Philosophy of Academic Advising

Academic advising is a teaching-learning process. The work, guided by the NACDA core values and ethical code, provides academic guidance, supports social/emotional development, and proposes career/professional direction. Academic advising is paramount for student success, but mature decision making will not occur until the student with support becomes developmentally prepared and reaches a level of emotionally maturity making the student capable of self-direction.

The demands from the student population for developmental as well as academic advising makes quality professional and programmatic advising essential to the educational process for all students at Bellarmine. The role of advising is now far beyond just course selection; it is about the student making independent decisions, taking responsibility for personal and academic growth, managing a program of study, using communications skills, planning for graduate school, and/or preparing for professional career roles. In addition, the challenge of creating personal fortitude/resilience, managing crisis, and finding psycho-social/community supports is even more evident. Students need a holistic approach to advising and a migration away from course selection and assistance with change of majors.

Best practices in academic advising uses a matrix of theoretical frameworks that not only structure advising, but also provide a clear and focused approach to achieving the student’s short and long-term goals. All actions and interactions are student centered and revolve around best practices.