes we have a need to compare our abilities and opinions with others, especially if there are not any clear standards that they can refer to. A fundamental individual motivation for self-esteem is suggested through social identity theory. People are motivated to keep a positive social identity in order to preserve their self-image. The last underlying principle of social identity theory is social identity. Tajfel defined social identity as value and emotional significance attached to a membership of a person who uses the knowledge found in those groups to form a self-concept. Social comparison takes place and social identity is

negotiable when groups and their status change. Since social identity is negotiable, motivation to reach a positive social identity is always present. It is common for people to leave a group to join a higher status group but if social mobility is not possible they may attempt to remedy their current negative social identity.

Remediating a negative social identity

When trying to remedy a negative social identity there are three strategies that are commonly used including social competition, assimilation and social creativity (Treppe, 2006; Harwood & Giles, 2008; Shinnar, 2008). Social competition is when individuals in groups turn to a direct struggle for a positive social identity, this can be seen in the form of protests, marches and vigils. A common strategy is for an individual to assimilate to an out-group that has a positive comparison among other groups. This process is referred to as social mobility and requires a change in action of the individual, for example gang members who want to assimilate into a more positive group may have their tattoos removed, changing their style into a dress style of another group. The last strategy is social creativity; it redefines the value associated with the low status standard and focuses on more dimensions of comparison. It included making intra-group comparisons, redefining the negative aspects that are compared to be more positive and creates new dimensions of comparison (Shinnar, 2008). These three strategies in social creativity change features of the ingroup-outgroup comparisons that help achieve a positive social identity. It is more psychological in nature and involves changing others perception instead of taking direct action. Traditional students may have an advantage when being seen as qualified in the workforce. For example, a transfer student at a career fair may not be seen as on par with another Cal Poly junior/senior standing student. That would create a negative social identity for a

transfer student. A way to create a more positive social identity is to show/inform people that transfers are just as qualified as their fellow classmates. Individuals most likely attempt social mobility as their first option, if that does not work or is not possible they will engage in social creativity or social competition.

Peer Mentor Relationships in Higher Education

Tinto's model of student attrition argues that mentoring may contribute to integration to university, enhancing student retention (Collings, Swanson & Watkins, 2016). Traditional mentoring once involved a staff member- student relationship where the staff would support the student academically and guide them through their education. Instead, peer mentoring matches students with a person of a similar age and/or experience (Terrion & Leonard, 2007) that is able to offer a first hand experience perspective and knowledge on hidden curriculum that a staff member would have not been aware of. Jacobi states that there are three main parts of mentoring relationships: emotional and psychological support, direct assistance with career and professional development and role modeling. It is the emotional and psychological support often referred to as social support that lead to a higher level of integration. The transition to a university can be a stressful one; mentors can act as a buffer, creating a more successful transition. Peer mentors have been around and helping peers academically since the 1700s (Colvin & Ashman, 2010). In order to be most effective is important that clear roles and expectations are set for both the mentor and mentee. If those expectations are not clear it may be difficult to for mentors to maintain self-efficacy.

Peer mentoring in higher education is seen as an effective way to ensure the success and retention of vulnerable students (Terrion & Leonard, 2007). Peer mentoring takes the traditional

model of an experienced person helping the mentee with task related functions (by providing advice, support and information related to professional development) or psychological functions where they provide emotional and psychological support (Collings, Swanson & Watkins, 2016). Peer mentor relationships are beneficial to incoming students who need help navigating and transitioning to the four-year university system. Mentors may not have the same experiences as older advisors and only have the ability to relay information when it comes to professional development but they are very beneficial when it comes to acceptance, counseling and friendship.

Methods

Participants

Participants included Cal Poly undergraduate transfer students from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines (N = 23). Participants were recruited through word of mouth. The Cal Poly Transfer Club was emailed to determine interest in its members, however, no members of the club opted to participate. Participants included 14 male (61%) and 9 female (39%) students. The average mean age of participants was 23 years old with a range of 19-30 years old, yet two participants opted to not include their ages. Ethnic backgrounds included 30% who identify as White, 30% who identify as Hispanic or Latino, 21% who identify as Asian or Pacific Islander, 13% who identify as Black or African American and 1 participant (4%) who identifies as another, undisclosed ethnicity. 15 participants (65%) described their socioeconomic status as middle class, 4 participants (17%) reported lower class, 3 participants (13%) reported upper-middle class and 1 participant (4%) reported an upper-class SES. The majority, 15 participants (65%), reported they were not first-generation college students, while 8 participants

(34%) reported they were. Of the 8 first-generation students, 6 were from Hispanic or Latino backgrounds. Full-time students were defined as participants enrolled in 12 units or more. 22 participants (95%) reported being a full-time student and 1 participant (5%) reported they were not a full-time student. When asked to report what type of financial aid they receive, 39% reported receiving loans, 30% reported not receiving any financial aid at all, 26% reported receiving scholarships, 26% reported receiving grants, and 0 participants reported receiving federal work-study. No participant reported having U.S. veteran status.

Procedure

This study was reviewed and approved by the university Institutional Review Board. Once participants were recruited, a time was set up between the interviewer and the participant. Interviews were done one-on-one in a quiet, reserved room or setting. Upon start of the interview, participants read and signed an informed consent form that notified participants of the study's general procedure, of any minimal risks that could come from participation and of the participants' reserved right to discontinue participation of the study at any time (see Appendix A). Once informed consent was given, participants were quickly verbally briefed on the study's procedures. They were informed that they would participate in a guided interview. Any information or responses given during the interviewing process would be kept strictly anonymous and would not be traceable to the participant at any point of the study or project. They were informed on the duration of the study, the amount of questions listed, and that the conversation would be recorded and deleted upon completion of the project. Once the recording began, the listed interview questions were administered (see Appendix B). Once the interview was completed, participants completed a short demographics section (see Appendix C). At

completion of the demographics section, participants were debriefed on the full purpose of the study and project and were thanked for their participation. After interview completion, interviewers then transcribed each recording onto Word documents for further review (see Appendix B). In addition to transfer student interviews, we also reached out to University of California, Santa Barbara Director of Academic Success Initiatives, Malaphone Phommasa. On May 23rd, we met her at UC Santa Barbara for an interview and visit of the campus's new transfer center located in a designated area of the campus library. The interview was an unstructured conversation of the transfer department and center's purpose, goals and motives. While at the transfer center, we were also able to hear testimonies of current transfer students and their experiences while utilizing the center. Once the interview with Phommasa was completed, we thanked her for her time and stored our notes for further review.

Measurement

When designing the study procedures, we opted to choose an interview process over a simple questionnaire since we wanted in depth, personal and detailed responses. We also felt that in person, physical conversations would better enhance our chances of receiving genuine responses. When choosing the questions asked, we focused on asking questions that gave insight into whether participants were satisfied at Cal Poly, whether participants know of or utilize resources offered by Cal Poly, and whether participants feel their experience at Cal Poly is lacking because of social, academic, financial or mental reasons. Participants were specifically asked where they transferred from and how long they've been at Cal Poly. Participants were asked if they knew of or were members of the Educational Opportunity Program or the Success TRIO Program. Participants were asked if they participated in Weekend of Welcome and if this

helped them find friends at Cal Poly. Participants were asked if they knew of or were members of the Cal Poly Transfer Club in order to see if this specific resource was outsourced and marketed enough. Participants were asked open ended questions about their social, academic, financial and mental experiences at Cal Poly in order to identify (dis)satisfaction. They were asked if they were members of any clubs, organizations, or extracurriculars in order to assess participant involvement and attempt to seek social connections. They were asked if they had previously known friends at Cal Poly before attendance in order to see if participants already entered Cal Poly with older friends. Participants were also asked if on campus living at Poly Canyon Village is an option for them, since seeking off campus housing is harder with less known connections or friends. Participants were specifically asked if they have used any on campus resources. Participants were also asked if they felt as if anything was missing from their experience at Cal Poly and of their satisfaction with their decision to attend Cal Poly. Once participant interview recordings were transcribed onto Word documents, each question was then added onto a Google Form document in order to group like type items together. Each participants' responses were added as a response to its corresponding question in the Google Form document. This process allowed us to more easily compare and contrast the responses of the different participants. Once this process was completed, the Google Forms system allowed us to analyze the responses of each question as analytical charts and diagrams (see Appendix E). This allowed us to find similarities and trends in the responses that will further be examined in the results section. When deciding to interview UC Santa Barbara's transfer center director, Malaphone Phommasa, we chose to do this for the opportunity to learn more about what a transfer center offers and whether that could possibly translate to help Cal Poly students here. Our goal when conducting the

interview with the director was to simply assess how the center's department aims to help transfer students find success and how much help and resources they actually provide.

Results

The data revealed overlapping themes of students unaware of resources offered on campus, having a challenging time socially, as well as having an even more challenging time academically. We began the interviews with asking if the students were a part of EOP or the TRIO program. For EOP, 17.4% of students said yes, 34.8% said no, and 47.8% said they had never heard of it. For being a part of the TRIO program, 4.3% said yes, 34.8% said no, and 60.9% said they had never heard of it. Next, we asked if the participants participated in WOW. 43.5% said they did and 56.5% said they didn't. Participant 4 stated the reason they did not attend was because, "It was something that I really couldn't do because I work and I needed to work during that time. To go to something that was a week long all day really conflicted with my work schedule and that's my source of income to help out my parents so they aren't the ones paying for everything. I would have appreciated if there was something a lot shorter for transfer students." We asked if the participants have heard about the transfer club on campus and the results showed that the majority (78.3%) did not while 27.1% had heard of it but only one of the participants was a part of the club. We then asked the students to tell us how their first quarter at Cal Poly went and divided their responses into four different categories. The first category included the response of their first quarter being easy socially with only 26.1% of the participants. The next category resulted in only 4.3% (1 participant) stating that they felt like their first quarter was easy academically. The third category included 47.8% of students feeling like their first quarter was challenging socially. The last category included most of the

participants with 91.3% of them feeling like their first quarter was academically challenging. We asked if any of the participants were a part of a club which resulted in 3 students saying they were not a part of a club, 5 students a part of the soccer team, and the rest of the students involved in a club or multiple clubs. Next we asked if the students had any friends at Cal Poly before transferring and most participants (78.3%) said they did not and the rest (21.7%) said they did. In the following question, we asked if they had any difficulty making friends on campus and 43.5% said yes while 56.5% said that it was not difficult. We asked how the participants came about finding housing and we received a wide variety of answers that were very specific to each student's situation. For example. Some students ended up commuting from Santa Maria, some students found housing options online, some applied through the school, and others already knew someone that they could take over the lease for. Our next question asked the participants if they had ever sought help (academically, socially, financially, and mentally). Academically, 81% of our participants claimed they received academic help. 14.3% claimed they received social help, 38.1% claimed they received financial help, and 14.3% claimed to receive mental help. A few of the academic resources the participants claimed to have used are academic advising as well as tutors for classes they are struggling with. The next question asked the participants which resources they specifically felt comfortable using. There was a wide range of students who said advising, tutoring, those who are in EOP said the resources in that office, as well as others. Majority of the participants (60.9%) said they felt comfortable going to their professor's office hours while 39.1% of them said they did not feel comfortable. We asked the participants if they felt like Cal Poly was lacking any resources and majority of them said that they didn't know if Cal Poly was lacking anything because they weren't familiar with resources that could be

available to them that they could be missing out on. 3 of the participants stated that they wish Cal Poly had more resources specific to transfer students. We ended the interview with asking the participants if they have ever regretted their decision at Cal Poly. 69.6% of the participants stated that they did not regret their decision to attend Cal Poly while 30.4% of them said they did. Participant 3 that had said they in part regretted choosing Cal Poly stated, “A few times I regretted my decision of coming to Cal Poly because it can get lonely being away from all my family and friends, especially when your transition is difficult academically and socially.” A participant who said they did not regret choosing Cal Poly, participant 10 stated, “While the curriculum here for Software Engineering is rather challenging, it maintains a great reputation and is highly respected across the nation. I understood when I decided I wanted to attend Cal Poly that, because of the reputation it held, the expectations for my major would be high and my experience here would be a difficult one. Regardless of the challenge, I still decided to attend classes here because, I felt it would be a great move for my professional career. So, coming here was always a completely logical decision for me because the experience doesn’t matter to me, what matters to me is what you get in return from the experience and if I can manage to come through this experience in one piece, I feel it will be worth the effort. To answer the question, I regret nothing.” Many of the students that said they did not regret choosing Cal Poly had similar responses in choosing Cal Poly due to Cal Poly’s reputation of higher education and its curriculum for each college.

Discussion

The purpose of this study was to analyze the transfer student perception of existing campus resources at Cal Poly as well as see the transfer student experience through a social

identity theory lens. In order to do that, we interviewed 23 transfer students with a series of open ended questions about their transfer experience. We used the social identity theory as a lens to examine the information we received from the responses of each participant in our study. After all interviews were completed and the responses were examined, we noticed two major overlapping themes. The first theme we noticed was there seemed to be an overall academic and social challenge for almost all the students we interviewed yet all transfer student athletes said they were not challenged socially. For example, 5 of the 23 students that we interviewed were players for the Cal Poly Soccer Team and we noticed a difference in their responses to social challenges compared to the other students. Each of the 5 students on the soccer team stated that transferring to Cal Poly was not challenging socially. We concluded that this was because these students had an in-group that they felt they belonged to. When it came to resources, each of them said they used the resources offered to them in the athletics department and did not feel like Cal Poly was lacking any resources. As for the other participants, a few said they did not know what Cal Poly is missing resource-wise, because they were unfamiliar with resources that could be offered to them in general. Many of the students were unaware of the resources available to them on campus.

