Transfer Connections **Student Success Initiative (SSI)**

### What are the SSI?

These are guided conversations that we require for one of your meeting times with your group of mentees. These should occur in a one on one setting at the following times:
- **Fall transfer mentees**: Monthly 1 on 1s; September-November
- **Winter transfer mentees**: Monthly 1 on 1s; January-March

### How are Transfer Mentors supposed to use the SSI with their mentees?

- **Mentors are expected to coach** each mentee through their adaptation, involvement and in reaching goals they've identified for their first semester. The action plan helps you do this easily and effectively and provide an important balance to the social-based programs we offer.

- **Each month has a different focus!** These can guide your mentee meetings; try to use them especially during times you meet/speak 1 on 1 with them.

### What are the expected outcomes?

As a result of SSI your mentees will create a practical plan for success in any academic department with your support, you will have a record of their progress and the ability to refer to their specific monthly goal.

### How to Effectively use the SSI: A Step by Step Guide: Part 1

- After each your initial meeting with your mentees, offer to work with them to develop an action plan for the next month to guide the mentee’s first semester at U-M. SSI offers a unique peer-peer way to help students identify their transitional goals.

- The themed, guided discussions are there help you be a good coach and mentor!

- **The 3 action plans are in the form of Mentee Interviews cover the following:**
  - Expectations of U-M
  - Campus Involvement
  - Mid-semester goals and academic success
  - Semester self-evaluation and plans for Winter Semester
SSI action plans are tailored to supplement each interview. This sheet contains a series of questions that ask the student to think about the topics that you just discussed with them. It asks them to think about where they see themselves as part of the campus community and where they would like to be at the end of the semester. These questions should be used to guide further conversations between the mentor and mentee.

When the questions have been discussed, work with the mentee to fill in the goals and steps that the mentee will take to reach those goals. Help the mentee be both realistic and detailed about the goals they commit to. For example: if a student had a 2.5 GPA the statement “I plan to make at least a 3.0 in all of my classes by the end of the semester” is far better than “I plan to get a 4.0” or “I want to get better grades”. So the goal is to get a 3.0, but how? Come up with action plan that includes steps they will take to reach those goals. Again, specifics and how reasonable these steps are is the key to success.

This manual contains academic resources that may be helpful in helping student success. Go over the resources with the mentee to help them decide which resources best meet their needs. Use your knowledge of campus in providing any additional resource you may think is helpful.

Your most important role is listening, taking notes and initiating discussion.

Follow-up with the progress the student is making with their action plan by e-mail and through subsequent conversations. Keep track of what mentees discuss and are interested in exploring.

Encourage but DO NOT insist! The SSI is a resource for your mentees, but do not sacrifice your relationship with the student just so they will fill out an action plan. Judge the student’s willingness to talk about an issue or share information. If the mentee does not fulfill their goals or finds the goals too out of reach, it is OK. Simply have them fill out a new action plan or modify the one they have by both of you setting reachable goals.
Transfer Mentee Interview: First Meeting (SEPTEMBER)

Adaptation, Involvement and Academics

Use this page as a guideline for asking questions. Use the next page to take notes.

I. Mentor-Mentee Conversation Warm-Up

- Explain why you became a mentor and what your role is.
- Describe benefits of being involved on campus & leadership opportunities
- Discuss the transitions and differences between high school and college
- Discuss time management between homework, involvement, work, social life (etc)

II. How have you adapted to campus life?

Consider Asking:
- Why did you choose to come to U-M?
- What do you think of U-M so far?
- How do you like your residence hall/place you live?
- What was the most difficult thing about coming from another university? What was the easiest?

Resources available: M planner | Campus Map | Residence Hall activities | Magic Bus Website: http://mbus.pts.umich.edu/arrivals/routeView.php

III. What are you involved in so far?

Consider Asking:
- Did you attend Festifall?
- What activities or student organizations interest you?
- Are there activities I can do that you would be interested in (suggest some).
- I’m involved in _______ and found out about it through ______________

Resources available: Maize Pages (http://uuis.umich.edu/maizepgs/) | Center for Campus Involvement

IV. How do you define success in college?

Consider Asking:
- Describe your study habits at your previous institution. How do you think they will change?
- What was the easiest thing about your past institution? What was most difficult?
- What was the classroom environment like there, and how is it different from UM?
- What is your major?
- Tell me about your classes, are you taking any courses in your major? If so, what are they?
- What are your academic goals for this semester? Do you have a plan to make that happen?
- What courses do you think you will do well in or find more difficult? (Encourage the use of academic labs or programs on campus)
- Do you know about C-Tools? Have you considered utilizing a tutor? Why? Why not?

