Transfer Student Focus Group Questions

**Welcome and Introductions**

*Informal introductions as students login to Zoom. Start taking down student names. Make sure audio and camera are working.*

Hi everyone – thanks so much for joining us today to talk about your educational journey and transfer experience to XXX. Before we get started, let me tell you a bit about myself and this project. My name is XXX and I’m working closely with a team of staff across XXX to help them identify any improvements to the student transition process across colleges and transfer opportunities like the one you participated in.

During our time together, I am planning to ask you all a series of questions about your [dual enrollment, interest in transfer, transfer, transfer program] experience with XXX. Since we have a group of you here on the Zoom line, I hope we can all take turns sharing and participating in the conversation. Since we all have our cameras on, you will see me taking quite a few notes.

To be clear, your specific responses will be completely anonymized, and your name will not be shared in my follow up notes back to XXX. I hope this will let you be as candid and real in your responses, as possible.

Does this all make sense? Do you have any questions?

Alright. I’ve done a lot of talking. So with that, let’s get started!

**Educational History**

*My first few questions are around your current and past educational experience.*

1. What school are currently enrolled and where have you previously attended?
   1. Student 1:
   2. Student 2:
   3. Student 3:
2. What degree or program are you currently pursuing?
   1. Student 1:
   2. Student 2:
   3. Student 3:
3. Are you currently enrollment full-time or part-time?
   1. Student 1:
   2. Student 2:
   3. Student 3:
4. What types of formal transfer or dual enrollment programs you have you participated in, if any?
   1. Student 1:
   2. Student 2:
   3. Student 3:
5. Have you already earned any type of degree or certificate?
   1. Student 1:
   2. Student 2:
   3. Student 3:

**Transfer Motivations**

*Next, I want to better understand why you initially started at a community college and then selected XXX as a transfer destination.*

1. Tell me a bit more about why you decided to initially attend your community college/transferring institution.
   1. Student 1:
   2. Student 2:
   3. Student 3:
2. When did you first think about transferring to a four-year university (e.g. always intended to transfer, after starting at community college) and why were you first interested in transferring (e.g. needed bachelor’s degree, change or pursuit of career, friends/family attended, location, financial reasons, admission issues)?
   1. Student 1:
   2. Student 2:
   3. Student 3:
3. Did any of you originally apply to XXX for your freshman year of college? If YES – What happened and/or why didn’t you go?
   1. Student 1:
   2. Student 2:
   3. Student 3:
4. Why did you select XXX over other schools where you applied? E.g. location/distance from home, cost, # of credits that would transfer, ease of transfer process, better academic reputation, better fit or feel on campus, program options.
   1. Student 1:
   2. Student 2:
   3. Student 3:

**Transfer Experience / Process**

*My next set of questions is about your experience exploring transfer or dual enrollment opportunities at XXX.*

1. Tell me about your transfer experience – what went well, what didn’t, was anything surprising or challenging? Please provide as much detail as possible.
   1. Student 1:
   2. Student 2:
   3. Student 3:
2. How did you know what classes to take at your community college/transferring institution?
   1. Student 1:
   2. Student 2:
   3. Student 3:
3. Did you have any issues transferring credit to XXX?
   1. Student 1:
   2. Student 2:
   3. Student 3:
4. What resources from XXX and your community college/transferring institution (e.g. websites, materials) or individuals (e.g. advisor, faculty, staff) were most helpful during your transfer process or initial exploration?
   1. Student 1:
   2. Student 2:
   3. Student 3:
5. Would you encourage others to follow the same transfer path you did – why or why not?
   1. Student 1:
   2. Student 2:
   3. Student 3:

**OPTIONAL – Transfer Credit**

1. How many credits were you able to transfer to XXX?
2. When did you find out how many credits would transfer to XXX (e.g. before application, with admission decision, at registration, after classes started)?
3. How did you explore the question of transferring credits (e.g. talked to advisor/counselor, checked website, used transfer guide or articulation agreement)?
4. How did the number of credits that transferred compare with your expectations (e.g. more or less than expected)?
5. Did you select specific classes at your previous school to ensure they would transfer to XXX?