The second theme we noticed was the willingness of students to continue to sacrifice social capital at Cal Poly for the sake of academic capital. As mentioned in the results section, 47.7% of the students struggled socially but out of all of the participants, only 30.4% regretted choosing Cal Poly. The majority that said “no” commented about their struggle socially and academically here at Cal Poly but when asked if they regretted choosing Cal Poly they said no because of how great the academics at the school were. For example, participant 13 stated when

asked if they regretted choosing Cal Poly, “No. Of course I’ve thought about what if I had gone to other schools or stayed home, since like I said my first quarter I was very homesick and the culture shock and a lot of things have been too much and things have been too hard. So there are times where I have thought about it but in the end when thinking about my future and my career, academics is what’s most important to me and Cal Poly was the best for that and knowing that, that it was the best for me I don’t regret it.” This response was similar to 10 other participants who explained how they struggled with the social aspect of Cal Poly coming in as a transfer student but that it is such a good school that it was worth transferring for. Many of these students have not found an in-group which potentially negatively affect their social categorization, social comparison, social identity and self-esteem yet they find Cal Poly’s academics to be worthy of that sacrifice.

Future Applications

Social identity theory and the data show that Cal Poly’s transfer student population could benefit from a Transfer Student Center. The benefits the center would offer to students would be: a centralized area of knowledge for transfer resources, provide community within transfer students, assist transfer students academically, act as a source for social creativity, and offer peer mentor programs for transfer students.

Many students struggled to know about resources offered to them on campus so having a centralized area for transfers to find what is available would be helpful. Participant 4 stated in their interview, “if there was a spot on campus like ‘transfer students go here and meet people and find resources’ then that would be really cool. If they provided a resource for transfer students like that then I would be there.” Cal Poly offers many resources to students but many

students just don't know where to find each one since they are scattered all over campus so this would make finding resources on campus for transfer students a lot more accessible.

The social identity theory explains the dynamics of being a part of an ingroup and how that can benefit the students' self wellbeing. Offering a place where students can build community would be a positive resource for students to have on campus. Many transfer students struggle socially because they enter upper division courses with students who are most likely already familiar with their classmates since they have been there for 2-3 years prior. In addition, transfer students are not required to live on campus so some might choose to live off campus for financial reasons, thus lessening the opportunity to meet other students in a dorm setting. The center would create a place where transfers can meet other transfers and share experiences, connect, and build friendships that would enrich their transfer student experience.

In addition to aiding social challenges for transfer students, the center would assist in aiding academic challenges as well by offering advising, tutoring, workshops, and additional information on transferring to a four year university. Many students come from a semester system and are challenged by the transition to the fast pace of a quarter system. Students also might not be prepared to enter in upper division courses so any insight and assistance they can receive on managing the transition would be helpful. Participant 13 suggested additional help for transfer students in their interview, "I got help with transitioning through EOP but other students don't get that. So like a program that helps people with transitions, so maybe like EOP but as a center for just transfer students." Students are looking for a place that would help lighten the weight of transferring to Cal Poly.

As mentioned in the social identity theory, social creativity is a way to remedy a negative social identity by redefining the value associated with the low status standard and focuses on more dimensions of comparison. For example, at the UCSB Transfer Center, there were many marketing strategies to re-brand the “transfer student” name by creating slogans, having a transfer center logo, transfer center stickers and other merchandise. Being a transfer student at Cal Poly is seen as rare and can at times have a negative perception attached to it. Rather than seeing transfer students in a negative light, the center could create an opportunity to redefine the values of being a transfer student.

Lastly, the transfer student center would offer a peer mentor program for new transfer students to connect with a mentor who transferred at the minimum a year prior. As mentioned in the literature review, peer mentors are highly beneficial to the academic, social, and psychological wellbeing of new students. They are able to hear the experiences of someone who has been in their similar position as a transfer student and are offered advice, encouragement, and support from their mentors. Participant 5 stated, “I think for resources for transfer students, it would definitely be helpful not only just to have, I guess the club is good but in addition I think we could use a mentor/mentee program to help you ease into the first quarter.” Students tend to find advice more helpful from individuals who have been in similar situations as them compared to academic advisors or other academic personnel, since they might be older than the students and have different backgrounds and experiences than them.

Limitations

Despite careful consideration while planning of our study, limitations were found. The first limitation to consider was an incorrectly assumed age cap. When writing the IRB form we

assumed an age cap of 18-28 years old, however, after reviewing the submitted demographics we realized we interviewed a participant over 28. It was incorrect to assume the age cap since transfer students could come of any age and in many cases, individuals return to school at later points in their lives. Future research should more deeply assess if any differences between younger and older transfer students exist. By looking more deeply into these differences, some potentially important information could surface, possibly pointing to some unmet needs that older transfer students may be experiencing. A second limitation to consider was the misinterpretation of the phrase “transfer student.” We assumed a transfer student to be defined as a student transferring into a four-year university from a community college. However, when conducting an interview with one of our participants, we realized some transfer students come in from other four-year universities. Future research should more carefully consider these types of students to determine how previously attending another four-year university may have affected or altered their perceived experience at Cal Poly. Thirdly, the design of the study could be limiting to the type of information received. When conducting our interviews, we found that some participants found it more difficult to open up about their experiences. This could be for a matter of reasons, possibly a shier, introverted participant may be less willing to open up about their experiences in comparison to a participant who is more of an extrovert. Additionally, some participants may have felt more comfortable or had a closer relationship with their interviewer, making it less difficult for them to open up about their personal experiences and histories. Future research should consider if different study designs could more easily produce notable material without these shown difficulties.

References

- Allen, B. (2011). *Difference matters: Communicating social identity*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, Inc.
- Collings, R., Swanson, V., & Watkins, R. (2016). Peer mentoring during the transition to university: Assessing the usage of a formal scheme within the UK. *Studies in Higher Education, 41*(11), 1995-2010.
- Colvin, J. W., & Ashman, M. (2010). Roles, risks, and benefits of peer mentoring relationships in higher education. *Mentoring & Tutoring: Partnership in Learning, 18*(2), 121-134.
- Greene, S. (1999). Understanding party identification: A social identity approach. *Political Psychology, 20*(2), 393-403.
- Guan, M., & So, J. (2016). Influence of social identity on self-efficacy beliefs through perceived social support: A social identity theory perspective. *Communication Studies, 67*(5), 588-604. <http://doi.org/10.1080/10510974.2016.1239645>
- Harwood, J., & Giles, H. (2008). *Intergroup communication: Multiple perspectives*. New York, NY: Peter Lang Publishing, Inc.
- Haslam, S. A., Jetten, J., Postmes, T., & Haslam, C. (2009). Social identity, health and well-being: An emerging agenda for applied psychology. *Applied psychology: an international review, 58*(1), 1-23.
- Sheeler, Andrew. (2017, December 15). Cal Poly shatters application record again – 65,500 students want to attend next fall. Retrieved from <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/education/article190099069.html>
- Shinnar, R. S. (2008). Coping with negative social identity: The case of Mexican immigrants.

The Journal of Social Psychology, 148(5), 553-576.

Tajfel, H. (1978). Differentiation between social groups. London: Academic Press.

Tajfel, H., & Turner, J. C. (1979). An integrative theory of intergroup conflict. In W. G. Austin & S. Worchel (Eds.), *The social psychology of intergroup relations* (pp. 33–147).
Monterey, CA: Brooks/Cole.

Terrion, J. L., & Leonard, D. (2007). A taxonomy of the characteristics of student peer mentors in higher education: Findings from a literature review. *Mentoring & Tutoring*, 15(2), 149-164.

Trepte, S. (2006). Social identity theory. *Psychology of entertainment*, 255, 271.

Appendix A**Informed Consent Form**

INFORMED CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH PROJECT, A Look at Transfer Student Resources on Cal Poly's Campus

A research project on transfer students is being conducted by Jaqueline Navarrete, Emily Garcia and Ramiro Molina in the Department of Communication Studies at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. The purpose of the study is to learn about transfer student needs at Cal Poly and to see if the university properly meets those needs.

You are being asked to take part in this study by participating in an interview. Your participation will take approximately 15-25 minutes in a one-time interview. Please be aware that you are not required to participate in this research and you may discontinue your participation at any time without penalty.

The possible risks associated with participation in this study include very minor psychological risks. If you should experience emotional distress, please be aware that you may contact Cal Poly Counseling Services in the Health Center at 805-783-0607 or Building 27 Room 136.

Your confidentiality will be protected by recording the data anonymously. All information collected will only be available to the researchers and advisor and will not be stored in any public place. Potential benefits associated with the study include the possibility of helping Cal Poly improve its current programs for transfer students by helping us better understand transfer student needs.

If you have questions regarding this study or would like to be informed of the results when the study is completed, please feel free to contact Jaqueline Navarrete or Emily Garcia at jnavar36@calpoly.edu or egarc128@calpoly.edu. If you have concerns regarding the manner in which the study is conducted, you may contact Dr. Michael Black, Chair of the Cal Poly Institutional Review Board, at (805) 756-2894, mblack@calpoly.edu, or Ms. Debbie Hart, Compliance Officer, at (805) 756-1508, dahart@calpoly.edu.

If you agree to voluntarily participate in this research project as described, please indicate your agreement by signing below. Please keep one copy of this form for your reference, and thank you for your participation in this research.

 Signature of Volunteer

 Date

 Signature of Researcher

 Date

Appendix B

Interview Questions

1. Which community college did you transfer from?
2. How many quarters have you been at Cal Poly?
3. Are you part of EOP? If yes, what do you like about it, how has it been helpful, and/or what do you not like about it?
4. Are you in the TRIO program? If yes, what do you like about it, how has it been helpful, and/or what do you not like about it?
5. Did you participate in WOW? If so tell us about your experience, the good and/or bad aspects. Did you make friends? Were the presentations/leaders helpful? What would you have changed?
6. Do you know about the transfer club? If yes, how did you hear about it and have you attended?
7. Tell us about your first quarter here at Cal Poly. Any struggles academically, socially, financially, mentally? Please explain (don't have to be specific)
8. Were/are you in any clubs or extracurricular activities? Which ones? How involved are you?
9. Did you already have friends at cal poly before transferring?
10. Did you have a difficult time making friends on campus?
11. How did you go about figuring out your housing situation this year? Did you ever consider PCV (Poly Canyon Village)?
12. Did you ever have to seek help? (Examples: Academically, Socially, Financially, etc.)
13. Based off of above, Were there any resources that you felt comfortable using? Which ones?
14. Do you ever feel like CalPoly was missing resources that fit your needs? What resources would you like to see for transfers on campus? What do you think would be helpful and why?
15. Do you feel comfortable approaching your teachers for help or going to office hours?
16. Have you ever regretted your decision of transferring to Cal Poly? If so why

Appendix C

Interviews

Participant 1:

1. Which community college did you transfer from?
Sacramento City College
2. How many quarters have you been at cal poly?
This is my sixth quarter at Cal Poly.
3. Are you part of EOP?
No I am not, I have not heard of that.
4. Are you in the TRIO program?
I have also not heard of that program.
5. Did you participate in WOW? If so tell us about your experience.
I actually did not participate in WoW.
6. Do you know about the transfer club? How did you hear about it?
No, we have one of those? That's cool but I probably wouldn't be apart of it because I have too many clubs already.
7. Tell us about your first quarter.
It was hard academically, i was used to the semester system so that was hard to adjust. It took a hit to my self esteem seeing that my grades weren't as good as they were at community college but it made me work harder.
8. Were you in any clubs or extracurricular activities? Which ones?
Yes I am in the Women of Business club and I am the president of the communication honor society Lambda Pi Eta.
9. Did you already have friends at cal poly before transferring?
I did not but I did have some connections to programs such as church through my older sister who came to Cal Poly right before I transferred.
10. Did you have a difficult time making friends on campus?
Not necessarily, because of the connections from my sister I found places that I got my friends from.
11. How did you go about figuring out your housing situation?
I actually was fortunate enough to be able to take over my sisters lease. It's a nice house off of Madonna.
12. Did you ever have to seek help? (Academically, Socially, Financially, etc.)
I needed help with my resume, before I came I did not much have work experience and the career center wasn't very helpful. If anything, they kinda made me feel bad about not being at the level of other third year students.
13. Were there any resources that you felt comfortable using? Which ones?
I did enjoy the workshops that the Career Center put on.
14. Did you feel comfortable approaching your teachers for help or going to office hours?
Yes, the professors in the COMS department are very approachable
15. Did you ever feel like cal poly was missing resources that fit your needs?
No, I think they do a good job of having the right resources on campus.
16. Have you ever regretted your decision of transferring to cal poly? If so why?
No, i have really enjoyed my time here at Cal Poly and I am grateful to be here.