Transfer Mentee Interview: First Meeting (SEPTEMBER)

Adaptation, Involvement and Academics

*Use this page to take notes.*

*How have your mentees adapted to college life (1-2 examples)?*

*What organizations or groups are they involved in so far, or interested in finding out about?*

*What impression do they have about academic life at Michigan? What transition issues, if any, have they expressed?*

*What academic goals have they identified? What steps will they take this month to achieve these goals?*
Transfer Mentee Interview: Second Meeting (OCTOBER)

Academic Success, Transition, Campus Life

Use this page as a guideline for asking questions. Use the next page to take notes.

I. How do you feel about your courses so far?

Consider Asking: Tell me about your classes – which are difficult, which are interesting?
Are you meeting your academic goals? Why? Why not?
Have you utilized a tutor or study group?
Have you met with your academic advisor?
Have you talked with any of your professors or used their office hours?
Do we need to adjust your action plan?

Resources Available: Review Mentee’s action plan from September
M-Planner section on time management
Handout on Academic Support
http://academicsupport.umich.edu/
Your opinion on the good places to study on campus
Last day to drop or withdraw is:_____________________

II. How have you adjusted to the pace of UM?

Consider Asking: How safe do you feel on campus – any concerns?
How late are your classes?
How stressful have you found U-M? How do you manage your stress?
Do you know about the recreation and sports facilities on campus?

III. What have your other out-of-classroom experiences been like?

Consider Asking: How are you and your roommate(s) getting along? (If applicable)
Have you made some friends in your hall/unit (If applicable)?
Are there students or staff you feel comfortable going to for assistance?
Are there university faculty/staff you feel comfortable going to for assistance?

IV. Are you involved in any campus activities?

Consider Asking: What organizations have you become involved with on campus?
Have you considered the ones recommended during our last session?
why/why not?
How has your membership helped you personally and academically?
What activities have you participated in?
What activities would you like to participate in or have interest in?

Resources Available: Maize pages (http://uuis.umich.edu/maizepgs/), Mentorship/Transfer Connections first summer Workshop (Oct 29)
Transfer Mentee Interview: Second Meeting (OCTOBER)

Academic Success, Transition, Campus Life

Use this page to take notes.

What aspects of their action plan have the mentees kept/adjusted? Have they met their own expectations?

Have any health or safety concerns been voiced?

Has their impression about academic life at Michigan changed or stayed the same? What concerns, if any, did they express?

Do you have the impression that your mentees have taken responsibility to address/solve their own problems or are they very reliant on others for decisions?
Transfer Mentee Interview: Third Meeting (NOVEMBER)

Academic Success, Career, Self-Responsibility

Use this page as a guideline for asking questions. Use the next page to take notes.

I. How have you progressed academically? (examples)
Consider Asking:
- How were your Midterms?
- How do you manage your time? Are you doing this wisely?
- Have you met with your advisor?
- How are you preparing for finals?
- What are your second semester academic goals?
- How will you go about achieving your goals?

Resources:
- M Planner
- Academic Advising | Sweetland Writing Center
- Transfer Connections skill-building workshops

II. Are there any health concerns you wish to share?
Consider Asking:
- How do you feel? Are you feeling overwhelmed?
- How stressful have you found U-M? How do you manage your stress?

Resources:
- UHS | CAPS | SSD | Mentorship/Transfer Connections Stressbusters event

III. How are you preparing for Winter Semester?
Consider Asking:
- What are your Winter semester plans?
- Are you preparing your Winter class schedule?
- Are you exploring options for internships for the summer?
- Are you exploring leadership opportunities for next semester/next year?

IV. Have you thought about summer internships or a career path?
Consider Asking:
- How confident are you in your choice of major?
- Have you been to the Career Center?
- Have you explored what type of job opportunities there are for people with your major?
- What activities do you need to experience in college to help you prepare for your career?

Resources Available:
- Career Center | Academic Advising
Transfer Mentee Interview: Third Meeting (NOVEMBER)

Academic Success, Career, Self-Responsibility

*Use this page* to take notes.

What aspects of their action plan have the mentees kept/adjusted? Have they met their own expectations?

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Has their impression about academic life at Michigan changed or stayed the same? What concerns, if any, did they express?

Plan to continue group communication during winter semester: