

Seniors who began college at ISU report slightly higher levels of belonging than students who transferred.

Transfer students make up nearly [30% of ISU undergraduates](#). A [lack of meaningful interactions](#) with others and barriers to transfer could signal to transfer students they do not belong.

First-year students

0-60 point belonging scale

First-year benchmark

Started elsewhere

Started at ISU

39

Seniors

0-60 point belonging scale

Senior benchmark

Started elsewhere

Started at ISU

39

42

Three simple things that enhance belonging and student success

1. Encourage **frequent and positive interactions** with faculty, staff, and other students.
2. Transfer students take a more **practical orientation towards college**. Helping them navigate academic and administrative processes fosters belonging.
3. Many transfer students commute. **Physical spaces** provide a place for transfer students to engage with others, study, and orient themselves to campus.