



UNDERSTANDING ACADEMIC ADVISING

WHAT IS AN ACADEMIC ADVISING APPOINTMENT?

An appointment held with an institutional representative (typically at least once a semester) whose job it is to help you navigate the various academic paths that are available at your college or university and connect you to the resources that will help you succeed both during school and following graduation.



WHAT SPECIFIC TOPICS WILL MY ACADEMIC ADVISOR COVER?

Your academic advisor may cover the following topic areas:

- The orientation process and familiarizing you with the various online systems (class registration, Blackboard, etc.)
- Exploration of your academic interests and potential career paths major, minor, and/or certificate program selection
- Class selection for your next semester and beyond
- Dropping or adding classes
- Connecting you to resources for academic support, personal issues, financial aid, career counseling, etc.

WHAT CAN I DO TO PREPARE FOR MY APPOINTMENT?

The way that you prepare for your appointment may differ depending on your year. Therefore, we provided a list of ideas for you to consider so that you can tailor your preparation appropriately.

Write down a list of your academic passions/interests and a list of your skills and weaknesses for identifying a major/minor that fits

Research career paths that pique your interest and align with your skills

Look at your work schedule and write down the typical number of hours that you plan to work each week

Create a list of specific questions that you want answered and bring the list to ensure that you cover everything

WHERE DO I GO TO SCHEDULE MY APPOINTMENT?

Generally speaking, you can go to your school's website and either search "academic advising" or navigate to "Academics" (collapsed menu button), and search for an advising section or link. If that doesn't work, ask one of your professors, a resident assistant, or a classmate.

QUESTION IDEAS TO ASK YOUR ACADEMIC ADVISOR

- What is your role as my advisor
- Will you be my advisor from now through graduation?
- Based on my interests and skill sets, what major(s) do you recommend I consider?
- What academic goals do you recommend I set for myself?
- What kind of careers can I pursue with a degree in this major?
- What is the job placement rate for this major?
- What skills will this major help me develop?
- What classes are required for this major?
- Could you please give me a list of all the required courses to complete my major?
- Are summer classes offered for my major?
- Can I take online courses to complete my major? Do you suggest taking online courses? Why or why not?
- Based on my work schedule and the major difficulty, how many classes do you recommend I take every semester?
- When and how can I register for classes?
- When is the drop/add date each semester and how will a drop/add affect my transcript and GPA?
- Am I required to maintain a specific grade point average to complete this major?
- If I am struggling academically, what resources does this college offer?
- If I retake a class, will the new grade replace the old grade, or will the new and old grades be averaged?
- Can I change my major? How? Will it affect my scholarships and graduation date?
- Do you think I need to get a higher degree, like a graduate degree? What should I do to prepare for graduate study?
- Should I pursue a minor area of study? What minor would be most beneficial given my desired career path?
- Is an internship required for this major?
- Am I on-track to graduate?
- What other campus resources do you suggest I utilize?
- Do you have any advice or tips for me?
- If I have any questions, what is the best way to reach you?