Participant 2:

1. Which community college did you transfer from?
I actually transferred from San Diego State, not a community college. It was a semester system and it was right by the beach so I spent a lot of time at the beach but the education wasn't as good at Cal Poly but it was easier for me because of the slow pace.
2. How many quarters have you been at cal poly?
I've been here 9 quarters I believe.
3. Are you part of EOP?
Never heard of it.
4. Are you in the TRIO program?
Never heard of it.
5. Did you participate in WOW? If so tell us about your experience.
Yes. I liked WOW I feel like it really got you involved and helped you make friends but it was kinda like a camp and right when the week ended it was almost harder because I was used to chillen and when school came around it was really hard. Everyone from my WOW group couldn't hang out because they were super busy. Nobody was able to hangout because it was stressful.
6. Do you know about the transfer club? How did you hear about it?
No.
7. Tell us about your first quarter.
Well at San Diego State I was in a fraternity so socially it was just a huge change. I don't know if that's due to a quarter system and transferring here. Socially I was pretty isolated. The classes were a lot harder than San Diego State so academically I didn't do so well either but I've gotten kinda used to it after probably 2 quarters here.
8. Were you in any clubs or extracurricular activities? Which ones?
Not immediately. I kinda talked to frats for a little bit for a few quarters then I joined GLO. It's a christian club and it's really cool because we have a service on campus. I found out about it from my brother who graduated 2 years before I am graduating.
9. Did you already have friends at cal poly before transferring?
Yeah I had a few friends from high school but I wasn't super close to them so I didn't see them much so not really.
10. Did you have a difficult time making friends on campus?
I think without like living on campus, I mean that's where I met most people. Because the quarter system is so fast I couldn't really meet people in class. I think when people are used to it they just can get involved quicker.
11. How did you go about figuring out your housing situation?
They kinda put you in a transfer dorm so I was put in Dover and I liked it so I lived there again but I feel like it would have been hard if my brother hadn't gone here and had already gone through the housing situation so that made it easier.
12. Did you ever have to seek help? (Academically, Socially, Financially, etc.)
I probably should've but I didn't. I feel like there are good resources and Cal Poly works really hard but I feel like I've never looked into them because I feel like I've gotten help either from people in GLO or I just didn't really care that much about reaching out for help.
13. Were there any resources that you felt comfortable using? Which ones?

- None because I didn't really use any.
14. Did you feel comfortable approaching your teachers for help or going to office hours?
Most of my professors I would go to their office hours and they were really helpful. It shifted a little after San Diego State. I didn't really go there or here but I go if I really need to.
15. Did you ever feel like cal poly was missing resources that fit your needs?
I'm not in the know of the scope of resources so I feel like I can't really answer that question. I wouldn't know because I don't know which resources I'm missing.
16. Have you ever regretted your decision of transferring to cal poly?
Only partially but not for the right reasons. Well I regretted it at first because I was taken out of my social environment and academically I wasn't doing so well but it formed me into a better person. I know Jesus more than I ever have before and I feel like that wouldn't have happened if I stayed at San Diego State.

Participant 3:

1. Which community college did you transfer from?
I transferred from Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, California. I also went to Contra Costa College which is in the same district. I spent 3 years in community college because I had a lot of prerequisites for my major (computer science) and I also wanted to use the time to complete my associates degree.
2. How many quarters have you been at cal poly?
This is my 3rd quarter at Cal Poly.
3. Are you part of EOP?
No I'm not.
4. Are you in the TRIO program?
No I'm not.
5. Did you participate in WOW? If so tell us about your experience.
I did participate in WOW. I was a bit hesitant about WOW coming in as a transfer student, and while some events were definitely more directed towards freshmen, it was overall a fun experience. My group consisted of 17 transfers as well as one of our WOW leaders who was a transfer last year. I was gladly surprised that our whole group showed up to pretty much every event every day, and we all got quite close to each other. We still keep in contact and hang out until this day and I really cherish those people that I met through WOW.
6. Do you know about the transfer club? How did you hear about it?
I think I found out about the transfer club through MEP (Multicultural Engineering Program) and got connected with them on Facebook. I'm also a part of their GroupMe and get most updates through there along with Facebook. I also live in Dover in PCV which is an all transfer building, and they advertise a lot of their events/meetings around our building.
7. Tell us about your first quarter.
My first quarter, academically, was pretty difficult. Coming from a semester system in community college, it was challenging transitioning into a fast-paced quarter system. I was also thrown into upper division courses right away, which made the transition even more difficult. Finding other transfers as well as utilizing on-campus resources (MEP tutoring, mentorship, etc) were really beneficial and helped me get through the difficult times.
8. Were you in any clubs or extracurricular activities? Which ones?

I joined PCE (Pilipino Cultural Exchange) as well as WISH (Women Involved in Software and Hardware). I wanted to join a cultural organization as well as a club related to my major.

9. Did you already have friends at cal poly before transferring?

I didn't know anyone when coming to Cal Poly and I think that was something both very scary and very exciting. It's definitely a challenge moving all alone to a new place where you don't know anyone, but it's given me a chance to grow as an individual and focus on myself in a way I had not been able to do before.

10. Did you have a difficult time making friends on campus?

I would describe myself as a shy person so it is difficult for me to make friends, but I don't think I felt that initial loneliness because I met 19 really great people just through WOW, in my first few days here. I also joined PCE and everyone in the club is extremely welcoming and kind, especially to new members/students, so that definitely helped a lot. Another great way in making friends is through the transfer student community, primarily through my building in PCV as well as in classes. I think transfers can relate to each other in the sense that we're a bit older but still new to this campus and are trying to navigate our way around, so we share the same challenges and understand each other that way.

11. How did you go about figuring out your housing situation?

I planned to live on campus once I committed to Cal Poly because of a few reasons: 1) I didn't know anyone in the area so living in the dorms would be the easiest situation. 2) I wanted to experience living in the dorms because I never had before. 3) Living on campus for my first year would just be the most convenient and overall the easiest option.

12. Did you ever have to seek help? (Academically, Socially, Financially, etc.)

I sought a lot of help through advising as well as from my family and boyfriend. It can feel very confusing transferring into a school and I think transferring as an engineering major is especially intimidating. A lot of people use the term "imposter syndrome" and I think a lot of transfers feel that way at some point, at least the ones that I've talked to. I think reaching out to people who can reassure you and give you guidance, whether if it's from an academic standpoint or you have a personal relationship with them, is very important.

13. Were there any resources that you felt comfortable using? Which ones?

I often went to MEP tutoring and also made a lot of appointments with various advisors. Career Services was also a big resource for me during my first quarter because I went to the career fairs (Fall career fair, computing career fair, MEP career fair). The people at career services really helped me and gave me opportunities such as workshops, professional clothing drives, resume editing/review, one-on-one advising, etc.

14. Did you feel comfortable approaching your teachers for help or going to office hours?

No, I'm not very comfortable approaching teachers for help and seldom go to their office hours, unless I really have to. I feel more comfortable going to tutoring sessions or asking other students. But I have learned that sometimes it's just best to talk to your professor during office hours and get their direct feedback/help, as well as building a relationship or at least a familiarity with your professor so they know your name and who you are.

15. Did you ever feel like cal poly was missing resources that fit your needs?

From my experience so far, I think Cal Poly has all the resources a student might need, you just need to seek it out and ask for help.

16. Have you ever regretted your decision of transferring to Cal Poly? If so, explain why.

A few times I regretted my decision of coming to Cal Poly because it can get lonely being away from all my family and friends, especially when your transition is difficult academically, sometimes socially. But how I came to Cal Poly really felt like a sign and a “This was meant to be” moment for me. I do believe everything happens for a reason and that I’m at Cal Poly because it’s where I was meant to be, especially after all those years I spent working hard in community college.

Participant 4:

1. Which community college did you transfer from?

From Cuesta College to Cal Poly.

2. How many quarters have you been at cal poly?

This is my third quarter at Cal Poly.

3. Are you part of EOP?

I am not.

4. Are you in the TRIO program?

I am not.

5. Did you participate in WOW? If so tell us about your experience.

I did not participate in WOW. I signed up for WOW and I paid for WOW but I did not end up participating. It was something that I really couldn't do because I work and I needed to work during that time. To go to something that was a week long all day really conflicted with my work schedule and that's my source of income to help out my parents so they aren't the ones paying for everything. I would have appreciated if there was something a lot shorter for transfer students. I've been to three different colleges now (two of them community colleges and one of them UCSB) and I felt like I kind of already knew how university life functioned. I felt like some of the activities weren't really relevant to me like exploring the town. I would have appreciated something like “you're a transfer student so here is how you can get out quickly.” I would have preferred something that was one to two days.

6. Do you know about the transfer club? How did you hear about it?

I think I've heard of it but I've never investigated about it. I think I heard about it in a class from a student who wanted to learn more about it but I never heard anything more about it.

7. Tell us about your first quarter.

Leading up to it was kinda stressful because of classes and stuff. I had to take soil science my first quarter and that was really really rough for me. Basically, I had to take this class that was going to satisfy requirements that only Cal Poly had and it was so unrelated to my major. I was so stressed out about that class and just passing that class. It was an 8am Monday, Wednesday, Friday and it was just so stressful. I slept in my car a lot that quarter and I was just living on campus basically and I felt like there was no where I could really go to sleep or hangout. It was really really rough. I took 17 units. That's the thing that stood out to me the most from my first quarter is that I had to take this class that was just so out of my realm and I had to pass it. I passed it but it was not fun.

8. Were you in any clubs or extracurricular activities? Which ones?

I wasn't in any clubs. I'm not sure if Mustang News counts as extracurricular. Up to this

point I've been a part of Mustang News but that's about it. Everyone there has been super nice and welcoming. I produce content for them so I met people through that. Also, just having major classes I started meeting more people and feeling more included.

9. Did you already have friends at cal poly before transferring?

10. Did you have a difficult time making friends on campus?

Yes. I knew you and a couple people from Cuesta. Only a handful of people. I don't live here so I think that hindered me from making a lot of connections. Any time that I have outside of class I usually do spend by myself. It's not sad for me to do that because I'm working. I mostly made friends with people I knew or made some friends in my classes but I don't hang out with people outside of campus because I don't live here. It was a lot easier to make friends for me when I attended UCSB because I lived on campus so I was always around people and had a sense of community but I don't have that here since I commute.

11. How did you go about figuring out your housing situation?

For me it was pretty obvious to stay in Santa Maria since it is only 40 minutes away and just live at home to save money. I have my tuition waived but it doesn't cover all other fees so I still pay over \$1,000 every quarter and I didn't want to take any more loans so I couldn't afford housing on campus. Also, being 23 going on 24 I don't really want to share a room with somebody and I didn't want to risk living with random people in a random place. I already knew what I liked and didn't like in a living situation. Now I am looking for housing to move to SLO with my boyfriend. I haven't actively been looking online or anything like that. It's been a slow process because I don't really know what's going to happen. I don't know how much I'll have to pay but I will take out loans for this.

12. Did you ever have to seek help? (Academically, Socially, Financially, etc.)

The only academic help that I sought out was through my advisor and the only reason I did that is because I had to do it for a class. I had to meet with my advisor from my department and see if I'm on track and figure out what classes to take to graduate and the timeline to graduate in a timely fashion of when I would want to graduate. Today, I also sought out academic help, I went to the CLA Advising office and talked to them about graduation as well. I've also applied to scholarships through Cal Poly but I'm not really sure when I'll be receiving it. I hit submit and it didn't say when I was going to be notified but I'm guessing it's for the next school year. I also receive the Veteran's Waiver.

13. Were there any resources that you felt comfortable using? Which ones?

I love the library. That's my favorite place to spend time. The 3rd or 4th floor is my favorite spot. I wish there were more places like that on campus to study and spend time. I love the outside seating of the library. I really like the gym here. Because I'm on campus all day I have to find places to go and hang out so that's why the library and the gym have been really good resources for me. I'll go to the Avenue on campus and eat. I just try and find places and things to do in my free time on campus.

14. Did you feel comfortable approaching your teachers for help or going to office hours?

I do. Especially the ones in the journalism department. We are on a first name basis with our professors in my department so I feel comfortable going to them. Except for one professor we don't really call him by his first name but other than that I feel really comfortable approaching my other professors. I really like the professors we have for journalism. They have been in the field for a really long time or they've been in the field before like one of my professors right now is an anchor for KCOY and it's really great to have him as a resource and

he is really friendly so I feel really comfortable talking to him. I've felt pretty comfortable with all my professors, even outside of my major. I've never really had any issues or anything like that.

15. Did you ever feel like cal poly was missing resources that fit your needs?

I feel like there has been but I can't think of them right now. I guess just more places to sit and do work. Obviously that is something that is already available but Cal Poly brought in about 1,000 extra students. I saw that they made that area in the UU and there's a small area where you can study and I saw that they put in the effort to create more space to study but I wish there were more places. Parking is always an issue so I'm not sure if there is anything that can be done about that. Maybe more printing resources too because I know you can print in the library but I'm not sure if there are more places but that's about it.

16. Have you ever regretted your decision of transferring to cal poly?

Yes and no. No because I think that Cal Poly is giving me what I need to be competitive in my field so no on that but yes for all the weird things that Cal Poly has. Cal Poly is weird, I'm just going to be blunt. There are so many weird requirements like WOW. I already mentioned how I didn't go to WOW so if they had an alternative that was shorter that would've been cool. I just feel like, it's a big school but they can do more to support their students, especially their transfer students. There are a lot of things for freshman so it feels weird for the transfer students. There are a lot of weird extra weird requirements and a lot of extra weird fees and they're like oh we need to charge you for this and charge you for that. Like for printing I had to put a certain amount on my poly card. So yeah, Cal Poly has just been a weird campus for me but overall it's giving me what I need. In my major I'm getting what I need. I previously wanted to go somewhere else but the location was most convenient for me. I've been a student for 6 years and I kinda just want to get out.

17. Do you have anything else you want to add?

I do think that there needs to be something else for transfer students. Transfer students make up a huge population. Just financially, a lot of students do it this way because it's smart to not spend like 4 years here so if there was a spot on campus like "transfer students go here and meet people and find resources" then that would be really cool. If they provided a resource for transfer students like that then I would be there.

Participant 5:

1. Which community college did you transfer from?

University of Hawaii

2. How many quarters have you been at cal poly?

I have been at Cal Poly for 2 full quarters and this is my third quarter.

