TRANSFER BUFFS

WHO IS A TRANSFER STUDENT?

Transfer students make up about 17.0% of the total incoming undergraduate class

TYPES OF TRANSFER STUDENTS

BOOMERANG

Colorado residents admitted to CU for the fall but who attended an out-of-state institution for their first semester and then decided to transfer to CU for the spring semester.

2-YEAR TRANSFER

Students who transfer from a 2-year institution or community college.

4-YEAR TRANSFER

Students who transfer from another 4-year institution/college/university.

VETERAN

Students with previous or current military service. 8.6% of transfer students are veterans.

CONTEMPORARY

Formerly known as non-traditional, it includes adult learners, parent students, working full time, etc.

POST-BACCALAUREATE

Students who earned a previous bachelor's degree and are now working on second bachelor's or prerequisites for other programs.

INTERNATIONAL

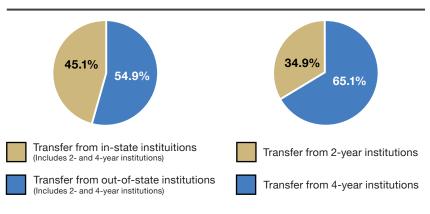
Students whose primary citizenship is not in the U.S. who are attending the university on a student visa. 2% of transfer students have primary citizenship outside of the U.S. compared to 10% for non-transfer students

UNDOCUMENTED

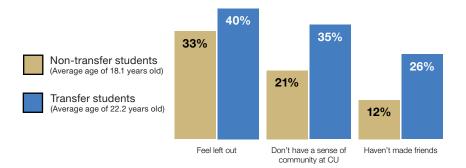
Students whose primary citizenship is not in the U.S. but who have built their lives here. These students do not have visa status, may or may not have DACA protections, may or may not be considered in-state students (ASSET eligible) and are often unseen in university processes.

Office of Undergraduate Education UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

WHERE TRANSFER STUDENTS MOVE FROM



NON-TRANSFER STUDENTS COMPARED TO TRANSFER STUDENTS



TRANSFER STUDENT SUCCESS TIPS

ASSUMPTIONS REA

Transfer students come from 2-year colleges in Colorado.

Transfer students come in with a lot of credits and only have two years left to complete their bachelor's degree.

Transfer students deal with the same "life concerns" as first-year students.

Because transfer students have already attended another institution, they know how to navigate CU Boulder.

REALITY

In fall 2025, 34.9% transferred from a 2-year college, with 29.2% of those transferring from out-of-state.

In fall 2025, incoming transfer students brought in an average of 44 transfer credits.

Transfer students are diverse. They are more likely to report financial stress and other concerns compared to students who didn't transfer to CI J.

CU Boulder is a large institution with its own unique processes, policies and programs.

TIE

Don't assume all students have the same experiences. Ask students about their academic journey.

Transfer students may have credits that overlap with their current classes. Consider how they can act as good role models for others.

Consider how to support students who may have commitments outside of academics (e.g. work, care-giving, etc.).

Think about what transfer students experience starting at CU and what might feel confusing on campus or academically.