

TRANSFER STUDENT PEER MENTOR PROGRAM



Tracy Austin

Hometown: Rozet, Wyoming

Major: Secondary Agriculture Education

Personal Interests: Reading, raising my goats, Showing, my niece.

Campus Involvement: ATA (Alpha Tau Alpha), Tau Sigma, Swing Dancing Club

How I can help as your peer mentor (and former transfer student): I have been on campus for a year now. I can help with any questions you may have as a transfer, from questions pertaining to classes, clubs, to the outside social life around Laramie.

What was I nervous about? Coming in to a new, bigger campus I was nervous about not knowing anyone or being able to get in to the groove of university life. I came from a relatively small community college campus with smaller class sizes and everything was in one building. The University was intimidating at first because everything is in multiple buildings. I was worried about getting lost and being late (once you get to know me you will understand the getting lost statement).

What was I excited about? I was excited to get to meet all the new people, both in my major and students from other majors. Since I came from a small community college campus my classmates were also my judging and showing teammates, so there was not diversity for knowing other students. On a university campus some classes are mixed (grades and majors), and I got to meet a variety of people, especially with the clubs I joined.

Advice for an incoming transfer student: My advice, what really helped me adjust, is/was join clubs. Get to know the people on campus both students and instructors. Creating a network of friends and people you can talk to, ask questions, early on is beneficial to not only getting to know your new “home” but also getting help in classes.

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What is it like being a transfer student at UW? Being a transfer student at UW was different at first. It was a lot bigger and whole bunches of more people. It was challenging coming in as a Jr. because I did not know all the information that was given to the incoming freshman, I had to make my own way and be my outgoing self if I wanted to get the information; ask questions of those around me to find out what I needed to know and especially pay attention to what the instructors were saying during announcements and before or after class. Once I joined ATA, it got easier because I had friends that were the same major as me and interested in the same thing.