We are often asked by prospective transfer students: “What do I really need to be competitive for admission to a major in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) at the University of Florida?”

For the past several years in an effort to help answer that question, we have listed our minimum admission criteria for consideration to all of our majors on our website so that the transfer process will be less mysterious for students. Our website now has a “new look” which we hope will make it even easier to find the information you need for specific majors with just one click at:

advising.ufl.edu/admissions/transfer-admissions/

Each year CLAS receives over 2000 applications from transfer students from across the state, around the country and the world. Due to space limitations, we cannot admit every student who applies. But our acceptance rate of transfer students has actually increased over the past several years in large part we think because students are able to determine exactly what they need and plan accordingly well before applying for admission. This past year we admitted 44 percent of the transfer students who applied to CLAS majors.

While some of our majors are still over-enrolled (e.g., biology, psychology) which is why you will notice it is much more competitive to be admitted to these majors, we have many great related majors that do not have the same space limitations and that can be great choices for students. We encourage you to not be afraid to think outside the box when thinking about majors—think about majoring in something you enjoy and in which you would do well. Sometimes majors that are a little off the beaten path can even help you “stand out.” Employers tell us they don’t hire majors, they hire people—students who have done well academically and have good skills such as leadership potential, teamwork skills, written communication skills, problem-solving, and a strong work ethic.
Welcome to the 8th edition of the Transfer Times newsletter, produced by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Florida! It is hard for me to believe we’ve already produced this many Fall-Spring newsletters. Once again, as we have in the past, we’re sending this out to let our state college partners know about some of what’s new here at UF. For example, we’re constantly looking for ways to recognize and reward our outstanding transfer students—and this edition highlights the new “Dean’s Medal” for transfer students who undertake a broad range of coursework and experiential learning.

But while we love highlighting the new, sometimes there’s virtue in repeating the old! So I want to take a moment to remind you that the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is home to more than forty undergraduate majors. Many of these are far less well-known to prospective transfer applicants, but represent exciting and rewarding opportunities for study. Each one offers a range of unique opportunities for students, and can serve as a launching pad for a variety of career paths. Inside this edition of the Transfer Times, you’ll learn more about the incredible variety of programs, and I hope you’ll encourage prospective transfer students to consider the roads less taken at UF. They’ll be glad they did!

As always, please do not ever hesitate to contact our office if there is anything we can do to assist you or if you have any feedback for us. I am proud to work with an incredibly conscientious and student-centered transfer team, and you’ll find them to be a terrific resource.

Joe Spillane, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Student Affairs
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

We are “on the move again.” After a six-month renovation project of the Academic Advising Center (Farrior Hall) we are back in our newly renovated space for students and academic advisors.

If you are visiting the UF campus, we hope that you will stop and visit at 205 Fletcher Drive.
Transitioning as a Non-Traditional Transfer Student  
by Shana Call

I applied to the University of Florida after thirteen successful years in the workforce, but I had my doubts. I knew how to get to my career goal but starting over after all this time would prove to be a challenge! I was accepted Summer 2015, and I decided to become an on campus full time transfer student. As a wife and mother of three, I knew it wasn’t going to be easy, but I knew it would be worth it in the end.

Transitioning from the workforce into college helped prepare me for things some traditional college students might struggle with. I had excellent time management skills that helped me schedule my classes, study time, and extracurricular activities. I was self aware and knew what my strengths were, how to be an asset in a group, and how to cultivate my passions. I was motivated to take full advantage of every resource available to me on campus and online. I took my education very seriously and knew this experience could put me in touch with a network of people who would have an impact on my future.

I stayed focused but found that even though there weren’t many students my age on campus, the network of support was still there. Professors were encouraging, students accepting, and organizations welcoming. I was inducted into Tau Sigma and became the Professional Development and Networking Chair. This position allows me to share skills acquired in the workforce to help my fellow students become more prepared for their future. I also have a rewarding internship with Children Beyond our Borders as their Volunteer Coordinator. My strengths in organization, time management, and teamwork have also been an asset in my position. These organizations have encouraged me to involve my family in fundraisers, social events, and workshops. The inclusivity both my family and I have felt reminds me that my decision to become an on campus non traditional transfer student was the right one.

I will graduate in Spring 2017, and I can honestly say I’m sad to see it end. I’m excited to begin my career, and I feel I am well prepared for what lies ahead. In the words of Rita Pierson, “I was somebody when I came, and I will be a better somebody when I leave.”

Shana Call  
English major  
Florida Teaching minor  
Class of 2017
International Studies began as a stand-alone undergraduate major in 2011 and since then has become one of the fastest growing majors in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and at the University of Florida. This major offers an interdisciplinary approach allowing students to choose international-related courses offered by a multitude of departments and faculty on campus.

While students must declare one of five regional tracks (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and Caribbean, or the Middle East) and develop foreign language skills specific to that track, the range of courses from which to choose allow students the flexibility to pursue different areas of interest such as global health, the environment and sustainability, international politics and conflict, global culture, media and the arts, and the international economy and development.

International Studies is also a major that promotes diverse learning experiences and students are therefore strongly encouraged to pursue a study abroad opportunity, though it is not required, to complete the major. There are also opportunities for students to pursue internships or other relevant experiences that in some instances can help meet academic requirements.

Prospective transfer students should complete the following at their current college or university to be competitive applicants for admission to this major:

Complete two of the following: INR 2001 (international relations), REL 2300 (world religions), GEA 1000 (world geography) or the equivalents AND a beginning level foreign language sequence (preferably a language of the region of the world in which you wish to focus at UF if offered at your current institution).

In addition to the above, prospective students should complete 3 additional courses from the following list: any non-American history, ANT 2410 (cultural anthropology), ARH 2050, ARH 2051 (art history), CPO 2001 (comparative politics), ECO 2013 (macroeconomics), ECO 2023 (microeconomics), GEO 2500 (social geography), LAS 2001 (Latin American Studies), LIT 2110, LIT 2120 (world literature), SYG 2000 (principles of sociology).

For additional information about the International Studies major, see: http://intstudies.program.ufl.edu/
Transfer Student Spotlight: Sociology Major Making a Difference with His Research

Byllingston Jean, a senior majoring in sociology at UF, is the first person in his family to attend college. Growing up in Ft. Lauderdale after arriving in the U.S. from Haiti at the age of three, he attended a high school with very few college bound students or opportunities for students interested in college. But he was inspired by his grand-father who worked hard to pave the way for family members to come to the United States. Byllingston now hopes to inspire his siblings and cousins to follow in his footsteps.

As a student at Santa Fe College, Byllingston fell in love with the study of sociology which he felt helped him to embrace both his culture and his community. But it was after transferring to UF and after his own early academic struggles followed by his acceptance as a McNair Scholar http://mcnair.aa.ufl.edu/ that he was inspired to conduct his current research answering the question: Does Early Diagnosis of a Reading Disorder Impact College Success? His findings have indeed determined that being diagnosed by the third grade positively impacts GPA, certain test scores, college acceptances and academic confidence. He has presented his research findings at multiple national conferences and panels over the past year and is currently looking into PhD programs in counseling that will allow him to continue his education and goal of working with at-risk students through counseling and intervention programs.

Byllingston is currently involved in several mentor programs for at-risk youth in Gainesville while finishing up his research and undergraduate degree. Stay tuned! Byllingston has only just scratched the surface in his educational pursuits and in empowering at-risk youth while giving back to his community!