

## **BMCC LEARNING ACADEMY TRANSFER SEMINAR SPRING 2021**

SEMINAR INSTRUCTOR: Cindy Louissaint  
BLA VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS: MON – FRI: 9AM TO 5PM  
INSTRUCTOR EMAIL ADDRESS:  
SEMINAR DAY/TIME: Wednesdays, 1:00-1:50pm  
MEETING PLATFORM AND LINK:

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### **SEMINAR DESCRIPTION**

In this seminar, students explore the transfer process by investigating the higher education landscape, pinpointing the differences in colleges and degrees, and researching transfer and application processes. Emphasis is placed on using research skills related college transfer to find a “best fit” institution. This interactive seminar is designed to engage students in asking the tough questions of their prospective transfer institutions, seeking out the answers, and prepping for a successful transfer application. Students who fully participate and attend at least eleven of the twelve virtual seminars will receive Co-Curricular Transcript Credit and a BLA tuition micro-grant. Micro-grant amounts will be based on end-of-semester funding sources, and eligible students will be notified distribution details in May.

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### **SEMINAR OBJECTIVES**

1. Understand organization of colleges and types of degrees
  2. Practice personal statement and essay writing
  3. Navigate transfer college applications
  4. Practice researching prospective transfer colleges
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### **COURSE TOPICS (see attached outline)**

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### **CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT (SYNCHRONOUS COURSES)**

- Please come to the virtual sessions on-time as the class only meets for 50 minutes
  - Weekly attendance in this seminar is mandatory
  - Make sure to put your name in correct name in for the Zoom meetings so that you can be counted for attendance
  - Students are expected to use their cameras when possible
  - Students are expected to mute themselves when others are talking
  - Students should use the “raise your hand” feature or place your questions in the chat unless otherwise instructed to show respect to the speaker
  - Classroom discussions and the opinions of others should be respected and be kept within the classroom
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**IMPORTANT DATES (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

February 1 - CUNY Transfer Application Priority Deadline

February 4 - Last day to add/change a class

February 12 - COLLEGE CLOSED-NO CLASSES

February 15 - COLLEGE CLOSED-NO CLASSES

February 18 - Spring 2021 Change of major deadline

February 19 - WN grades are assigned

February 25 - Spring 2021 Graduation application deadline

March 15 - Fall 2020/Winter 2021 INC grade completion deadline

March 27-April 4 - SPRING RECESS-NO CLASSES

May 17 - W grade deadline

May 17- Last Day of classes

May 19-25 - Final Examinations

**BMCC LEARNING ACADEMY TRANSFER SEMINAR SYLLABUS**

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>Topic Covered</b>	<b>Learning Objectives</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome and introductions</li><li>• Pre-Survey:</li><li>• Review syllabus and agree upon community standards for the semester</li><li>• Create a working definition of “Best Fit” college</li></ul>
<b>Week 2</b>	Overview of Higher Education	<p><b>BEST FIT REFLECTION:</b> Visualize you as a transfer student for a minute, and then write a paragraph describing what you want your transfer life to look like.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>INFO AND INTERACTION:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Understand the difference between the various post-secondary degrees</li><li>○ Work on deciphering the differences and similarities between public, private, and for-profit colleges</li><li>○ Learn what accreditation is and how to check a college’s accreditation</li></ul></li></ul>

