Transferring Institutions

At the beginning, transferring to another institution may feel like an overwhelming task. We’ve broken down the process into steps to make it more manageable:

**Step 1. Talk to your current advisor:**
If transferring is something you are considering, schedule a meeting with your current engineering advisor. He/she can help you assess your current situation and begin to formulate a plan.

**Step 2. Consider what is important to you:**
We’ve included some considerations below, but it is not an exhaustive list. Spend some time now to consider what aspects of campus you value most. Make sure to remember these items as you explore institutions.

- **Programs and Majors**: This is especially important if plan to pursue engineering
- **Campus Size**: Are you looking for a school similar in size to UW? Smaller? Larger?
- **Location**: There are many considerations including population of city, weather, public transportation, cost of living, and proximity to family and friends.
- **Campus Life**: How do your interests align to what’s available for student organizations, undergraduate research, career services, athletics, and more.
- **Student Support Resources**: These include academic and non-academic resources such as tutoring, career services, study abroad. You may want to specifically look at career placement information for graduates.
- **Transfer Credits**: You may wish to consider how your UW-Madison coursework will transfer to a different institution and should consult with the campus, as UW-Madison is not involved with these equivalencies.
- **Cost of Attendance**: Tuition, housing and financial aid are other factors to consider for each institution.

**Step 3. Learn more about institutions of interest:**

- **University of Wisconsin-System**: The UW-System has 26 campuses. Use the UW-System Majors Cheat Sheet to find the right campus for your interests. You can also review the each campus’s catalog online and learn more about how credits transfer across UW-System campuses.

- **Outside University of Wisconsin-System**: If looking for institutions with engineering programs, it is important to make sure they are accredited by ABET (an organization that accredits college and university programs in the disciplines of applied science, computing, engineering, and engineering technology at the associate, bachelor, and master degree levels). The ABET website has a search tool to help you find accredited programs nationwide.

**Step 4. Get Ready!**
Every school is different. Take time to learn about the institutions you are considering, including their transfer application process. Visiting their admissions website is a good place to start. Note the transfer application requirements and deadlines and contact their admissions’ office with any follow up questions. Some schools have designated transfer coordinators to help your through the process.

**Step 5. Visit Campus**
If this is an option for you, visiting campuses can be helpful in the decision-making process. Make sure it feels like the right place for you and your interests! Can’t arrange an in-person visit? Look for ways to explore virtually via their website and social media.

**Step 6. Apply for Admission**
Follow the institution’s admissions guidelines and deadlines. When required, you can order your UW-Madison official transcripts through this link: https://ordertranscript.wisc.edu/
Other Considerations:

- Depending on the institution, you may be able to transfer credits/coursework from UW-Madison. This will depend on your future institution’s requirements and is a process they manage (UW-Madison is not involved). The UW-System has an online database of **pre-approved course equivalences**.

- On some campuses, transfer students are required to take placement tests ahead of registration; consult with the institution to learn more about this.

- Most institutions offer special programming for new transfer students. Participating in these programs will give you access to helpful information and resources and connect you with your peers, advisors, and faculty.

Resources:

- **UW System Transfer Information**: [https://www.wisconsin.edu/transfer/](https://www.wisconsin.edu/transfer/)

- **UW-System Majors Cheat Sheet**: [http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/publications/Majors_Matrix.pdf](http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/publications/Majors_Matrix.pdf)

- **UW System Campus Catalogs**: [http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/majors/catalogs.aspx](http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/majors/catalogs.aspx)

- **UW-System Transfer Wizards/Tools**: [https://www.wisconsin.edu/transfer/transfer-tools/](https://www.wisconsin.edu/transfer/transfer-tools/)