Frequently Asked Questions: Resource Guide

Participation in the Program

1. What is the Freshman Transition Program?
   An opportunity for students who were not admitted in the fall semester due to space limitations to take community college classes on Towson University’s (TU) campus that are taught by Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) instructors during off-hours.

2. Why was I selected to participate?
   Your admission application demonstrated that you would be successful in this program, given your current academic record. This program will give you the opportunity to be admitted to TU as early as the spring semester.

3. What do I need to do if I want to participate?
   Mail your participation agreement along with the $300 fee to TU. Once the agreement has been received, a confirmation email will be sent to the student with instructions to request housing online. If you are required to complete placement testing (your letter will indicate whether you need placement testing), register [here](#).

Placement Testing (Do not contact the TU Placement Testing Office)

4. Is there a deadline for math placement testing?
   Yes, placement testing begins in late March and concludes in early April. Register for placement testing [here](#). Seating is limited, so make sure you sign up now!

5. Do I have to complete math placement testing before I submit my fee?
   While placement testing will determine your admission to the program and your course schedule, you do not need to complete placement testing before you submit your program and housing fee to TU.

6. What is the process for placement testing?
   There is an important Five Step Process that you must follow to be in compliance with the placement requirements for the Freshman Transition Program.
   - Register for Placement Testing (limited dates ending in mid-April);
   - Complete the ALEKS pre-registration process (at home on your own);
   - Take the Un-Proctored Practice Placement at home on your own without any assistance to ensure an accurate customized Prep and Learning Module;
   - Complete at least 3 hours of review and practice in your personalized Prep and Learning Module before the 1st Proctored Placement Assessment at TU on the date for which you registered;
   - Take the Proctored Placement Assessment at TU.

7. What will happen to my fee(s) if I do not meet minimum placement test results?
   Should you not be admitted because of your placement test results, you will be refunded your money. **Note: This is the only way you would be entitled to a refund. Otherwise, all fees are non-refundable.**

8. How do I know if I need to complete math placement testing?
Your invitation to participate will indicate whether or not you need to complete placement testing and if so, what areas marked by an X.

9. Can you use ACT scores, AP exam credit, or college-level credit to be exempted from placement testing?

Students can be exempt if they meet the following criteria:

1) SAT math score of 570 or higher;
2) ACT math score of 24 or higher;
3) Completion of college math credit with a grade of “C” or better.

If you believe you are exempt, please contact the Program Director with proof of exemption.

10. If I need to complete placement testing, can I take the test at my local community college?

All placement testing must be completed at TU in accordance with the five step process.

11. What if I already completed placement testing at my local community college?

If your scores are less than 2 years old, please contact the Program Director to determine if they can be used to place you.

12. How do I know if I meet the minimum placement testing requirements to participate?

Program staff will review your results in person after the test.

Housing

13. Do I have to live on campus?

No, but you are welcome to live on campus as long as you submit your housing request by the deadline.

14. If I miss the housing deadline, can I live in Paca or Tubman?

Unfortunately, university affiliated housing is not available due to how FTP students are billed and how their financial aid is processed.

15. Can I choose my roommate?

As long as the request is mutual, the Housing and Residence Life office will do their best to accommodate your request.

16. Will I be housed with another student in the program?

While it is possible that you will be housed with another student in the program due to your similar schedules, it is also possible that you will be housed with a TU freshman. Housing assignments are based on availability.

Scheduling

17. Will my AP exam credit, IB exam credit and/or college credits transfer?

Possibly, but in order to find out, you should check the Community College of Baltimore County’s website. TU will honor AP exam credit awarded by the community college. You should have your official score reports sent to the CCBC for the fall semester. After you complete the program, you should have your official score reports sent to TU to be evaluated. It is also important to send your AP and IB exam scores and unofficial college transcripts to the Program Advisor for scheduling purposes.

18. Do I get to choose my classes?
Class schedules are made by program staff for each student. Your class schedule will be based on your standardized test scores, placement test results, and any previous college credit including AP or IB exam credit, and information from your Academic Interest form. Be sure to have all official transcripts and score reports sent to the Community College of Baltimore County. Be sure to also have unofficial transcripts and score reports sent to the Program Advisor.

19. What kind of classes will I be taking?
   You will be enrolled in pre-requisite courses as needed (if required by placement testing) and/or general education courses. The course offerings are agreed on by TU and the Community College of Baltimore County. They will either meet pre-requisite requirements for college level courses and/or CORE requirements for most majors.

20. What are the average class sizes in the Freshman Transition Program?
   All classes average between 20-35 students. Most classes are less than 30, which allow for more personal interaction with your instructor.

21. Why are most of the classes at night?
   TU does not have the space to offer more classes during prime hours. This program exists because there is classroom availability after 5:00 PM, Monday-Thursday and after 2:00 PM on Fridays.

22. Why don’t I earn college credit for review courses?
   Developmental courses, or review courses are designed to review material that is necessary to be successful in college level courses. You do not earn credit for these courses because the material covered is not college level.

**Billing**

23. How does the billing process work?
   All of your charges for the Freshman Transition Program (excluding incidentals) will be paid to CCBC. You will receive one mailing by U.S. mail at your permanent address regarding your FTP Bill in mid-July. Further updates will be available online via your myCCBC SIMON account. Your bill will be due on August 1.Your bill will include tuition, fees, housing and meal plan expenses (if applicable).

