

<p style="text-align: center;">THE KEYS TO FIRST SEMESTER SUCCESS FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS TWO STEPS AHEAD</p>

- A manageable first semester unit load is 15 units for non-working students and 12 units for those who work 20 hours or more each week. **DON'T OVERLOAD UNITS DURING YOUR FIRST SEMESTER.** The following suggestions will give you many options from which to choose.
- Determine if you are General Education (GE) certified. Certification means that you have completed the appropriate GE requirements for transfer to the CSU from an accredited public college or university in California. There are three GE certification processes; "Transfer to CSU," the Intersegmental GE Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) plans for transfer to the UC or CSU and or CSU Certification Plan for students transferring from one CSU to another.
- GE certified students need only take the nine upper division units (three classes) of GE to fulfill their upper division General Education requirements depending on students' particular GE pattern. However, all transfer students must take the US History and US Constitution, California State and local government graduation requirement.
- Certified or not, transfer students can "fill in the holes" in their GE pattern with the three upper division courses needed to complete their GE pattern. Non-certified students will discover any missing GE courses when they receive their Degree Analysis from Enrollment Services. A good first semester choice for transfer students is at least one upper division GE course to fill in a category deficiency.
- Know the difference between Transferability and Equivalency. *Transferred* course credits are applicable toward a baccalaureate or graduate degree. They are from an accredited educational institution and are at the baccalaureate level (no high school, remedial, or vocational-technical level). They may or may not be equivalent to CSULB courses. *Equivalent* courses are those CSULB has articulated or are determined by the Articulation Office or the major department to be equivalent.
- Some upper division General Education courses can overlap upper division major requirements and thus fulfill two different requirements at the same time. Discuss how to do this with advisors in the Academic Advising Center, special program advising offices or in your major department. Find an overlap GE/major course if it is appropriate.
- Find an exciting upper division (300-499) major course. If you have already had the lower division (100-299) major prerequisites. At least one upper division major requirement course is a great first semester choice.
- Upper division electives provide your best opportunity to open doors to new educational experiences. Be brave! Explore diverse cultures, "old" histories, and new technologies. Choose and exciting upper division elective course.