An academic scholarship program for transfer students in engineering and computer science: A five year summary

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Abstract

Each year the Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering accepts 300 transfer students, most of whom come from local community colleges (CCs). These students face a big adjustment when transferring to the largest student enrollment campus in the nation. Traditionally, little has been done to assist transfer students with the transfer process and to help them be retained after they have matriculated to a university such as Arizona State University (ASU). In addition to adjusting to another academic system, most transfer students work, some close to full-time. Also many transfer students are females or underrepresented minority students. These particular transfer students may face additional barriers when transferring to a larger institution.

This academic scholarship program for transfer students was sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF) through the CSEMS program (Proposal # 0324212). This successful program ran from 2003-2008 with 76 students and over a 92% retention and graduation rate in engineering and computer science. This paper will give summary statistics for the program including demographics, retention and graduation rates, and the percentage of transfer students who have gone on to graduate school. Diversity was an emphasis and 67% of the students in the program were either female or an underrepresented minority. Based on surveys of the students, the program highlights will be described. The program featured academic workshops and assignments in addition to scholarships. The workshops and assignments were all designed to help the students become a more complete engineer as well as to inform them of the opportunities available for research, internships, graduate school, and jobs after graduation. The students received instruction on resumes, interviews, recommendation letters, portfolios, and consulting. In addition, students learned about graduate school from panels of graduate students and engineers from industry with graduate degrees. The paper will also discuss the primary lessons learned over 5 years and areas that could be improved. In particular, we will note how the women fared in this program. The program is being continued with an S-STEM NSF grant.
Find computer science scholarships by demographic. Learn more about where to find financial assistance for a CS degree and how to apply. They must be enrolled in a computer science or related four-year undergraduate degree program located in the U.S., Canada, or Mexico. Graduate students in computer science and other STEM degree programs can receive full scholarships for tuition and education related fees, a health insurance allowance, and a miscellaneous supplies allowance as well as gainful employment once they earn their degree. SWE administers dozens of scholarships on both the undergraduate and graduate levels for women seeking careers in engineering, engineering technology, and computer science. Thanks to computer programming scholarships, you can turn your coding skills into free money to reduce tuition costs for your post-secondary degree. Scholarships are awarded by national associations and professional firms nationwide to financially support aspiring computer programmers with the goal of creating software programs that run beautifully. Eligible students must show high achievement in science, exhibit substantial financial need, be accepted at an accredited U.S. institution, and carry a minimum overall GPA of 3.0. Applications must be accompanied by three recommendation letters, official transcripts, income tax returns, and a personal statement. Students in the engineering transfer programs will take equivalent courses to those completed by first year Engineering students at the University of Alberta and will be considered for admission into a second year UAlberta Engineering program based on their first year results. Students interested in an Engineering Transfer Program should apply directly to the transfer institution and applications will be assessed in accordance with that institution's admission requirements. Additional information on transfer requirements can be found on our Transferring from an Engineering Transfer Program web...