NAME: Gabrielle Messick

Hometown: Banning, California

Major: Social Work

Personal Interests: Hiking, true crime shows, and volunteering.

Favorite things to do around campus: Attending events, eating at the Union, and relaxing with a good book at the library.

How I can help as your peer mentor (and former transfer student): As a transfer student, I have personally learned how hard it is to readjust to an entirely new campus setting. I will do my best to help you relearn all of the ins and outs of university life so that you can do your best as a student.

What was I nervous about? Trying to navigate programs different from what I already knew well, and being able to find all of my classes.

What was I excited about? I was excited to see what path my new life in Wyoming would take. I changed my major from Nursing to Social
Work when applying to UW after realizing that it would be a much better fit for me. It can be scary making a big change like deciding on a new career path, but I’m very glad that I did.

**Advice for an incoming transfer student:** Do not be afraid to ask questions! If you are able to realize that your lack of understanding does not mean you are incapable of succeeding, then you will be able to do well. Do what is necessary to make sure you have the knowledge needed so that you can be successful in your classes.

**What is it like being a transfer student at UW?** I would say it is easier than being a brand-new college freshman. That doesn’t mean that you will not struggle, but you have already gained a lot of knowledge. Now you just have to adjust and reapply some of that experience.