3. Are you part of EOP?

I do not know what EOP is.

4. Are you in the TRIO program?

I don't know what Trio program is either.

5. Did you participate in WOW? If so tell us about your experience.

I did participate in WoW but unfortunately it slightly interfered with some of my classes because I had labs at night. And for electrical engineering per say I felt like the course work was really hard so i skipped out on some of the events to focus more on school.

You know how wow continued for a bit once school started? Well, when I first moved here I landed at LAX and was focused on moving in that I skipped some events to get myself settled so I kinda participated in WoW.

It felt like forced friendship but it was fun forced friendship, the activities planned were very good. And the way CP introduces some of the issues on campus like sexual assault or how to deal with depression i felt like that was presented very well but I felt like other aspects of it such as not specific but i felt like they could give us more relevant information instead of ice breakers. They were redundant but the presentations were helpful.

6. Do you know about the transfer club? How did you hear about it?

I think the transfer club is MEP but I'm not sure.

Oh that's the transfer club? Oh then no I don't know about that club

7. Tell us about your first quarter.

So my first quarter here at cp i took 12 credits and that was pretty okay, especially since they were all upper division level course. The transition was a little difficult because I was coming from semester to quarter system and wasn't used to the pacing of it because the first week you have to decide whether you want to drop or add. Week 3 it's midterms. Week 6 second round of midterms. I struggled how to pace myself academically. In terms of financially, I think I was fine for the most part, i am not taking out student loans. I am on a scholarship that allows me to be here. Mentally, I was just trying to figure out how not to go crazy within the 10 weeks.

8. Were you in any clubs or extracurricular activities? Which ones?

I was involved in SWE, WISH(women in software and hardware) and IEEE. I was mostly in major specific clubs and I thought that was very helpful for learning I guess. You kinda feel included, especially when you walk into a class of mostly men and there are 2 other girls and you recognize them from the clubs. Helpful to join clubs that make you feel included. For Swe I am the current transfer representative.

9. Did you already have friends at cal poly before transferring?

I had one friend at Cal Poly and he was a computer science major so he kinda helped but he wasn't in my major so he didn't help too much and in my first quarter he was in a co-op. So my first quarter here I came knowing nobody, it was very scary. Actually I basically came to cali knowing no one.

10. Did you have a difficult time making friends on campus?

In the beginning i definitely had a difficult time making friends on campus because I felt like friends in my upper division classes already had their little clicks already and then you go to the common areas for ee the clicks are still there and they are pretty well formed and when you want to ask for help you don't know who you can ask or approach. It was pretty rough in the beginning.

11. How did you go about figuring out your housing situation?

I never considered PCV, i actually looked for housing in June and July and happened to find Mustang Village, sent them a check and hoped for the best. I didn't even know if it was a scam or not. I didn't even know what PCV was until my first quarter here.

12. Did you ever have to seek help? (Academically, Socially, Financially, etc.)

I sought help academically since I was struggling in a lot of my classes. Financially, I got some support from my parents, they'd send me food money sometimes. And then i would talk to my friends when I was stressed.

13. Were there any resources that you felt comfortable using? Which ones?

I definitely used the mustang success center to make my resume better before the career fair. They were really helpful or at least Tammy from Career services was.

14. Did you feel comfortable approaching your teachers for help or going to office hours?

I actually don't but I do it anyways. I force myself to go because I know if I don't i'll get a bad grade in the class.

15. Did you ever feel like cal poly was missing resources that fit your needs?

Yes. All the time. I think the resources for transfer students, it would definitely be helpful not only just to have, I guess the club is good but in addition I think we could use a mentor/mentee program to help you ease into the first quarter. I know your wow leaders are suppose to be your mentors but they kinda just disappear after wow week and they aren't really in your major and you can't talk to them about certain issues. Or something where we could here about other transfer students transitions. Also I didn't know where all of the resources were on campus and the cal poly website in my opinion is very disorganized.

16. Have you ever regretted your decision of transferring to cal poly? If so why?

Sometimes I do, but after talking to recruiters and looking at the career fair i have to say no. The career services is also very robust and they help you so much and I feel like Cal Poly wants you to succeed.

Participant 6:

1. Which community college did you transfer from?

I transferred from Santa Barbara City College

2. How many quarters have you been at cal poly?

This is going to be my 6th quarter here currently.

3. Are you part of EOP?

Yes, I am part of EOP.

4. Are you in the TRIO program?

Never heard of the TRIO program.

5. Did you participate in WOW? If so tell us about your experience.

Yes, I did. It was good, I would say it was really good. It was nice to meet other transfers that I didn't know because you know how they separate the transfers and the freshman. It was cool because being in a group of a transfers you are in a group with people your age. You are able to connect with other transfer students from different colleges and see where there are in life, see what their major is. I'm an electrical engineer and I met other electrical engineers and I was able to become friends with them. We were able to help each other out in class and form study groups so that was cool in the beginning. I had really good WOW leaders and some people don't but my WOW leaders were great. They showed us around campus and talked to us about transferring. Unfortunately, they weren't transfer students so they couldn't relate to us but they were good people. Good community. Everyone was great. The big events were great.

6. Do you know about the transfer club? How did you hear about it?

I did not know there was a transfer club.

7. Tell us about your first quarter.

It was rough I would say. Coming from a semester to quarter took a toll on my grades. I was on academic probation in my first quarter already. It sucked but its okay, you learn by your mistakes. Just like the motto here, you learn by doing. It was definitely tough going straight into some classes not knowing if the professors were good or bad and you can get stuck with random professors that other students already know about, that was one downfall. For the quarter system you need time management. Also, first quarter I was homesick. After that first month hit I missed home. A couple of friends would come visit me so that helped. It was definitely rough.

8. Were you in any clubs or extracurricular activities? Which ones?

Yes. The club fair is what got me involved at Cal Poly. I met people and became part of GLO. I was part of the Cal Poly Racing Club. I was also part of SHPE which is a chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. Those were the clubs I was involved with.

9. Did you already have friends at cal poly before transferring?

Yes. About a handful.

10. Did you have a difficult time making friends on campus?

Nah. It wasn't challenging at all. I was somewhat of a shy person in the beginning but now I'm fine. I was able to meet people in my clubs and classes so it wasn't too bad.

11. How did you go about figuring out your housing situation?

I forgot haha. I think I just applied for housing on campus and I got it. I liked living in PCV because I got to live in the transfer dorm and meet other students from different majors not just engineers.

12. Did you ever have to seek help? (Academically, Socially, Financially, etc.)

Yes. After being on academic probation the counselors suggested I get tutors for my classes. There were tutors in EOP so I got help from them as well as MEP. Money wise I got a lot of scholarships that paid for everything.

13. Were there any resources that you felt comfortable using? Which ones?

Definitely EOP and MEP.

14. Did you feel comfortable approaching your teachers for help or going to office hours?

Sometimes. Some professors make me feel dumb and they're just kind of scary. There's one teacher I've gone to these past two quarters and he is a really cool guy and we even talk about things besides school like surfing. I feel like my professors in community college were more helpful and willing to answer your questions and I don't get that from every professor here.

15. Did you ever feel like cal poly was missing resources that fit your needs?

There probably is but I don't know about them so I don't know if I am missing out on them.

16. Have you ever regretted your decision of transferring to cal poly? If so why?

I don't. It was a life changing experience and I know I was brought here for a reason.

Participant 7:

1. Which community college did you transfer from?

Cuesta, San Luis Obispo

2. How many quarters have you been at cal poly?

This is my third right now.

3. Are you part of EOP?

No, I am not. I think it had something to do with education programs or something like that?

4. Are you in the TRIO program? If yes, what do you like about it, how has it been helpful, and/or what do you not like about it?

No I am not, I don't know what that is.

5. Did you participate in WOW? If so tell us about your experience, the good and/or bad aspects. Did you make friends? Were the presentations/leaders helpful? What would you have changed?

I did not participate in Wow, I skipped it. It was too forced and the fact that they made you pay like \$100 something. I did go to slo days though I thought we could do without it, that's another \$100 I'm not getting back.

6. Do you know about the transfer club? If yes, how did you hear about it and have you attended?

No I didn't, didn't know about that.

7. Tell us about your first quarter here at Cal Poly. Any struggles academically, socially, financially, mentally? Please explain (don't have to be specific)

I thought my first quarter here I thought academically it was really good because I didn't find myself struggling with the course load or the coursework I had to do just a little bit of effort but that was expected coming into Cal Poly. The only thing I have to complain about in terms of being a brand new fresh transfer was that when you go to career fair people kinda look down on you for being a transfer because you don't have a Cal Poly Gpa, you don't have Cal Poly course work, and employers specifically ask for that and I guess cp speaks to these employers and go over that stuff but they didn't really think I was on par with other students and that weird because CP thinks I'm good enough then they should too.

Socially, I don't think there a was a big. I don't think Cal Poly is conducive to social interaction, they're big on teamwork and get into teams but it's not easy to make friends and meet people on campus, it's kind of more intimidating than anything unlike at cuesta where they kinda but the community in community college if that makes sense. Cp was a completely vibe.

Mentally, I think my mental health was pretty good. My bigger adjustment was at Cuesta when I first moved here, I'm an international student so that was a big change but I got into the swing of things.

8. Were you in any clubs or extracurricular activities? Which ones? How involved are you?

I am not in any clubs, I signed up for a couple, I signed up for a couple relating to my major, there is one called White Hat, I signed up originally for robo redentia? But then I found out that my coursework kinda ramped up a little bit and I couldn't go to any of the meetings or dedicate the time that I would need to do any of those. Actually I'm apart of the international club the international mentors, I think it's run by the admissions department, I haven't really heard from them lately.

9. Did you already have friends at cal poly before transferring?

I don't think I had any friends on campus, maybe just the people who transferred in with me, that was it. I didn't really know anyone before transferring just because I went to Cuesta and everyone I knew went to Cuesta so that was my little community, my bubble.

10. Did you have a difficult time making friends on campus?

Outside of classes I would say yeah, I would say that but then again I'm not apart of any clubs on campus so I can't really speak too much about that. But I found that it was easier to make friends at Cuesta just cause its smaller, you see people everywhere and you kinda, there are more meeting spots. I used to work at the math lab over there and that's how I would meet all my people from different majors and it was super interesting to meet all of them but over here I don't have a hands-on campus job so it's been a little different.

11. How did you go about figuring out your housing situation this year? Did you ever consider PCV (Poly Canyon Village)?

I've lived in Slo for about two years now and kinda figured out my housing situation. My first year I lived in what is now The Slo, Stenner Glen, not my favorite experience. Then I kinda learned I wanted to stay away from these communal areas, cause they're kinda like slave drivers, the land lords. Lived on Johnson for a year, decent experience. This year I chose to live with my girlfriend of two years.

12. Did you ever have to seek help? (Examples: Academically, Socially, Financially, etc.)

Academically? Not anything extra that other students don't need. Socially not really but there is always improvement there. Financially, I have to pay a lot more as an international student so I had to take out a loan. I don't get federal aid, so I need to look for private ones.

13. Based off of above, Were there any resources that you felt comfortable using? Which ones?

The health center has been really helpful to all my needs. I've been getting sick a bunch since I got to Poly and they're been really helpful. I found that despite people saying that you wait forever I haven't found that at all, I wait 10 minutes or less. They are super helpful and get directed to all of these campus resources. I was told about the food pantry, I checked that out. I have also been to HEAT, the student run health thing. I went to them and spoke to them about my health. The DRC has been super helpful, they've been super available and help me with accommodations in class and keep me on top of my mental health. The resources here are really good.

14. Do you ever feel like cal poly was missing resources that fit your needs? What resources would you like to see for transfers on campus? What do you think would be helpful and why?

The only thing that I think cal poly needs is some more transfer specific help. In terms of employment they need more help because like I said they are looking for 4 year Cal Poly students. Tailored help for transfer students, especially for career fair.

15. Do you feel comfortable approaching your teachers for help or going to office hours?

Yeah, I always go to office hours because my classes are ramped up. I found that my classes went from super easy to super hard really quickly

16. Have you ever regretted your decision of transferring to cal poly? If so why?

Oh yes, I mean kinda kinda. I appreciate where I'm at, I kinda see all the opportunities that I'm given and I kinda really like being here. Same thing, the things I was telling you, the whole transfer employment, at least in my opinion it hasn't been going that well and it kinda made me think why am I here if I can't get the employment opportunities that I need. But then again that is just my opinion, my experience, I found that the department I am in, I am computer engineering, the EE department is absolutely terrible and I found that the professors aren't very approachable, don't care because they are tenured. Certain departments make me regret it but overall I think that Cal Poly has been great so far, food's a little ehh, but everything else I feel like in terms of student well being Cal Poly has been doing really well.

Participant 8:

1. Which community college did you transfer from?

Allan Hancock College, Santa Maria, CA

2. How many quarters have you been at cal poly?

I am currently on my third quarter

3. Are you part of EOP? If yes, what do you like about it, how has it been helpful, and/or what do you not like about it?

No, I am not part of it

4. Are you in the TRIO program? If yes, what do you like about it, how has it been helpful, and/or what do you not like about it?

No, I am not part of it

5. Did you participate in WOW? If so tell us about your experience, the good and/or bad aspects. Did you make friends? Were the presentations/leaders helpful? What would you have changed?

No, I did not participate in WOW

6. Do you know about the transfer club? If yes, how did you hear about it and have you attended?

I have not heard of it

7. Tell us about your first quarter here at Cal Poly. Any struggles academically, socially, financially, mentally? Please explain (don't have to be specific)

I am still adjusting to the fast pace of a quarter system compared to a semester system. I

am finding out that self-learning is very important in order to be successful in my courses. I did have some difficulties on meeting new people, as a transfer student it takes a while to adapt and get to meet my fellow classmates and other Cal poly's students.

