Personal Advising Philosophy

In keeping with the Bellarmine University mission statement and my own core values, I treat all students with dignity and respect and believe that advising is an essential part of helping students “realize their fully unique talents and extraordinary potential for greatness.” As an advisor I do this by fostering positive rapport and trusting relationships with students where we have “authentic conversations” that can help them be more “prepared to create meaningful lives for themselves and make positive contributions to society.” (Bellarmine University Mission Statement)

While I do believe that advisors can guide and even occasionally need to direct students on their academic path, I also believe, as the NACADA core values state, that our primary goal as advisors should be to empower students and encourage self-reliance. I work to help them find and chose a path that fits their strengths and talents and to create realistic goals to achieve both short and long term success. We must also be able and willing to have difficult conversations with students and help them through transitions in their academic and personal lives. Advisors must show empathy and respect for all students and be sure to keep personal bias out of the advising relationship.

I am also committed to respecting diversity and creating a safe and inclusive space for all students. I seek to continue to grow professionally so that I can learn about how all areas of a student’s experience can affect their success. This includes but is not limited to academic or physical disabilities, mental wellness, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, first generation students, transfer students and other non-traditional student populations.

It is critical that advisors are knowledgeable about institutional policies and procedures and can advocate for students’ needs. We are on the front lines and are often the first to hear of policies that are a burden to students or have created an unfair system. It is critical that advisors not only help individual students but also advocate for systemic change at their institution so that all students are served in ways that are equitable and fair.

I believe my personal connection to students, my authentic interest in their lives and concern for their holistic success is what makes me a successful advisor. At the end of the day, my primary goal is to help my students be successful. I believe as long as I stay committed to being a student advocate, continue to grow and learn as a professional, and stay up to date in regards to the institution’s policies, then I will fulfill my responsibilities as an advisor and serve my students and my institution well.