Abstract

System Students in Transition

According to (Bailey, 2003) students move in all directions. By 1992, 22 percent had moved on to at least one other institution. Palmer’s study showed student movement in all directions: traditional transfer (two-year college to four-year college), reverse transfer (four-year college to two-year college), and lateral transfer (two-year to two-year, four-year to four-year, etc.). (Muse, 2012) found similar transfer percentages and he agreed there are a similar variety of transfer scenarios that exist.

This project sought to understand the transition experiences of university system students, i.e., students who transferred from within university systems. Specifically these students transferred from smaller campuses to the larger flagship campus(s). There in might lay the beginning of the transition experience.

This research project studied students at the University of South Carolina (USC). These students transferred from the smaller system campuses to the much larger flagship campus in Columbia, South Carolina. By examining the transition experiences of these students this study hoped to begin understanding the larger realm of students experiencing similar progressions.