Advising 101: Dare to Connect
What is Academic Advising?

• Academic advising is a tool for students to build relationships with professionals dedicated to helping them succeed academically at the university level.

• Academic advisors work one-on-one with students to craft an appropriate path while allowing students to explore the variety of academic opportunities available to them.

• Academic advising provides students with academic and developmental support in adjusting to the university, decision making, major and career exploration, and academic planning.
Models of Academic Advising

**Faculty Advisors**
- Most students will have a faculty advisor at some point during their time at UD.
- Faculty advisors are members of the faculty who mentor a caseload of students from their departments while maintaining a full teaching schedule.
Professional Advisors

• Some colleges and departments adopt a model of advising where students begin their college journey working with a professional advisor.
• Professional advisors are members of the staff whose primary duty is to advise students.
• Professional advisors may or may not teach courses depending on the department.
• In most cases, students will remain with the professional advisor for the first year or two and then will be assigned a faculty advisor for the remainder of their college careers.
High School Counselors v. Academic Advisors

*High School Counselors*

- In some schools, high school counselors are assigned caseloads and are required to meet with students.
- High school counselors usually provide:
  - assistance to students in developing effective academic and personal/social habits for success
  - tools as students prepare for college and plans after leaving high school.
- Counselors also often communicate with parents regarding student progress.
High School Counselors v. Academic Advisors

Academic Advisors

• Academic advisors are a resource that college students may utilize to assist with adjusting to a higher education environment.
• Advisors generally provide:
  • Information regarding majors and your academic curriculum
  • Support with long term goal planning
  • Assistance in preparing for graduate school or a career
• Advisors are not permitted to communicate with parents regarding student progress unless the student provides consent.
Who is my Academic Advisor?

• Your academic advisor should be listed in UDSIS under Program Advisor on the right side. You can click details and then click on the advisors name to send him or her an e-mail.

• If you have more than one major or minor, you will have an advisor assigned from each department.

• If an advisor is not listed, you should contact your department to determine who you should be meeting with or to have an advisor assigned to you.

• Honors students are assigned advisors within their major department(s) and are also supported by professional staff members within the Honors Program.
Advisee Responsibilities

You have the responsibility to:

• contact your advisor and schedule an appointment when required or when you need assistance;
• become familiar with the online undergraduate catalog and adhere to all academic policies, procedures, and degree requirements;
• prepare for advisement sessions and bring appropriate information and materials;
• follow through on recommendations, referrals and tasks discussed during your advisement sessions; and
• accept ultimate responsibility for your academic decisions and actions.
Advisor Responsibilities

Advisors have the responsibility to:

• Provide mentoring and assistance in developing realistic educational goals;
• assist you with monitoring your academic progress;
• interpret academic policies, procedures and requirements;
• aid with selecting appropriate courses;
• inform you of special academic opportunities and refer you to other university support services, when appropriate.

Note: Unlike in high school where guidance counselors likely contacted you, in college it is your responsibility to seek assistance from your advisor.
Advising Meetings

- Advising meetings typically take place at least once per semester. Some students choose to meet with their advisor on a regular basis while others will meet only to talk about registration.

- You determine what type of relationship and level of involvement you want to have with your advisor! You may also switch advisors by calling the department, if you so choose.
Advising Meetings

- Advising meetings are designed to facilitate discussions regarding issues that impact your academic success.

- Topics might include:
  - course selection,
  - career or graduate school advice,
  - ways to enhance your educational experience through internships, undergraduate research, study abroad,
  - or any number of subjects that you may feel you need support on.
“Good advising may be the single most underestimated characteristic of a successful college experience.”

-R.J. Light

*Making the most of college.* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press