

# **The *Unofficial* Guide for Community College Students Transferring to Stanford University**

What type of transfer student is Stanford looking for?

Stanford is looking for either gems, diamonds-in-the-rough, amazing transformations (typically non-traditional students who have turned their lives around), or for Stanford University "look-alikes" (students who seem like Stanford's indigenous students).

Who is the typical Stanford transfer student?

It is important to note that Stanford transfer students come from all over the world, not just from California community colleges. Community college transfers comprise a small percentage of the transfer students admitted. *The majority of transfer students admitted come from institutions like Harvard, UC Berkeley and other highly competitive institutions.* The following chart demonstrates the transfer admit rate for the past several years:

<b>Entry Year</b>	<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>Total Admits</b>	<b>Admit Rate</b>	<b>CC Applications</b>	<b>CC Admits</b>	<b>Admit Age Range</b>
2001	1213	131	10.8%	320	18	16-44
2000	1217	113	9.3%	326	20	15-53
1999*	1302	29	2.2%	357	9	18-39
1998	1333	125	9.4%	368	15	17-54
1997	1226	173	14.1%	344	19	17-41

**\*Lack of transfer admit spaces due to unusually high number of freshmen admitted.**

NOTE: For 2002, transfer admit numbers will be reduced to 81 because building renovations will reduce available housing.

Admissions Appeals:

There is no appeals process for students who receive letters of denial. All denied students are asked to sign an "Accepting the Deny" document.

Keep the following in mind when developing an IEP for prospective Stanford students....

- Stanford does not maintain articulation agreements with any institution.
- Stanford does not admit students by major; however, students are expected to have a demonstrated passion for their field.

- There are no impacted majors at Stanford.
- IGETC is highly recommended as the general education preparation plan.
- Honors courses (and other courses that demonstrate very challenging work) are viewed favorably by admissions officers. Students are still expected to earn high marks in honors sections, though!
- High-level reading remains the biggest challenge for transfer students. Students should prepare for the large amount and high caliber of reading required.
- Student essays are read in the context of their personal background.
- Stanford does not conduct interviews with prospective students.
- Preference is given to community college students from California over community college transfers from other states.

#### Test Scores and other Academic Requirements

- SAT/ACT scores must be submitted
- Transfer students do not need a high school diploma or GED in order to be eligible for admission.
- English Language Requirement: More rigid than in the past. Stanford will not use AP scores anymore to place out of the writing and rhetoric requirement.

#### The Importance of Extracurricular Activities

Admissions personnel look for breadth in a student's background. At Stanford, it is important to have balance beyond academics. "Excess Capacity" is the term Stanford uses in assessing students. They look for demonstrated excellence beyond the classroom (i.e. sports, relevant work experience, family, dance, etc.) The push to achieve should be a result of internal desire, not external pressures.

#### Letters of Recommendation: Of Vital Importance!

The letters of recommendation play a very important part of the admissions picture. Letters from faculty should be real and not carbon-copy letters sent to Stanford before. Writers should be *specific* about the student's skills. The Admissions Office realizes that every student cannot be "the best". What makes your applicant stand out? If the letter indicates an outstanding student, but the grades/activities do not reflect this level of excellence, the reviewers will not be swayed (unless the writer outlines some significant reasons for the record). It is appropriate to personalize the letter with supplemental notes that indicate reservations or extreme enthusiasm for the candidate (i.e. post-it note that states, "This is the best student I have had in my calculus class for the past 10 years." "This is the one for you!").

NOTE: Letters from high school teachers are not afforded much priority for transfer students.

### Homeschooled Students

These students present a real challenge to admissions officials. Stanford does accept some homeschooled students. For these students, Stanford typically relies more on test scores because of the difficulty in obtaining objective evaluations. Stanford prefers homeschooled students to have successful completion of some community colleges courses under their belt before applying.

### Some Interesting Facts

At Stanford University, transfer students tend to graduate with the highest honors, utilize campus resources more, and represent a vocal group of active students.

P.A.E. (Partners for Academic Excellence) is a transition group providing assistance, resources and support for Stanford transfer students.

The university discourages transfer students from living off-campus. Stanford guarantees on-campus housing for all students, including families.

Denial rate: 80% of freshmen applicants are denied. 90% of transfer applicants are denied.

[Source: Joan Lippman, Associate Dean of Admission and Director of Transfer Admissions, Stanford University (from a discussion at Foothill College on 2.8.02)]