



INTRO & TABLE  
OF CONTENTS PREVIEW

*Transfer to the College of Your Choice*

*THE*  
TRANSFER  
BOOK

Chris Goodmacher & Lan Ngo

# **The Transfer Book**

By Chris Goodmacher & Lan Ngo

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## As Seen In



## Praise for The Transfer Book

### Our favorite letter

*Hi Guys,*

*...please allow me to tell you how great great great The Transfer Book effort is. I was thrilled to discover it online, I have enjoyed reading and re-reading it, and I have certainly profited from it...*

*Our nephew, who is a senior at (top national university), confirmed your comments on their high transfer rate... (As hard as he worked and as qualified as he was to get into to [top national university], I would never have broached this with him.)*

*Frankly, I wouldn't have thought that our son (a freshman at [small local state school]... a true late bloomer who is academically [sic] blowing it out of the park this year--FINALLY!!!) would be remotely eligible to transfer there.*

*But, because of The Transfer Book, he will be applying there.*

*He went to (public high school), and was consistently in the bottom quarter of his class. Lots of extracurriculars, loved by everyone, integrity and honor, great all-round kid, captain of the tennis team, etc. Just not "there" in the maturity*

*category... though blooming did begin late Junior year. The classic upward trajectory.*

*John's SATS were 1300, so we knew that though not yet ignited, he was capable of more. Fortunately, the scores were high enough for him to apply and be accepted into to (small local state school's) honors program. With 15 hours behind him at (small local state school), his GPA is a 4.3.*

*He intends to double major: history, political science, and he wants Rosetta Stone for Christmas to learn Arabic... because he thinks that it will be fun to learn it! Wow, who is this kid????*

*Because John's high school grades were weak (2.6 freshman year, 3.2 Senior year) and the college counselor never spent much time with us, I am especially grateful for your "partnership" and edification.*

*Best to you both!,  
Jane*

*I have printed and bound The Transfer Book and consult it regularly as a reference book.*

*I have told A LOT of parents (and freshman students) about your book.*

*I do hope that you have enormous success. The Transfer Book contains valuable information and is an exceptional service to any student considering transferring. And it is highly illuminating for a parent who knows next to nothing about what it takes to be a good transfer candidate.*

## **And the follow up**

*Hey Chris,*

*I am writing you before I even write my brothers!  
John just got in UNC today...*

*we absolutely believe that you guided us.*

## **More praise**

*iGrad.com Winner, one of the Best College Blogs, 2010-11*

*"[The Transfer Book] contains information that students need to know. You have done a great job with it! ... In the years I have spent advising college transfer students, I have seen some changes, but you are right, there is nothing out there specifically to help them."*

—Dr. Michelle Aheron, Director, Student Services, Wake Technical Community College, Raleigh, NC

*"Considering the fact that 20% of students who start at one university end up at another, you'll want to make sure you check out [The Transfer Book]."*

—Rick Lyons, Publisher of Honor Student Magazine

*"Speaking as a transfer student and someone who has referenced those other sources, I can attest to the helpfulness of this book and website. I find it a shame that it wasn't published only a few months earlier to help me when I was going through the entire process."*

—Hannah Haas, a successful transfer student now at Furman University

*As I started my transfer application process, I came across an extremely helpful site called The Transfer Book. Their website provides first-hand testimonies, essays, and advice for transfer applicants... As I embarked on this crazy yet perfect journey as I now see it, I kept finding myself to be reading up on their book. The book not only details the transfer process but provides so many personal accounts of students who transferred. At first, I felt extremely alone but after reading this, as cheesy as it sounds, I feel that I can do it... as I work my way through this book, I am starting to believe in something... This is a decision for me and me only. I am doing it because I know what I lack in my current education and I know what I am looking for. I want to learn. I want to be pushed to my limits and strive for something I never imagined I could reach.*

—Fang-hua, a student applying to transfer for Fall 2012 (excerpted from her blog with permission)

*This book, which was written by transfer students for transfer students, provides the tools and information needed in order to have the college success you've always dreamed of.*

—Eric, transferred from Santa Monica College to Cornell University

*The Transfer Book is so essential for anyone considering transferring to a different school. No matter what your situation is, this book can provide insights you will find incredibly useful... The Transfer Book gives you real experiences first hand, and will guide you as you begin your transition to a different college.*