8. Were you in any clubs or extracurricular activities? Which ones? How involved are you?

I have not joined any clubs yet, but I plan on changing that next academic year. I did get involved with a fraternity for a period of month and a half.

9. Did you already have friends at cal poly before transferring?

Not really, but I did have a few friends that transferred with me

10. Did you have a difficult time making friends on campus?

Yes, since most students that I've met either share the same or similar major or students who work with me at the Avenue.

11. How did you go about figuring out your housing situation this year? Did you ever consider PCV (Poly Canyon Village)?

I decided to stay at Valencia, since I have been living here for the past academic year. No, I did not.

12. Did you ever have to seek help? (Examples: Academically, Socially, Financially, etc.)

Yes, I have been trying to seek for financial support since tuition for international students is very expensive.

13. Based off of above, Were there any resources that you felt comfortable using?

Yes, but the resources were not through Cal Poly since I am international students I am not able to apply for Financial Aid.

14. Do you ever feel like cal poly was missing resources that fit your needs? What resources would you like to see for transfers on campus? What do you think would be helpful and why?

I am not sure because I feel that I need more resources as an international student than as a transfer student.

15. Do you feel comfortable approaching your teachers for help or going to office hours?

It depends on the professor; I think that Cal poly's teachers are not as good as the school's reputation.

16. Have you ever regretted your decision of transferring to cal poly? If so why?

No, I have not. But as a Cal Poly student, I can see that this school needs improvement.

Participant 9:

1. Which community college did you transfer from?

Allan Hancock College

2. How many quarters have you been at Cal Poly?

Three quarters

3. Are you part of EOP? If yes, what do you like about it, how has it been helpful, and/or what do you not like about it?

I am not part of the EOP

4. Are you in the TRIO program? If yes, what do you like about it, how has it been helpful, and/or what do you not like about it?

I am not familiar with the TRIO program

5. Did you participate in WOW? If so tell us about your experience, the good and/or bad aspects. Did you make friends? Were the presentations/leaders helpful? What would you have changed?

Unfortunately, due to work I didn't participate in WOW week

6. Do you know about the transfer club? If yes, how did you hear about it and have you attended?

I heard of the Association Transfer Club through an e-mail that was send to me. I have attended two sessions.

7. Tell us about your first quarter here at Cal Poly. Any struggles academically, socially, financially, mentally? Please explain

My first quarter was a struggle trying to adapt to the quarter system. It was and it continues to be a challenge to find designated general parking for those who commute to school.

8. Were/are you in any clubs or extracurricular activities? Which ones? How involved are you?

I have recently joined the Association of Transfer Students Club, and see if it will be a best fit before I decide to get more involved.

9. Did you already have friends at cal poly before transferring?

No

10. Did you have a difficult time making friends on campus?

It's been a challenge making friends. I am a work study student that lives off campus and commutes to school. It's been hard to connect with other students, due to the fact that I am older than most students in my class and having to leave campus right after class ends.

11. How did you go about figuring out your housing situation this year? Did you ever consider PCV (Poly Canyon Village)?

I didn't have to worry about housing on campus, my plan was to commute to school.

12. Did you ever have to seek help? (Examples: Academically, Socially, Financially, etc.)

Yes, this school is cost effective and I was able to get some Financial loans to help cover the cost of my classes.

13. Based off of above, Were there any resources that you felt comfortable using? Which ones?

The Advisory center has been a help in developing future goals.

12. Do you ever feel like Cal Poly was missing resources that fit your needs? What resources would you like to see for transfers on campus? What do you think would be helpful and why?

If there isn't one already, a good resource for work-study students, who work full time would be a great.

13. Do you feel comfortable approaching your teachers for help or going to office hours?

Yes, I do feel comfortable approaching my teachers, however I would of liked that their office hours were more flexible towards work study students.

14. Have you ever regretted your decision of transferring to Cal Poly? If so why?

I don't regret it however; this school needs more diversity. I also feel that I am getting robbed from my education with this quarter system. I had a professor say to the class one time, "There is much more to learn about this topic, however due to time we won't be covering it". I believe with a semester system, classes wouldn't feel as rushed and difficult. The quarter system might work for a full-time student that doesn't work but speaking for myself, this system doesn't work for a work-study student. There is so much information given in a short period of time, I feel that I am not taking my time, I feel rushed when it comes to completing assignments and feel that I am missing a great opportunity to learn.

Participant 10:

1. Which community college did you transfer from?
Allan Hancock College
2. How many quarters have you been at Cal Poly?
Three if you include this current spring quarter
3. Are you part of EOP?
I am not but have considered applying to the program in the past.
4. Are you in the TRIO program?
Yes, I am currently a member of TRIO
5. Did you participate in WOW? If so tell us about your experience.
Yes, I did participate in WOW. It was an interesting experience and I met some cool people, however, I felt it was unnecessary due to its failure to offer any benefit or help ease the transition Cal Poly.
6. Do you know about the transfer club? How did you hear about it?
Yes, I have heard of the transfer club and I've gone to one of their events. I first heard about the transfer club through a friend who had previously gone to some of the club's events.
7. Tell us about your first quarter.
Although I took only twelve units my first quarter at Cal Poly, the classes I took were all engineering classes, so you could say that my first quarter at Poly was rather tough. The pace of the quarter system was a lot faster than the semester system I came from. Because the sudden change of pace, I struggled to keep up with my classes even though I am studying harder than I had ever studied in the past. It didn't help that the classes I was now taking were upper divisions and the learning curve was extremely steep. Long story short, I felt my first quarter was a baptism of fire into the reality that is the Cal Poly engineering curriculum.
8. Were you in any clubs or extracurricular activities? Which ones?
No, I have not yet participated in any extracurricular activities. It is not because I don't have any interest in them, but rather that I currently feel overwhelmed by the demands of my classes, overwhelmed to the point where I feel I cannot spare any time to pursue outside interests.
9. Did you already have friends at Cal Poly before transferring?
Yes, there are many people from my community college that transferred here the year before me and many that transferred this year along with me.
10. Did you have a difficult time making friends on campus?
I feel that meeting different people at Cal Poly is not a difficult thing to do since we often need to work on similar projects together. Spending time with new people doing non-school related activities however is a different story. I feel most people I meet already have a set group of friends that they spend time with outside of school and are not looking to socialize beyond the normal classroom interaction.
11. How did you go about figuring out your housing situation?

I decided to live on campus instead of commuting for my first year since, I felt it would make it easier to transition into the faster pace of school. It has, however, proven to be rather expensive and I am now considering commuting from my home in Guadalupe. The reason I decided to live on campus instead finding a place of campus was because I felt there wasn't many alternative options. I don't know that many people in San Luis Obispo and my knowledge of the housing market is rather limited.

12. Did you ever have to seek help? (Academically, Socially, Financially, etc.)

I did attend the tutoring sessions that they offer at the MEP frequently my first quarter and found them to be very helpful, however, once I began to take upper division classes I felt that the help available was limited at best.

13. Were there any resources that you felt comfortable using? Which ones?

I've used the tutoring offered at the MEP as well as a few accommodations provided to me by the DRC.

14. Did you feel comfortable approaching your teachers for help or going to office hours?

It really depends on the professors honestly. Some professors are easier to approach than other. Sometimes it is difficult to get help from a professor since many students require help and the professor does not have enough time to see everyone.

15. Did you ever feel like Cal Poly was missing resources that fit your needs?

I'm not entirely sure to be honest. I still don't know about all the resources Cal Poly offers so I cannot say if they lack any.

16. Have you ever regretted your decision of transferring to Cal Poly? If so

While the curriculum here for Software Engineering is rather challenging, it maintains a great reputation and is highly respected across the nation. I understood when I decided I wanted to attend Cal Poly that, because of the reputation it held, the expectations for my major would be high and my experience here would be a difficult one. Regardless of the challenge, I still decided to attend classes here because, I felt it would be a great move for my professional career. So, coming here was always a completely logical decision for me because the experience doesn't matter to me, what matters to me is what you get in return from the experience and if I can manage to come through this experience in one piece, I feel it will be worth the effort. To answer the question, I regret nothing.

Participant 11:

1. Which community college did you transfer from?

I did one year at Cabrillo college in Santa Cruz and two at Cuesta.\

2. How many quarters have you been at cal poly?

This is my third quarter

3. Are you part of EOP?

I don't know what that is.

4. Are you in the TRIO program?

Probably not, I don't think so.

5. Did you participate in WOW? If so tell us about your experience.

I did go to Wow and I was super nervous that it was going to be really lame but I enjoyed it a lot. And I found also that my friends who didn't go to wow they really did not like get a good experience for transferring. I think that wow really prepared you, helped you make friends, I made a lot of friends in my major and i'm sorry, 2 of the girls that i met in my wow are girls that i'm living with next year. They've seriously become some of my closest friends, i still talk to my leaders, in the beginning when I had questions like for printing or even food or just time that things close on campus, they were there to provide the information. Then also Wow really made me feel like I had some support, where like on the first day of school or of classes I wasn't walking around not knowing anybody, I actually recognized a lot of people and was able to say hi to people so i didn't feel so scared about being on a new campus with all these random faces.

6. Do you know about the transfer club? How did you hear about it?

I think so, I have not attended, i feel like i might actually be thinking about a transfer thing within my major not the transfer club so maybe not actually. So no, i do not know about the transfer club.

7. Tell us about your first quarter.

Socially I made a lot of new friends, a lot. Also socially I did a lot of new things through the campus like games, and I was more aware of things going on in our town. A little more plugged in with Cal Poly events rather than Cuesta which is just a junior college where you just go and leave. I found that the quarter kicked my butt and was super hard because I was totally just like oh its cool, its cool, i'm fine, but then all of a sudden it was midterms and then finals because I was used to semesters. So just like the semester system versus quarter system was super different.

8. Were you in any clubs or extracurricular activities? Which ones?

I signed up for a lot but i'm actually only.. I still get newsletters from the lign dancing club and the yoga club but I have not gone to anything but I follow it like so if I want to I could. But i am involved in mat pica chi which is the GRC club and that's a really cool thing for my major but they actually haven't been really having meetings lately but in the first quarter they would have a lot, every wednesday I would go but this quarter they are kind of a little MIA not really sure why, they might be working on something. But it's like extra classes where you can learn whatever you want, i got socks from it.

9. Did you already have friends at cal poly before transferring?

Actually not really at all.

10. Did you have a difficult time making friends on campus?

No. I could make friends with a tree *laughs*

11. How did you go about figuring out your housing situation?

I never considered PCV because I had lived here a year before or two years before actually. Mustang wasn't my first choice but my roommate situation didn't work out and I had to find last minute housing which is how I ended up in Mustang Village because it was the only thing available, especially since I had a pet at the time. This year I am moving in with my friends from wow that has a house.

12. Did you ever have to seek help? (Academically, Socially, Financially, etc.)

I had to find help financially because I didn't understand how loans work. At junior college you have to pay out of pocket or from working and stuff so loans for tuition, i had to figure out how that worked and that was really scary cause like just understanding how to fund things is really difficult to understand. I did seek help from the financial aid office and it was actually really difficult, they wouldn't let me make an appointment, they just wanted to answer my questions right at the front desk but i needed to be sat down and explained, so finally someone let me into the office. In my major I was assigned an academic advisor so I go see her, she is one of my professors.

13. Were there any resources that you felt comfortable using? Which ones?

Financial aid and my academic advisor. I haven't really explored many resources, i've seen posters about stuff though.

I found the career fair to be extremely helpful, that's how i got my summer internship where they want to sign me on for full time.

14. Did you feel comfortable approaching your teachers for help or going to office hours?

Yeah, i hangout with my teachers all the time. I was actually just emailing one just a little bit ago about a saw that i want to buy from him. We have a little resource room in our building and professors will just pop in and see who is in there and just sit and say hi and talk about whatever.

15. Did you ever feel like Cal Poly was missing resources that fit your needs?

Mmm how about water bottle fillers? That's a resource I really like them but they aren't everywhere. But actually i feel like cal poly can help better with housing, i know a lot of it is through the fb page but i almost wish there were a little bit easier way to find housing through the school

16. Have you ever regretted your decision of transferring to cal poly? If so why?

No, never. I am extremely grateful for Cal Poly.