<b>Week</b> <b>3</b>	Cost Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>BEST FIT REFLECTION:</b> Jot down a list of ten things you like about BMCC, no matter how small or large. Reflect on the list, and then try to choose three aspects of BMCC you really want to have at your transfer school.</li> <li>○ <b>INFO AND INTERACTION:</b></li> <li>○ Learn how to make a cost assessment of a degree based on:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Location and living expenses</li> <li>○ Costs and types of aid</li> <li>○ Scholarships (Institutional scholarships/Fellowships and outside scholarships)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Week</b> <b>4</b>	Campus Exploration during COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>BEST FIT REFLECTION:</b> Think about your academic experience during the pandemic. How has your experience changed your thinking about your transfer decisions? What skills have you learned during the pandemic that will help you become a successful transfer student?</li> <li>● <b>INFO AND INTERACTION:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Understand the benefits (and limitations) of virtual college tours and visits</li> <li>○ Research and schedule a college/campus visit:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Conduct a virtual tour, schedule a virtual event, research campus contact information</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Week</b> <b>5</b>	Majors, Articulation Agreements, Special Programs, Academic Mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>BEST FIT REFLECTION:</b> Why did you choose your BMCC major? What have you enjoyed most about your major, and what do you wish you had known earlier about your major? What are you planning to major in when you transfer, and why?</li> <li>● <b>INFO AND INTERACTION:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Analyze their current major and how it will look at other colleges</li> <li>○ Look for articulation agreements and special programs like Macaulay Honors and CUNY BA to start mapping out their transfer plan.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Week</b> <b>6</b>	College Comparison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>BEST FIT REFLECTION:</b> Make a list of your top four transfer college. For each college, explain why you want to go there.</li> <li>● <b>INFO AND INTERACTION:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discuss factors to consider when choosing a transfer college</li> <li>● Compare top 2 college choices               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Focus on cost, scholarship, highlights, lowlights, and the college's focus: research, academic rigor, student life, service learning</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>Week 7</b>	Essay Writing and Personal Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BEST FIT REFLECTION:</b> What do you know about the transfer application process? What are all of the elements of a transfer application? How much time and effort should you put into the transfer process?</li> <li>• <b>INFO AND INTERACTION:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Writing as a process</li> <li>○ Begin the essay writing process</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Homework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bring a completed essay or personal statement for week 8</b></li> </ul>
<b>Week 8</b>	Dissecting College Applications and Essay Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BEST FIT REFLECTION:</b> If you were a college admissions specialist who reads transfer application essays, what would you look for in an essay? What kinds of students would you want to transfer to your school? What would you NOT want to see in a transfer application essay?</li> <li>• <b>INFO AND INTERACTION:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Receive overview of the different application systems and due dates</li> <li>○ Be given time to pair up and read each other's essays for feedback</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Week 9</b>	Deep Dive: Common Application, CUNY application, SUNY application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BEST FIT REFLECTION:</b> Your transfer application requires TWO letters of recommendation. Who would you ask for a letter of recommendation and why? What do you hope your letters of recommendation would say about you?</li> <li>• <b>INFO AND INTERACTION:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Create a Common Application profile, begin working on sections of the application, and go over forms needed for Common App.</li> <li>○ Review CUNY and SUNY application (application fee waiver, official transcripts, etc.)</li> <li>○ Discuss next steps for completing transfer applications</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Week 10</b>	Ask the Experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Panel discussion with students who have gone through the transfer process recently</li> </ul>
<b>Week 11</b>	Best Fit Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BEST FIT REFLECTION:</b> Once again, visualize you as a transfer student for a minute, and then write a paragraph describing your best fit transfer college.</li> <li>• Choose a college that might be a Best Fit, and then research the following:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ College mission and values</li> <li>○ Location, college type, important facts etc.</li> <li>○ Cost of attendance</li> <li>○ Yearly tuition and fees</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scholarship/grant opportunities</li> <li>○ Average debt of graduates</li> <li>○ Most popular/ well-known majors or programs</li> <li>○ Graduation rates</li> <li>○ Extracurricular offerings (clubs, athletics, honor societies)</li> <li>○ Internships, study abroad, and career support</li> <li>○ Application details and requirements</li> <li>○ Any and all resources used to compile information</li> </ul> <p>Choose at least three categories from the above list to place into a PowerPoint, to be shared with the class.</p>
<p><b>Week</b> <b>12</b></p>	<p>Wrap-Up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>BEST FIT REFLECTION:</b> Imagine you are talking to a first-year students, describe how to approach the transfer exploration process.</li> <li>● Post-Survey:</li> <li>● Present best fit findings to small groups, then large group conversation about next steps</li> </ul>