

Accounting Transfer Student Success Initiative

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About Poole and the Department of Accounting

- Strategic Framework: Poole 2030

“Empower students for a lifetime of success and impact”

“Champion a culture of respect, belonging and well-being in all we do”

- Poole’s Accounting Advisory Board

“Through experience, advice, and financial support, the Board serves as a vital link between the Department and the accounting profession to aid the needs of students, faculty and staff, alumni, and the business community.”

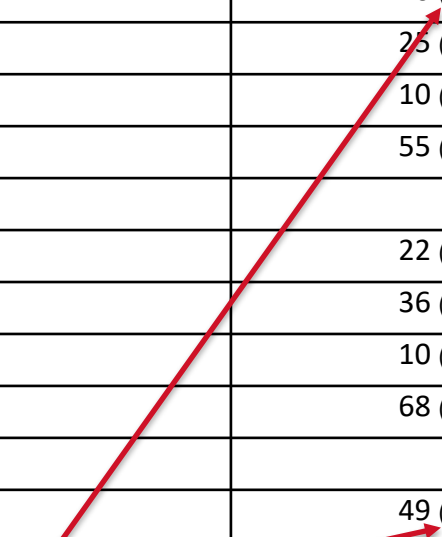
Origins of the Transfer Student Initiative

- A significant number of Poole undergrads transfer from community colleges (“external transfers”)
 - The number of external transfer students taking **Intermediate Accounting I** (ACC 310) has been increasing since we began compiling data in the Fall of 2023.
 - Accounting external transfer numbers (next slide)
 - Historically, the Department of Accounting has had difficulty retaining and graduating some of these students.
 - Transfer students taking **Intermediate Accounting I** in their first semester at NC State often face challenges in the classroom and transitioning to a large university.

External Transfer Trend Numbers

*Intermediate Accounting (ACC 310) External transfer students only. Data for Fall 2023 through Fall 2025.

	Transfer Students*	Non-Transfer Students	Total
Fall 2023	20 (21%)	74 (79%)	94
Spring 2024	25 (20%)	98 (80%)	123
Summer 2024	10 (36%)	18 (64%)	28
Total	55 (22%)	190 (78%)	245
Fall 2024	22 (22%)	77 (78%)	99
Spring 2025	36 (22%)	129 (78%)	165
Summer 2025	10 (36%)	18 (64%)	28
Total	68 (23%)	224 (77%)	292
Fall 2025	49 (31%)	109 (69%)	158



There is a 145% increase in the number of external transfer students taking ACC 310 since Fall of 2023!

Initiative Activities

Activities focus on three stages of a new transfer student's journey in their first semester:

Phase 1: Pre-arrival



Phase 2: Arrival and early connection



Phase 3: Continued connection over the semester

Initiative Activities

Pre-arrival

- Review of Financial Accounting Principles
- Faculty and Former Transfer Student at Student Orientations

Arrival and Early Connection

- Welcome Reception

Continued Connection

- Study Groups
- Peer-to-Peer Mentoring
- Accounting Transfer Student Hub
- GroupMe App

Initiative Activities (by semester)

Initiative Activities by semester:	Fall 2023	Spring 2024	Fall 2024	Spring 2025	Fall 2025	Spring 2026
Review of Financial Principles Course	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Faculty at Transfer Student Orientations	✓	n/a	✓	n/a	✓	n/a
Study Groups	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Welcome Receptions			✓	✓	✓	✓
Peer-to-Peer Mentoring				✓	✓	✓
Accounting Transfer Student Hub						✓
GroupMe App						✓

Review of Financial Accounting Principles

- No-cost, non-credit review course
- Offered to all incoming ACC 310 students
- Covers [key topics](#) from the prerequisite course (ACC 210)
- Optional student participation
- Each student receives a personal email from Robin before the start of the semester, inviting them to participate
 - Student takes a pre-assessment
 - Based on their score, the student decides which modules to review
 - Student takes a post-assessment
- The course is only accessible through NC State's learning management system (Moodle)
- [Information and FAQs](#) (Google doc)
- [Student Testimonial](#) (video)

Review Course (continued)

- Some students continue to use the Review course as they take Intermediate Financial Accounting II (ACC 311)
- Since the course was offered, the number of **external transfer students** using the course appears to be increasing. Detailed data for Fall 2024 is as follows:

Fall 2024 (Transfer students only)	# students	Average Course Grade
Transfer students completing at least one review course activity	14	86.93
Transfer students completing none of the review course activities	8	65.65
Total	*22	79.19

- The Review course is a great resource for all students, including transfer students.

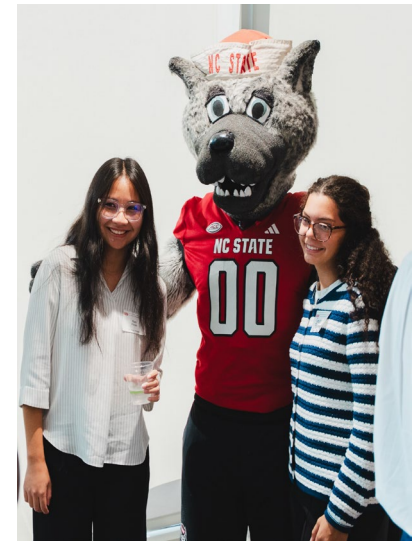
Transfer Student Orientations

- Poole holds about **three student orientations** in the summer, specifically for new transfer students
- Robin or another faculty rep attends these orientations to meet and answer questions in **small break-out sessions** with new transfer students
- This past summer, a **former transfer student** joined Robin
 - This was very well-received by the new transfer students!