Participant 12:

1. Which community college did you transfer from?

I transferred from University of Akron

2. How many quarters have you been at cal poly?

I have been at Cal Poly for 7 quarters

3. Are you part of EOP?

I've never heard of it

4. Are you in the TRIO program?

- Also never heard of it
5. Did you participate in WOW?
I did not participate in WOW
 6. Do you know about the transfer club?
I've never heard of it
 7. Tell us about your first quarter here at Cal Poly.
My first quarter I received a tour of the campus from the assistant soccer coach here at Cal Poly. The coach did not give a tour of the whole school and did not really talk about anything that the school had to offer besides athletes having an academic counselor. I took a biology class my first quarter and struggled a lot. Cal Poly was a lot tougher academically than my last school was on athletes. Financially, I did not struggle because I decided to just live on someone's couch and was only charged about \$400 including utilities. I did not struggle socially because the team welcomed me with "open arms" and introduced me to the friends the team already had. I met lots of people at soccer parties.
 8. Were you in any clubs or extracurricular activities? Which ones?
I was on the men's soccer team at Cal Poly and later picked up coaching for a year after my first quarter at Cal Poly.
 9. Did you already have friends at Cal Poly before transferring?
I came on an official visit before transferring to the school and "had a couple girls on snapchat" but that was really it.
 10. Did you have a difficult time making friends on campus?
Not at all because of the team
 11. How did you go about figuring out your housing situation this year? Did you ever consider PCV (Poly Canyon Village)?
I was going to find a house with two other players on the team. One of the players said that he had housing for me and last minute ended up leaving me out of the lease. I ended up just staying at another crowded soccer house. I did consider living at PCV but was not able to in the end because it filled up.
 12. Did you ever have to seek help? (Examples: Academically, Socially, Financially, etc.)
Never sought help academically but I should have. I did not seek help because I already had too much commitment with soccer and felt like going out of the way to find a tutor was just going to waste more time. I just needed to survive each quarter. Never had to seek help financially besides asking mom.
 13. Based off of above, Were there any resources that you felt comfortable using? Which ones?
The most helpful resource on campus was the athletic advisor. Everyone in athletics made athletes feel welcomed to come to their office when ever and they always had an open door policy. All the resources that I used were all through athletics because I was not exposed to anything else.
 14. Do you ever feel like cal poly was missing resources that fit your needs? What resources would you like to see for transfers on campus? What do you think would be helpful and why?
I felt like athletics helped me in many ways and well enough that I did not have to seek help elsewhere but believe that there should be staff that their primary job is to ensure that transfer students know how to get around campus and help us transition from another school that may be completely different from the environment at Cal Poly.

15. Do you feel comfortable approaching your teachers for help or going to office hours?
Yes I feel very comfortable. I never felt shy about talking to my teachers because I needed to do whatever I could to make sure I was eligible to play.
16. Have you ever regretted your decision of transferring to cal poly? If so why?
I've never regretted coming here because I did not have anywhere else to go. I had a full ride scholarship and felt like any struggle I had to go through was worth having free education.

Participant 13:

1. Which community college did you transfer from?
College of the Canyons in Santa Clarita
2. How many quarters have you been at cal poly?
This will be my third quarter
3. Are you part of EOP?
Yes. Eop has these things where your first quarter there it's like kinda like, what's it called, I don't know what they're called but they are these meetings that you have to attend for a whole month or so, i forgot what they're called but like you have to go if you're a part of eop and it's just a setting where you go and the counselors talk to you, any questions you have they like make you schedule your schedule and for organization skills. They talk to you about transitioning just like it's like I understand the purpose of what they're doing, it's like getting you settled in and helping you with the transition but I did not find that helpful at all. Like to me it was just really pointless and annoying to have to go to the meetings, i mean I do appreciate the counselors for what they are doing but I did not like it. I found it pointless. They could have approached it differently. What I do like about them is how invested the counselors are, they were sweet they really do care about you, they legit, I go every quarter and can tell they are genuinely interested in my well being so it's good to know that there are people there for you cause yeah. On top of that one of the best resources I like to use from Eop is they have free tutoring so you can request a tutor, so like last quarter for dynamics I requested a tutor and this quarter I requested one for fluids which is helpful because it's that one on one tutoring that you get because you need the extra help and you don't have to pay for it because it's a part of EOP and they pay for it. There are a bunch of other things that they provide that I use like they give us waivers for the GWR, if we don't pass it we just keep getting more waivers which is cool. But not just that, like i'm telling you the counselors I think are really necessary to transfer students. I know this is for transfer student questions but as a Hispanic, person of color, it's nice to have that support, and to know that they are there for you. The last thing I benefit from EOP is that they have an EOP grant that I get as well that help me pay for tuition. EOP has been very very very beneficial.

The meetings are on fridays, depending on what college they are in, and they also do it with freshman and transfers, they do it so that you can meet other transfer students and make friends and talk to people that are going through the same struggle as you are, it's for support. We'd meet for about an hour. I did not find the meetings beneficial. I don't like being told what

to do. I don't like when i'm forced to make friends. So like for WoW, I hated WoW, I didn't get in the groove of things and I didn't go for like half of the meet ups, I just hate that so I was like I hate this. But i'm sure that was a personal thing, other people would have probably liked it.

4. Are you in the TRIO program?

No, you can't be apart of both.

5. Did you participate in WOW? If so tell us about your experience.

So I did participate for a couple of days but towards the end of the weekend I went home cause I still wasn't done moving. So I went home to pack up the rest of my things and say goodbye to my friends and family. I was there for half of the week. I was there for about 2 and a half days. For what it was and how much I did participate I guess I did make friends, like it was nice to have a group of friends as well. Not knowing anyone, it's nice to have some people, although you're not friends it's like you guys are still there for each other. To me that was such a weird concept cause everyone is really friendly here, it's so weird to me, I guess it's just a different environment from LA. My group made a groupme, a snapchat, they made all the possible social media groups. The first quarter I would get non stop blasts from my wow group which is cool because everyone talks to each other but that slowly died down. Here and then I will see people and be like oh hey how are you doing. I did keep 2 friends from my Wow group.

I had gone home because my lease hadn't started when Wow started.

6. Do you know about the transfer club? How did you hear about it?

No.

7. Tell us about your first quarter.

My first quarter really sucked. Everyone that I talked to say that their first quarter sucked which is understandable because of the whole transition. Me personally I was dealing with a lot of personal issues, school wise it was hard having to work and balance my schedule, it drained me. My grades went really down. Which is like, normally you're used to getting good grades and when you see your grades like that it honestly took a toll on me. I felt super bad, I cried a lot of nights, after testing I would go home and cry. I have a lot of anxiety when it comes to testing. MY counselor suggested i become a part of the DSPS. Point being, my grades dropped a lot. And i'm like used to working so I don't know. It's ridiculous , back in community college it's so easy to do both and then coming here to a university you can't. I realized that the hard way. Second quarter I stopped working to bring my grades back up. I had gotten into academic probation, it sucked. It's def way better now, mY first quarter was hard and i didn't know what to expect, second quarter I tried to bounce back and now my third quarter I'm doing way better and know what kind of study habits to have. Also getting counseling and talking to counselors is very helpful. They help you be accountable.

8. Were you in any clubs or extracurricular activities? Which ones?

Yeah so, i'm just a member of these clubs i don't have any officer roles or anything. I thought about it but decided that would be better for next year and just make sure i get through this year first. I'm part of SHPE which is Society of Hispanic professional Engineers, i was also

a part of it back in community college. I'm fine with making friends with everyone but because of the culture shock like, my first quarter I felt really left out, really lonely. My first quarter I couldn't attend the shpe meetings, my second quarter was better, i have way more friends, not even just friends but like classmates that are in shpe as well, we do homework together, we study together and it's just nice having that community of people. SHpe is great. I'm technically apart of MEXA but not really, but I do stay updated, I do want to be more involved because I like what they stand for. I also attend Glo, it's nice because fellow christians is something I wanted to have so that's good. I'm not a member but i attend meeting for the civil engineering club every once in a while.

9. Did you already have friends at cal poly before transferring?

Not really, I know 2 people who came here from my community college but we're not friends.

10. Did you have a difficult time making friends on campus?

No.

11. How did you go about figuring out your housing situation?

When I got accepted into Cal Poly, I was like i'm going to Cal Poly I didn't really have any other options, Cal poly was the school I always wanted to come to. After Open house i started looking for housing. It was i think April and even then, like housing here goes by so fast so its ridiculous. I don't think CP accepts people early enough, i don't know it's weird cause housing here goes by so fast, by the time people hear back from UC's and make their decision to come to Cal Poly it's really hard to find housing. I was looking everywhere, I was looking on Craigslist, since everything here is so expensive and it would have been cheaper on Craigslist but even then it was hard to find something. It took me 2 weeks of looking to start looking at apartments. That's when i found Valencia and it seemed like I wasn't going to find anything else so I called them and just said put me in. I considered living at PCV but it was too expensive.

12. Did you ever have to seek help? (Academically, Socially, Financially, etc.)

All of the above. I started going to the Food pantry on campus and signed up for the meal vouchers because I don't qualify for CalFresh. I've seen all my counselors, on top of that I got a grant where I had to meet with the dean. My first quarter i got in a car accident and my bike got stolen which sucked because sometimes I had really early classes and would get out late. The grant helped because all of my money went to rent.

13. Were there any resources that you felt comfortable using? Which ones?

The food pantry definitely.

14. Did you feel comfortable approaching your teachers for help or going to office hours?

I don't but that just might be a personal thing. My first quarter I didn't but the second quarter I tried going and they were really beneficial. This quarter i'm definitely going more and talking to them about my grades and how i'm doing. I've learned to leave the fear of talking to them.

15. Did you ever feel like cal poly was missing resources that fit your needs?

As a transfer student and as a person of color yeah because if I didn't have Eop I definitely wouldn't. I've talked to other transfer students who don't have eop and they're having more hardships than I am. There needs to be more programs not just for low income but for transfer students.

I would recommend not a bigger EOP but a setting, I guess the transfer club works for students to come together but not just that. I got help with transitioning through EOP but other students don't get that. So like a program that helps people with transitions, so maybe like EOP but as a center for just transfer students.

16. Have you ever regretted your decision of transferring to cal poly? If so why?

No. Of course i've thought about what if I had gone to other schools or stayed home, since like i said my first quarter i was very homesick and the culture shock and a lot of things have been too much and things have been too hard. So there are times where I have thought about it but in the end when thinking about my future and my career, academics is what's most important to me and cp was the best for that and knowing that, that it was the best for me I don't regret it.

Participant 14:

1. Which community college did you transfer from?

Cabrillo College

2. How many quarters have you been at cal poly?

9

3. Are you part of EOP?

No

4. Are you in the TRIO program?

No

5. Did you participate in WOW? If so tell us about your experience.

Yes. To me it was an okay experience; I didn't really enjoy the activities they had planned out, they seemed to be over hyped. I was also getting home sick on the third day so I ended up going home for the rest of the week.

6. Do you know about the transfer club? How did you hear about it?

No.

7. Tell us about your first quarter.

My first quarter at cal poly was hard. Coming from a semester system I had to adjust myself to the quarter system. So I didn't do as well as I wish that I would have in my classes. I would also go back home every weekend because I was homesick.

8. Were you in any clubs or extracurricular activities? Which ones?

Yes, MEXA and SHPE.

9. Did you already have friends at cal poly before transferring?

I had 2 friends who I transferred with from my community college.

10. Did you have a difficult time making friends on campus?
No, I met a group of friends my first couple days of WOW and I've hung out with them since.
11. How did you go about figuring out your housing situation?
When I first got accepted I didn't want to worry about looking for a place so I just applied to stay on campus.
12. Did you ever have to seek help? (Academically, Socially, Financially, etc.)
Academically, yes. The help wasn't from school though it was from classmates.
13. Were there any resources that you felt comfortable using? Which ones?
Health center, I bought allergy medication from them.
14. Did you feel comfortable approaching your teachers for help or going to office hours?
Yes! That's what they were getting paid for.
15. Did you ever feel like cal poly was missing resources that fit your needs?
No.
16. Have you ever regretted your decision of transferring to cal poly? If so, why?
No, I have really enjoyed my academic experiences at cal poly.

Participant 15:

1. Which community college did you transfer from?
College of San Mateo
2. How many quarters have you been at cal poly?
This is my 6th quarter.
3. Are you part of EOP?
Yes I am apart of EOP.
4. Are you in the TRIO program?
No, I don't know what that is.
5. Did you participate in WOW? If so tell us about your experience.
Yes I did I umm didn't participate in all of the events umm and honestly it was a really bad experience. I felt like as far as transfer students went I don't think there was much of a community and I felt like just really separate from the Cal Poly campus and the people that already went here and stuff like that.
6. Do you know about the transfer club? How did you hear about it?
Yes, through word of mouth and they mentioned it once through an EOP meeting that I had with my counselor. I have never been able to go to a club meeting.
7. Tell us about your first quarter.
It was very overwhelming, especially since I didn't have any friends established. I didn't really know what was going on, I didn't know what I was doing, where to go for things so i kind of just looked to others to see what they were doing but even then that was very confusing within itself. I didn't understand a lot of the lingo, the slang that happens her, I didn't understand any of it, I didn't get what the snapping was for and I see everyone snapping. So yeah it was very different and obviously it was a very different campus cause I'm used to going to a very diverse campus and this one is the complete opposite.

8. Were you in any clubs or extracurricular activities? Which ones?
I was apart of the COMS club for a quarter but that's it. I was unable to, due to work.
9. Did you already have friends at cal poly before transferring?
Absolutely not, I was alone.
10. Did you have a difficult time making friends on campus?
Yes and no. I had a hard time reaching out to people and connecting with them but in my classes I found a few people that I had many classes with in my degree and those are the people that I kinda stuck with but initially it was very hard to make friends.
11. How did you go about figuring out your housing situation?
I just looked around, mainly on craigslist to see what rooms were available or what apartments were available and that's pretty much the extent of everything cause I couldn't afford a lot of the housing near Cal Poly. I did not attempt on campus housing cause it was WAY out of my budget.
12. Did you ever have to seek help? (Academically, Socially, Financially, etc.)
Yes financially from my family, academic yes from my professors in the sense I needed guidance on assignments or class loads or recommendations on classes to take. Psychological, i don't think so so that's pretty much it.
13. Were there any resources that you felt comfortable using? Which ones?
Resources that I found helpful were honestly the EOP department. I felt because it was a smaller community that is who I would go to if I had any questions aside from that. That's all the resources I utilized. What other resources are there?
I've talked to academic advisors a few times to figure out class schedules, classes that I need. Academic advisors for the same reason.
14. Did you feel comfortable approaching your teachers for help or going to office hours?
Yes I did. I think it's because they were very personable that it made it easy to go to office hours and talk to them one on one.
15. Did you ever feel like cal poly was missing resources that fit your needs?
Umm honestly I couldn't speak on that because I don't utilize all of the campus resources but I think that they can advocate things like CALFresh a lot more and helping students that don't have the privilege of having a lot of money. All I see are posters that are hung up with all the other ones and are sometimes even covered up.
16. Have you ever regretted your decision of transferring to cal poly? If so why?
Sometimes I do, I think what makes it really tough is the culture that's here. A lot of discrimination, a lot of exclusion, I don't feel as part of the campus as I did at my community college, and it's probably due to me working a lot but even then the overall experience i've had in my classes, i don't feel like there is a lot of room for people to discuss their different beliefs, i feel like everyone is very polarized and nobody really takes into consideration others experiences, so yes when this get really hard, especially when there is discrimination on campus or vandalism that discriminates against people, I really do regret those times transferring to Cal Poly.

