

Working With Your Academic Advisors

There are two important things to remember when talking with your advisor. The first is that timidity is not a virtue. The second is the advisor's responsibility is to help you through guidance.

1. Prepare for your meeting with your advisor.
 - Think about your purpose for seeing your advisor.
 - Come "armed" with questions.
 - Make an appointment so that your advisor has adequate time to spend with you.
 - If you are seeing your advisor for registration, do it on the first day.
2. Be open with your advisor.
 - Your advisor is not a mind reader. Say what you mean.
 - Don't be embarrassed to ask "dumb" questions.
 - Evaluate your grades honestly with your advisor.
 - If you are clueless about a major or about your schedule, give your advisor indications about your likes and dislikes, strengths and weaknesses.
 - Question (politely) advice if it seems uncomfortable to you.
 - Know the catalog: it is your academic contract. Get your advisor to help you understand it.
3. See your advisor periodically throughout the term.
 - Any time you have a question or a problem about academics; discuss it with your advisor. Your advisor is your advocate!
 - Stop by to say "hello". This will remind the advisor who you are and that you are interested in your academic progress.
 - Do not drop or add classes without your advisor's knowledge. Your advisor has a record of your chosen course of study and can help to keep you from making academic mistakes.
4. Anticipate your academic future.
 - Obtain catalogs of schools you are considering for future transfer.
 - Study transfer requirements, GPA's, and course specifics to avoid costly mistakes.