Welcome Reception

New external transfer students are invited to attend a Welcome Reception at the start of the fall semester:

- Hosted by the Accounting Dept. and Accounting Advisory Board
 - Board members shared their own educational and professional journeys
- Mix and mingle with faculty and staff, career services rep, student organization reps, the NCACPA, and other students
- Recommend hosting by the second week of the semester!

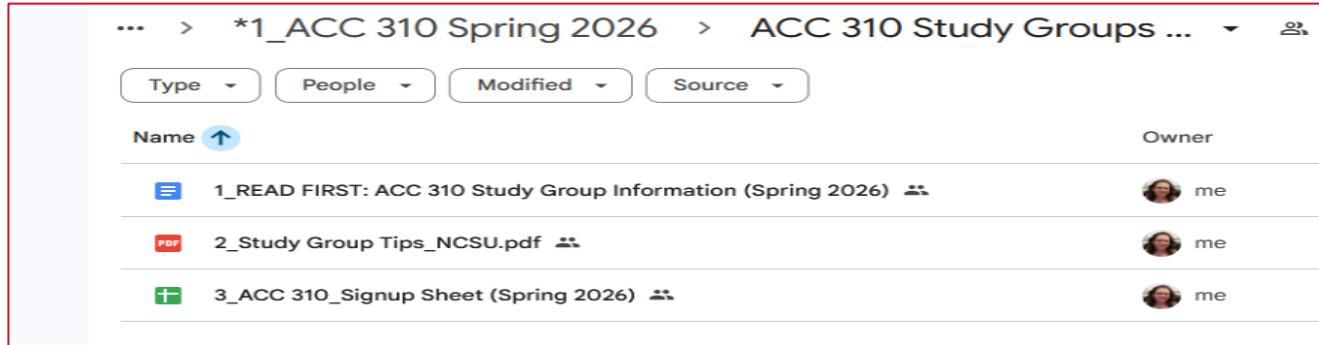


Study Groups

- Robin facilitates the formation of study groups for her ACC 310 students
- All students can participate
 - Fall 2025: approximately 54 out of 151 signed up (36%)
 - Spring 2026: approximately 55 out of 186 have signed up so far (30%)
- Optional, but highly encouraged, for students to join
- Students pick a group with others who have *similar availability* with respect to days and times



Study Groups (continued)



*1_ACC 310 Spring 2026 > ACC 310 Study Groups ...		
Type	People	Modified
Name	Owner	
1_READ FIRST: ACC 310 Study Group Information (Spring 2026)	me	
2_Study Group Tips_NCSU.pdf	me	
3_ACC 310_Signup Sheet (Spring 2026)	me	

- Students are asked to read two documents before signing up on a third document
 - “ACC 310 Study Group Information”
 - “Study Group Tips” (from NC State Academic Success Center) ([link](#))
 - Sign-up Sheet
- [Link](#) to a shared Google folder with the above three items
- Many students continue with their group in other courses!

Study Groups – Student Feedback

Course evaluation quotes:

“I have never been in a study group before and didn’t think I would work well with others. I was wrong, it was so helpful to bounce ideas and discuss topics with them. We all had different perspectives and helped each other figure things out and it was truly one of the best experiences.”

- Anonymous

“The study group that Professor Robin provided the sign-up for at the beginning of the course has been the key differentiator in my success in this class and my first semester transfer student experience at NC State as a whole.”

- Anonymous

Peer-to-Peer Mentoring (one-on-one)

- New external transfer students are invited to have a peer mentor for the semester.
- Former transfer students are invited to be a peer mentor.
- By the second week of classes, Robin matches the mentors and mentees, and the mentors take it from there.
- Quote from former mentee when asked for feedback about their experience in an anonymous end-of-semester survey:
“Worked well, glad to meet someone new who had experienced some of the things I was going through as a transfer.” (Spring 2025)



Peer-to-Peer Mentoring (continued)

- Robin sends an interest survey to potential mentees and mentors
 - Mentee information is gathered to help with the matching (ex. previous school, military background, first-generation student)
 - Not all new transfer students want to participate
 - Other options are being piloted this semester
- Fall 2025:
 - 17 mentors and 28 mentees (16 of whom specifically stated they wanted a mentor)
- Spring 2026:
 - 9 mentors and 7 mentees

Lead Peer Mentors

- **Conor Perry**
- **Jason Lopez Villanueva**
- **Have presented their perspectives to the Accounting Advisory Board and Poole Advisory Board**
- **Participated in one-on-one mentoring**
- **Represent the former transfer student perspective at the Welcome Reception**
- **Provide advice and feedback to the Accounting Dept.**




Peer Mentoring: Accounting Transfer Student Hub

-  Pilot this spring



- In-person and Zoom hours are available for mentors and new transfer students to interact and connect
 - Mentors volunteer for shifts in the hub
 - Transfer students can see the calendar and attend when a mentor has volunteered

Peer Mentoring: GroupMe App for digital connection

-  Pilot this spring
- New and former transfer students are invited to use the free GroupMe app to digitally connect



What's next?

Poole College has recently adopted a new transfer student model:

- We expect more internal transfers (ex. College of Humanities to Poole College) than external transfers next year
 - Internal transfer struggles may be different from external transfer student struggles
- We plan to continue to focus on all transfer students' success
- **Poole College** is planning its own strategies for transfer student success that the Accounting Department can leverage
- Going forward, the Accounting Department plans to continue these initiative activities for our Accounting majors and minors