Participant 16:

1. Which community college did you transfer from?
I transferred from Allan Hancock College.
2. How many quarters have you been at cal poly?

I have been at Cal Poly for 5 quarters and am currently on my 6th.

3. Are you part of EOP?

Yes, I am currently part of the EOP program. They provide great services like 1 on 1 tutoring, designated study spaces in the library, a designated counselor and some extra money each quarter. I have yet to chance to take full advantage of all of the services that they offer but it is nice to know that they are available.

4. Are you in the TRIO program?

I am currently not a part of the TRIO program.

5. Did you participate in WOW? If so tell us about your experience.

I did get a chance to participate in WOW. The wow experience was a unique one, it provided many opportunities to make new friendships and I personally feel like it was a great introduction to the school. Although, I have met several people that feel the complete opposite as I do. Their general feeling about wow was that it was a waste of time and money and wished it could have been optional.

6. Do you know about the transfer club? How did you hear about it?

I have not heard about the transfer club, but I'd be interested in learning more about it.

7. Tell us about your first quarter.

My first quarter attending Cal Poly was rough to say the least, not only the atmosphere but the curriculum itself was very challenging. Having to adjust to such a new environment in such a short period of time was difficult. I felt like I was playing catch up during the entire first quarter, when I should have technically been on par with the curriculum.

8. Were you in any clubs or extracurricular activities? Which ones?

I was involved with the White Hat club on campus for a short period of time but had to stop attending to keep up with my coursework.

9. Did you already have friends at Cal Poly before transferring?

I did not have the privilege of having friends that came before transferring, but luckily I had a good amount of friends that were transferring when I was.

10. Did you have a difficult time making friends on campus?

Not necessarily, I already had a good amount of friends that transferred with me when I came to Cal Poly. New friends came slowly with every class that I took. I was able to observe that many of the students on campus already had established 'cliques.' Which helps when it comes to taking classes that are more difficult courses since you have the ability to ask your peers questions.

11. How did you go about figuring out your housing situation?

I wasn't able to find housing my first year at Cal Poly, but it was more so because of the lack of trying. I already knew that I was going to be commuting to school. This year I was able to get housing since I thought it would be nice

12. Did you ever have to seek help? (Academically, Socially, Financially, etc.)

I did have to seek for help academically, thankfully I had peers that were willing to help out when I needed it. Financially, I have the support of my family along with my financial aid.

13. Were there any resources that you felt comfortable using? Which ones?

I felt comfortable using EOP, the counselors that they provide are great and don't seem to be in a hurry to just get to the next student.

14. Did you feel comfortable approaching your teachers for help or going to office hours?

It depends on the professor, this quarter for operating systems course my professor is great, I don't feel intimidated by him. I feel like I can ask the dumbest questions and he feel happy to answer them. So I feel comfortable.

For my systems programming class my professor liked to think that he was approachable but in reality he was very short tempered and couldn't understand how a student found a concept difficult to understand.

15. Did you ever feel like cal poly was missing resources that fit your needs?

16. Have you ever regretted your decision of transferring to cal poly? If so why?

I don't feel like Cal Poly lacks resources. There are several support programs that the school offers to help to students that find themselves in predicaments or that need special help. With recent events it has been embarrassing explaining to relatives what has been going down with the whole black face incident. Regardless, I never once regretted my decision to come to Cal Poly, I take great pride in showing that my hard work has enabled me to come to this school.

Participant 17:

1. Which community college did you transfer from?

Cuesta Community College

2. How many quarters have you been at cal poly?

6 (will be 7 when I graduate)

3. Are you part of EOP?

No, I don't know what it is.

4. Are you in the TRIO program?

No, I don't know what program this is.

5. Did you participate in WOW? If so tell us about your experience.

No, I did not participate in WOW week, I was out of the country.

6. Do you know about the transfer club? How did you hear about it?

I do not know about the transfer club, and I have never heard about it.

7. Tell us about your first quarter.

It was a very difficult quarter for me. I think the most difficult aspect was the transition between a semester system to a quarter system. Everything is more fast paced and it is hard to keep up with classes. It was the worst quarter I had throughout my Cal Poly experience. I was struggling and lost, and was not exposed at all to specific programs/clubs that helped transfer students.

8. Were you in any clubs or extracurricular activities? Which ones?
No I was not involved in an extracurricular activities.
9. Did you already have friends at cal poly before transferring?
No I did not have any friends here at Cal Poly before transferring.
10. Did you have a difficult time making friends on campus?
I did have a difficult time when I initially transferred. But when I started to work on campus (around the 5th week of my first quarter), I made a lot of good friends that have helped me a lot throughout my stay here at Cal Poly.
11. How did you go about figuring out your housing situation?
I knew I was going to go to Cal Poly since I graduated from high school (Arroyo Grande High school), so I knew I was going to commute every day and stay with my parents.
12. Did you ever have to seek help? (Academically, Socially, Financially, etc.)
I have always resulted in seeking help in regard to advice academically/socially/personally from friends.
13. Were there any resources that you felt comfortable using? Which ones?
The only resource I've used was the OCOB advising center. I wanted guidance in which classes to take, and in general if I was on the right track. I set up an appointment and the student there was quite helpful.
14. Did you feel comfortable approaching your teachers for help or going to office hours?
No, I haven't been to a single office hour for assistance, nor do I feel comfortable approaching them.
15. Did you ever feel like cal poly was missing resources that fit your needs?
Particularly for me, seeking for help isn't something I would go out of my way to do. If the resource was presented to me more clearly and apparent, I would use it.
16. Have you ever regretted your decision of transferring to cal poly? If so, why?
No, Cal Poly is great!

Participant 18:

Interview Questions

1. Which community college did you transfer from?
Cuesta
2. How many quarters have you been at cal poly?
Three quarters
3. Are you part of EOP?
No
4. Are you in the TRIO program?
Never heard of it
5. Did you participate in WOW?
No
6. Do you know about the transfer club?

Have not heard of it

7. Tell us about your first quarter here at Cal Poly. Any struggles academically, socially, financially, mentally? Please explain (don't have to be specific)

He did not struggle academically. He said that his major is really easy and he was always on top of his grades. He did not struggle financially because his parents are both educators and had educational funds saved for him. He is also local but decided to live with friends instead of living at home. He did not struggle socially because he knew people on the soccer team and many of his friend he had at Cuesta transferred to Cal Poly. He also had high school friends here as well.

8. Were you in any clubs or extracurricular activities? Which ones? How involved are you?

He was on the men's soccer team for a couple of months but it did not work out and now, he does not participate in any extracurricular activities.

9. Did you already have friends at cal poly before transferring?

Yes he did

10. Did you have a difficult time making friends on campus?

He said he did not have a hard time because he knew people prior to transferring to Cal Poly.

11. How did you go about figuring out your housing situation this year? Did you ever consider PCV (Poly Canyon Village)?

He never considered living at PCV because his parents home is only one block from campus. He lived there for two month at the beginning of the school year, then he moved in with friends after a space opened up.

12. Did you ever have to seek help? (Examples: Academically, Socially, Financially, etc.)

He had help from the free tutors that athletes get at the beginning of the year, but that was it and did not seek for help elsewhere.

13. Based off of above, Were there any resources that you felt comfortable using? Which ones?

Using the advisers was helpful.

14. Do you ever feel like Cal Poly was missing resources that fit your needs? What resources would you like to see for transfers on campus? What do you think would be helpful and why?

He said he wishes he knew where he can get help with tutors on campus that do not cost him extra money. He wants transfer students to have a space the way that athletes do to do their homework and simply hang out and maybe even have tutors at that place.

15. Do you feel comfortable approaching your teachers for help or going to office hours?

Yes, he does feel comfortable if the teachers seem nice.

16. Have you ever regretted your decision of transferring to cal poly? If so why?

Has never regretted his decision because he always wanted to stay close to home.

Participant 19:

1. Which community college did you transfer from?

Irvine Valley College, Irvine California

2. How many quarters have you been at cal poly?

This is my 4th quarter

3. Are you part of EOP? If yes, what do you like about it, how has it been helpful, and/or what do you not like about it?

- I've never heard of it
4. Are you in the TRIO program? If yes, what do you like about it, how has it been helpful, and/or what do you not like about it?
No.
5. Did you participate in WOW? If so tell us about your experience, the good and/or bad aspects. Did you make friends? Were the presentations/leaders helpful? What would you have changed?
No, I did not participate in Wow.
6. Do you know about the transfer club? If yes, how did you hear about it and have you attended? Did you like it?
Nah
7. Tell us about your first quarter here at Cal Poly. Any struggles/highlights academically, socially, financially, mentally? Please explain (don't have to be specific)
The only main struggle was adapting to the quarter system, so going from semester to quarter, so academically yeah kind of. The classes were harder, since they were quicker.
8. Were/are you in any clubs or extracurricular activities? Which ones? How involved are you?
No, I was just on the soccer team.
9. Did you already have friends at Cal Poly before transferring?
Yeah, in particular Tony. I met him through soccer when I was in high school and he's a good kid. And a few kids from high school
10. Did you have a difficult time making friends on campus?
Not necessarily, I had soccer so that made it easier.
11. How did you go about figuring out your housing situation this year? Did you ever consider PCV (Poly Canyon Village)? If no, why not?
The coaches set me up in PCV, I lived with two other guys on sports teams. One of them was also on the soccer team. And some kid from Golf, his name was Thomas.
12. Did you ever have to seek help? (Examples: Academically, Socially, Financially, etc.)
Just tutors, in the Mott Center. I heard about them through my academic counselor through athletics
13. Based off of above, Were there any resources on campus that you felt comfortable using? Which ones? (Examples of resources: Health center, mustang success center, food pantry, MCC, career center, etc)
The college also has tutors
14. Do you ever feel like cal poly was missing resources/programs that fit your needs? What resources would you like to see for transfers on campus? What do you think would be helpful and why?
Ramiro didn't ask him
15. Do you feel comfortable approaching your teachers for help or going to office hours?
No, they kinda invited it so that made it much easier. Plus athletics makes us go in and sign those forms
16. Have you ever regretted your decision of transferring to cal poly? If so why?
No, I've never regretted my decision

Participant 20:

1. Which community college did you transfer from?
Mira Costa in San Diego
2. How many quarters have you been at cal poly?
7
3. Are you part of EOP? If yes, what do you like about it, how has it been helpful, and/or what do you not like about it?
No... I don't think so at least
4. Are you in the TRIO program? If yes, what do you like about it, how has it been helpful, and/or what do you not like about it?
I don't think so either
5. Did you participate in WOW? If so tell us about your experience, the good and/or bad aspects. Did you make friends? Were the presentations/leaders helpful? What would you have changed?
Yes I did participate in WOW-- but I didn't like it. I ended up just becoming close with a girl I knew (from my community college actually) and we bonded over how much we didn't want to do the activities. They were a little bit fun sometimes (like the big bbq was pretty fun) but the rest of them felt like I was integrating into highschool from middle school. The leaders acted a bit more superior than peers (even though I was older or the same age as them.) I would have the mandatory meetings changed to nothing being mandatory because after thinking about it, I realized that nothing could've been mandatory there if WOW itself was optional. I also think they should never make us wear those matching t-shirts... they made me not want to go even more. It should've been an authentic college experience, not so staged.
6. Do you know about the transfer club? If yes, how did you hear about it and have you attended?
I have not heard about that.
7. Tell us about your first quarter here at Cal Poly. Any struggles academically, socially, financially, mentally? Please explain (don't have to be specific)
The first quarter here was more sad than anything... I missed my best friend group back at home and my boyfriend. Plus I had no idea how parking was going to work because I lived about 5 miles from campus so I ended up Ubering the first couple weeks.
8. Were/are you in any clubs or extracurricular activities? Which ones? How involved are you?
I was in the Cal Poly Scuba Club for a bit but then the diving conditions weren't that great. Just lately, I've gotten involved in a group that's composed of artists (like me) which has been a completely game changing experience.
9. Did you already have friends at cal poly before transferring?
I had a couple... distant distant friends...
10. Did you have a difficult time making friends on campus?
A bit when I first got here, but when you find the right couple of people, you get introduced to a whole group of like-minded people.
11. How did you go about figuring out your housing situation this year? Did you ever consider PCV (Poly Canyon Village)?
No, just Craigslist
12. Did you ever have to seek help? (Examples: Academically, Socially, Financially, etc.)
Nope... probably should've though haha

13. Based off of above, Were there any resources that you felt comfortable using? Which ones?

Yeah, a lot of my teachers offered help whenever we needed it and I felt totally comfortable asking them if I needed to, but I hardly ever did.

14. Do you ever feel like cal poly was missing resources that fit your needs? What resources would you like to see for transfers on campus? What do you think would be helpful and why?