24. What is the student service fee?
   The student service fee enables you to have access to all university facilities and resources, to receive student support on TU’s campus, and to participate in campus activities, clubs, and events.

25. Are there payment plans?
   Yes, CCBC offers a monthly payment plan. You can set up a payment plan after your schedule is ready in mid-June.

**Financial Aid**

26. How does financial aid work for the program?
By law, you can only receive financial aid from one school. For this program, you are enrolled in classes with the Community College of Baltimore County, so your financial aid will be processed and subject to CCBC’s policies and procedures.

27. What is financial aid and how do I apply?

Financial aid includes grants, scholarships, and loans. In order to receive financial aid, you will have to complete the Free Application for Student Federal Aid (FASFA) and add the CCBC school code, 002063. Once you complete your FASFA, a Student Aid Report (SAR) will be generated and sent to CCBC. Your financial aid award will be determined by your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Your EFC is calculated based on the information you put on your FASFA and will determine what type of aid you will be eligible for. You and your parents may want to strongly consider Direct Student and Parent PLUS loans to help cover your cost of attendance for this program. You are responsible for any portion not covered by financial aid by the due date or you will be canceled for non-payment. You can access more information online here by selecting Financial Aid. All FTP Financial Aid forms are online and are specific to the program.

28. What about if I have financial aid from the state of Maryland?

You will need to change your institution via the MDcaps. Even though you added the CCBC school code to your FASFA, it does not alert the state agency.

Note: Your state aid will likely be reduced because the cost of attendance for a community college is less than a university.

29. How much can I borrow in student loans?

As a freshman, you can borrow a total of $5500 for the academic year, which is usually split between two semesters for a total of $2750 per semester. Student loan forms can be found here.

30. What if I need to borrow more to pay my bills?

Your parents will need to complete the Direct Parent PLUS loan request form. This loan is credit based, so your parent(s) will be subject to a credit check. They can borrow up to the cost of attendance minus any other financial aid. Direct Parent PLUS loan request form can be found here.

31. What if my parent(s) is turned down for the PLUS loan?

If your parent(s) is turned down for the PLUS loan, you are eligible to borrow an additional $4000 in unsubsidized loans for the academic year, which is usually split between two semesters for a total of $2000 per semester. All you need to do is complete the Additional Student Loan to PLUS Loan Denial Request Form found here.

**Transitioning**

32. What do I have to do in order to transition to TU?

A) In order to transition after the first semester, you need to 1) be enrolled in at least 9 college-level credits, 2) earn a cumulative 3.0 GPA or better with no grade less than a “C” (so no D’s) and 3) if you are enrolled in any non-credit review coursework, you must receive a
grade of pass. If you meet all of the criteria, you will be guaranteed a seamless transition the following spring.

B) If you do not meet the transition criteria during the first semester, you have a second semester to 1) earn a total of at least 15 transferable college credits, 2) earn at least a cumulative 2.5 GPA (fall and spring combined), and 3) receive a grade of pass in any non-credit review coursework you are enrolled in. If you meet all of the criteria, you will be guaranteed a seamless transition the following fall.

**The Freshman Transition Program Experience**

33. What are the benefits of participating in the Freshman Transition Program?
   You have the opportunity to be a part of the campus community during the fall semester, which will make your transition into TU much easier. You will build great relationships with your peers and will be able to have many of the same experiences as TU freshman do their first semester. You will have a One card and have access to all university facilities just like any other freshman student. You will be able to attend events and activities and while you will have some limitations because of your schedule, you will have your entire weekend free to attend campus events and participate in campus activities. You will be able to show your school spirit alongside other Tiger fans! You also do not have to reapply and can transition in as little as one semester.

34. Will I be singled out because I am in this program?
   No, it is up to you to self-identify as a Freshman Transition Program student. While all of your classes are not held at peak time, you are still taking courses on TU’s campus like other freshman.

35. How many students are in the program?
   There will be about 150-200 students enrolled in the program each fall. Over 1500 students have already successfully completed the program since 2008.

36. How long has the Freshman Transition Program been around?
   The program began as a pilot in fall 2008 and has since grown into a very successful program that gives students who really want to be TU students the opportunity to do so in as little as one semester without having to apply as a transfer student or have their high school GPA and SATs re-evaluated.

**Freshman Orientation**

37. Will there be an orientation for the Freshman Transition Program?
   Yes, FTP students will attend orientation in the summer along with other freshmen. FTP students will be grouped together, but will be going through the same process as other freshman.

38. Will I get an advisor?
   Yes, all FTP students will be assigned a First Year Experience (FYE) Advisor that will meet with you throughout the semester to help you throughout your transition.

**Campus Life**

Updated: 12/2019
39. Can I join a campus club or student organization?
   Yes, as long as the meeting times do not interfere with your classes, you are encouraged to get involved. The only limitations are intercollegiate and club sports, ROTC, and Greek Life.

40. Can I work on campus?
   Yes, as long as the position is not a work study position that is funded by federal student aid. Since FTP students are not in classes during the day, it is often easier for them to locate campus employment. This is also a great opportunity for FTP students to build their campus network and work experience.

41. Are there student support services available to FTP students?
   Yes, all TU student support services are available to FTP students. These services include but are not limited to Disability Support Services, Career Services, Health and Counseling Center, and Academic Tutoring and Coaching.

**Program Contacts:** For general questions, please refer to the Program Director and Advisor.

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