—Tanya Sperling, transferred from John Tyler Community College to the College of William & Mary

*This is exactly the resource that transfer students need. Students looking to transfer should learn from others who have gone through the process themselves. I'm glad that someone finally put this together!*

—Christina, transferred from College of DuPage to University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

*I scoured the internet for the best information on how to transfer to my top choice schools. The Transfer Book is by far the best resource out there on transferring. The real-life sample essays alone are worth it!*

—Jennifer, transferred from Pasadena City College to UC Berkeley

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# Foreword

With all of the hype surrounding college admissions in the past few years, the increasingly large number of transfer applicants feels like an oddly forgotten multitude. Recent data from 2003-4 shows that about half of all American college seniors transferred at some point.<sup>1</sup> Many of those students started at a community college, but one in four students that start at a four-year school actually end up transferring.<sup>2</sup> So whether you're looking at transferring from a community college or a four-year school, you're far from alone. There are about 19 million students in college right now, and millions of them will have transferred before they're done with their higher education.

Despite these numbers, however, there is almost *nothing* out there for students looking for advice and guidance about the transferring process, especially compared to the great mass of books on the shelves geared toward freshman applicants. Advice for students interested in transferring is—if we're lucky—sometimes given a page or two in the average college admissions guide.

This book is intended to demystify transferring. We cover every aspect of the transfer process, from making the decision (or not) to transfer, to deciding where you want to go, to putting together the best application possible, to finally making the adjustment to a new school. We cover both transferring from a community college to a four-year school and transferring from one four-year school to another. This was not too difficult, since we've found that the two processes have far more in common than not. We do, however, focus more on what is involved in transferring into the more selective schools, since everything tells us that if you know what it takes to transfer where the standards are the most demanding, you can calibrate your efforts to your own situation.

Both of us are recent graduates who have gone through the transfer process ourselves (Chris transferred to Dartmouth and Lan transferred to Stanford), and we've contacted literally hundreds of current and former students who have transferred, as well as dozens of college admissions officers and several education experts and writers. In addition, after we set up our blog on transferring ([www.thetransferbook.com/blog](http://www.thetransferbook.com/blog)), we began working with and following a number of college students each step of the way as they transferred. Most recently, Chris

started doing guest lectures on transfer students for a master's level class at Teachers College, Columbia University. This book consists of the best advice distilled from all of these sources and organized into the most straightforward step-by-step guide we could assemble, along with a selection of full-length interviews with students that have gone through the process of transferring (including, when possible, statistics for those students and, in certain cases, their actual essays).

When we were transferring, each of us was the only other person we knew of that was trying to transfer out of the school we were at. Increasing our isolation was the fact that four-year schools provide very little support for students who want advice on how to transfer out of them. Even at community colleges, which are geared toward sending students to other institutions, the quality of support can vary significantly. By the same token, schools that accept transfer students (most four-year colleges except for a few) often have limited resources devoted to transfer concerns. Stories of students being accepted to transfer only to discover that the advice they received from a harried admissions or registration staff member about their credits was incorrect are still too common. Perhaps most unfortunate of all is the fact that many schools, even some of the best, have only the most limited orientation or transition services for transfer students when they arrive. These are some of the particular difficulties transfer students face, and some of the reasons why we think this book is so necessary.

Despite some of the difficulties one might encounter while transferring, so many students—us included—have found transferring to be one of the best decisions they ever made. Students who may not have been accepted by their first choice school the first time around have a second chance to make their dream come true; students who want to save money can go to a community college and then transfer to a great school, earning the same degree as the next guy with half the tuition bill; and students who find their first school a poor fit—or just not what they expected—can go someplace where they may be much happier. Transferring can be a truly wonderful experience.

For many students, the decision to transfer may be the first major life decision they truly make on their own. The point, however, is that you're not alone. As we said at the top, half of all college students transfer at some point, and that amounts to

literally millions of students. We hope that this book helps you make your decision about transferring, and if you do decide to transfer, helps you execute that decision in the best way possible.

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P.S. Once you go through this book and the transfer process, please, please let us know how things went. Did the book help you, and how? How can we improve it? In particular, we're always looking for new transfer stories to feature in the book. Send us an email at the address above. To the extent this book is valuable and useful, it's only because people like you have generously offered their experiences and advice. From us and all of the transfers that read future editions of this book, thanks in advance!