Honestly just more healthy eating options and a more roots in sustainability and environmental protection. If that was a bigger preached topic on our campus, maybe we would still be getting our compost taken or be generating less paper waste (starbucks cups, paper towels, etc.) Since the majority of students don't know much about sustainability on this campus due to a lack of resources educating them, I felt obligated to share my own knowledge, but also frustrated seeing everyone place trash in the wrong places simply because they do not know.

15. Do you feel comfortable approaching your teachers for help or going to office hours?

Yes, most of them I do. I don't know if this is a lazy statement, but 90% of the reason why I hardly ever went to teacher's office hours was because it was a far walk in the wrong direction, being on campus during a gap meant I had to find parking again which, in the end, didn't seem worth it.

16. Have you ever regretted your decision of transferring to cal poly? If so why?

No never. I absolutely love it here... I turned down Santa Barbara for here and every time I visit SB, i'm happy I chose SLO! It's so nature-centric, making it really easy to find people who have the same values as I do. I love how it's not a big party school and most people are just more down to chill than to get belligerently drunk. It's an awesome place to go to college and it's really easy to make it feel like home. It's also a very safe-feeling place which is great for a first place to move to out of the house.

Participant 21:

1. Which community college did you transfer from?

Irvine Valley College, Irvine CA

2. How many quarters have you been at cal poly?

This will be my 9th quarter here at Cal poly

3. Are you part of EOP?

Uh no Ramiro I am not apart of the Eop program. Could you remind me what that stands for again? Yeah i'm not, wasn't sure

4. Are you in the TRIO program?

I am not, never heard of it.

5. Did you participate in WOW? If so tell us about your experience.

No I didn't actually, I was invited like everyone else but I didn't go because I had something going on that week, I think sports.

6. Do you know about the transfer club? How did you hear about it?

Never heard of it

7. Tell us about your first quarter.

Well my first quarter was a blur, I came in as a student athlete and was taking 17 units and I had a 7am four days a week and class 5 days a week, it was brutal and we practiced 6 days a week and my god my body was getting so abused and tired and it was just bad for my health

But socially it was great, I met a lot of people, I think I met you at that time. Team took me right in, had a great time

Academically, I struggled a lot. I was nervous, i remember during finals week, thought I was going to fail at least two of my classes, but ended up passing barely. Academically I think my classes at the city college are comparable but the main difference was the travel portion of soccer. Missing class was difficult, i always had to catch up. First quarter was definitely a roller coaster.

Finances weren't a struggle

8. Were you in any clubs or extracurricular activities? Which ones?

Just soccer, that's it

9. Did you already have friends at cal poly before transferring?

Yeah I did, I knew a handful of people from high school and a couple from soccer. My roommate right now I knew in high school. I had a lot of people to talk to about the school.

10. Did you have a difficult time making friends on campus?

Yeah, it wasn't easy I guess. My only friends came from soccer and i didn't really strive to make friends in my math classes until this year really. I was always hanging out with the soccer guys so on campus, if i didn't see one of my soccer buddies I tended to keep to myself.

11. How did you go about figuring out your housing situation?

I did not consider PCV because the thought of living on campus did not sound that appealing to me. I remember I committed in April and people were telling me to find housing and that it wouldn't be easy and it wasn't. I was searching on Facebook housing page Craigslist, found nothing. Then out of nowhere, my friend from middle school, his uncle lives in Slo and that guy own property around Slo and he started talking to my dad and some shady shit went down. It was all the way out near Costco, it wasn't ideal it kinda sucked actually but it was a really nice place to live by myself.

12. Did you ever have to seek help? (Academically, Socially, Financially, etc.)

No not really. I didn't really even go to office hours even when I should have. I went to see with the athletic advisor Louise if there were tutors for my math classes but there weren't. My math classes were too advanced. The tutors that she had didn't tutor up to my level so basically it was talk to classmates, go to office hours or figure it out on my own so i tried to figure it out on my own. It worked, but it wasn't pretty.

13. Were there any resources that you felt comfortable using? Which ones?

There was one math professor who was also an advisor, Ben, he helped a lot with figuring out my schedule and stuff. He was actually really helpful.

14. Did you feel comfortable approaching your teachers for help or going to office hours?

Yeah I would say I do Ramiro. In general yeah, there are some teachers who are hard to understand and you know if you go to their office hours its not going to help because I've done it and it hasn't helped. Also sometimes I'm a little wuss when it comes to that.

15. Did you ever feel like cal poly was missing resources that fit your needs?

I think we could use like an off campus housing resource cause I'm sure Cal Poly could help if you want to live on campus but i'm sure many 3rd year transfers wouldn't want to do that. So there could be better resources for that.

16. Have you ever regretted your decision of transferring to cal poly? If so why?

Absolutely not Ramiro. This school has done so much for me, it's given me the full college experience. If I had to go back, I would choose Cal Poly again.

Participant 22:

1. Which community college did you transfer from?
Chaffey college
2. How many quarters have you been at cal poly?
7 quarters
3. Are you part of EOP? If yes, what do you like about it, how has it been helpful, and/or what do you not like about it?
No
4. Are you in the TRIO program? If yes, what do you like about it, how has it been helpful, and/or what do you not like about it?
No
5. Did you participate in WOW? If so tell us about your experience, the good and/or bad aspects. Did you make friends? Were the presentations/leaders helpful? What would you have changed?
No, I did not participate in Wow
6. Do you know about the transfer club? If yes, how did you hear about it and have you attended?
No, I have not heard of it.
7. Tell us about your first quarter here at Cal Poly. Any struggles academically, socially, financially, mentally? Please explain (don't have to be specific).
Yes the speed of the quarter
8. Were/are you in any clubs or extracurricular activities? Which ones? How involved are you?
Yes the basketball team
9. Did you already have friends at cal poly before transferring?
No
10. Did you have a difficult time making friends on campus?
No
11. How did you go about figuring out your housing situation this year? Did you ever consider PCV (Poly Canyon Village)?
Yes I lived there
12. Did you ever have to seek help? (Examples: Academically, Socially, Financially, etc.)
Yes
13. Based off of above, Were there any resources that you felt comfortable using? Which ones?
Yes the tutors because our basketball coach made us
14. Do you ever feel like cal poly was missing resources that fit your needs? What resources would you like to see for transfers on campus? What do you think would be helpful and why?
No
15. Do you feel comfortable approaching your teachers for help or going to office hours?
Yes
16. Have you ever regretted your decision of transferring to cal poly? If so why?
Yes because of the lack of diversity

Participant 23:

1. Which community college did you transfer from?
De Anza College
2. How many quarters have you been at Cal Poly?
3
3. Are you part of EOP?
No
4. Are you in the TRIO program?
Never heard of it.
5. Did you participate in WOW?
No
6. Do you know about the transfer club?
Never heard of it.
7. Tell us about your first quarter here at Cal Poly. Any struggles academically, socially, financially, mentally? Please explain (don't have to be specific)
My first year at Cal poly was difficult academically but socially was very easy.
8. Were/are you in any clubs or extracurricular activities? Which ones? How involved are you?
I played soccer.
9. Did you already have friends at cal poly before transferring?
I had a couple friends on the soccer team.
10. Did you have a difficult time making friends on campus?
No
11. How did you go about figuring out your housing situation this year? Did you ever consider PCV (Poly Canyon Village)?
My soccer coaches helped me set up housing.
12. Did you ever have to seek help? (Examples: Academically, Socially, Financially, etc.)
I had to seek help academically.
13. Based off of above, Were there any resources that you felt comfortable using? Which ones?
I felt comfortable using the athletic advisors and the tutors.
14. Do you ever feel like CalPoly was missing resources that fit your needs? What resources would you like to see for transfers on campus? What do you think would be helpful and why?
I felt like soccer gave me the resources I needed but if I was not an athlete I believe it would have been harder for me to transition.
15. Do you feel comfortable approaching your teachers for help or going to office hours?
Yes
16. Have you ever regretted your decision of transferring to Cal Poly? If so why
No I have not regretted it.

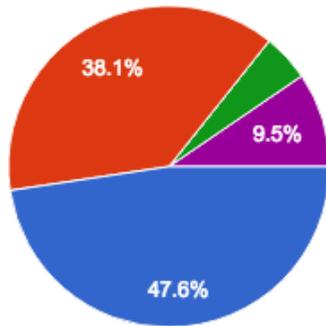
Appendix D**Demographics Questions**

1. Age
2. Ethnicity
 - White
 - Hispanic/Latino
 - Black/African American
 - Native American
 - Asian/ Pacific Islander
 - Other
3. What is your sex?
 - Female
 - Male
 - Prefer not to say
 - Other
4. Are you a first generation college student?
 - Yes
 - No
5. Are you a full time student? (12+ units)
 - Yes
 - No
6. How many hours a week do you work?
 - Full time (30+)
 - Part time (15-29)
 - Part time (<15)
 - I do not work
7. Do you receive financial aid? Choose the all that apply.
 - Scholarship
 - Loans
 - Grants
 - Work-study
 - I don't receive any financial aid
8. Are you a veteran?
 - Yes
 - No
9. How would you describe your socioeconomic status?
 - Upper Class
 - Middle Upper Class
 - Middle Class
 - Lower Class

Appendix E

College

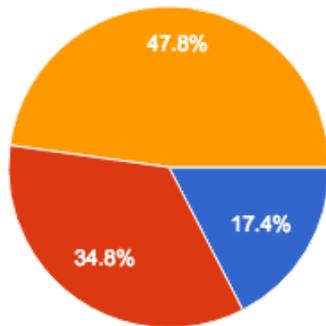
21 responses



- College of Engineering
- College of Liberal Arts
- College of Agriculture
- Orfalea college of Business
- College of Science and Math
- College of Architecture

3. Are you a part of Eop?

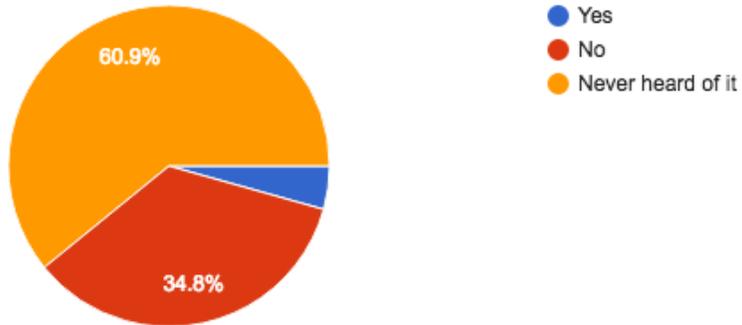
23 responses



- Yes
- No
- Never heard of it

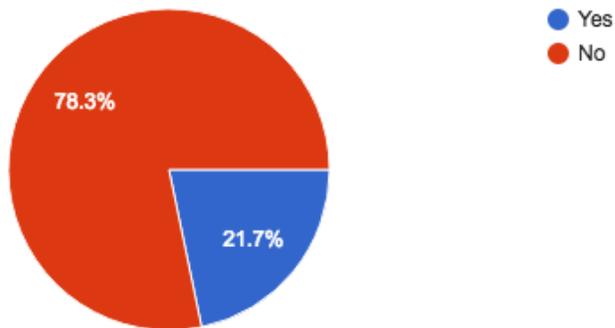
4. A part of TRIO?

23 responses



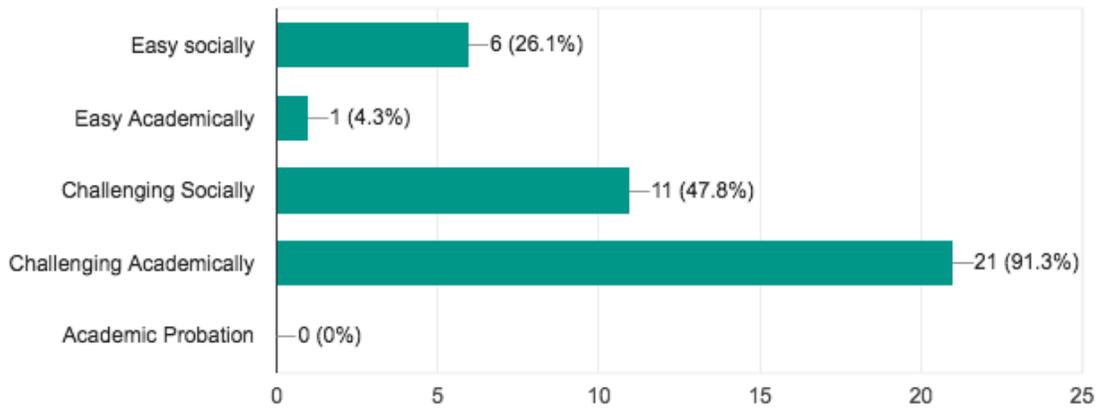
6. Do you know about Transfer Club?

23 responses



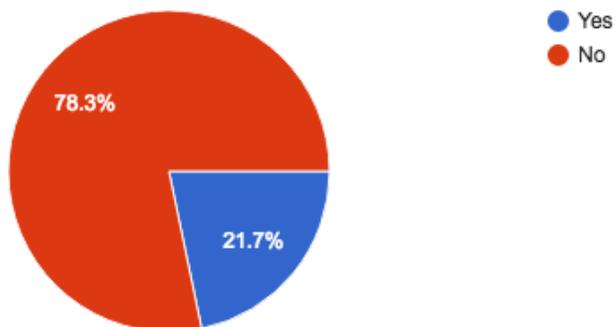
7. Describe your first Quarter

23 responses



9. Did you have friends at Cal Poly before transferring?

23 responses



12. Did you ever seek help?

21 responses

