

Personal Philosophy of Academic Advising

I believe that academic advising is an intentional guidance process; which values the student, and empowers them to engage fully in their personal, academic and ultimately their professional success. As a servant leader, I am aware of the responsibility I have in assisting in making this learning experience meaningful to the diverse students who are entrusted to me. (NACADA Core Values) I am wholeheartedly committed to creating a safe, supportive and challenging learning experience for each and every student. (Evans, Forney, and Guido-DiBrito, 1998). I also seek out and foster relationships with campus partners and key stakeholders to assist the student in feeling a sense of belonging to the institution. (NACADA Core Values)

The aspect I value most about working with my advisees, is the opportunity to create learning moments within their advising experience. (Lowenstein, 2005) It is my duty as an advisor to assist them in understanding both curricular and co-curricular components of the institution and the world of higher education; and how that ultimately prepares them in becoming global citizens and solution finders. I believe in using an intentional, multidimensional approach, utilizing a variety of advising models such as Developmental, Appreciative, and Proactive Advising to name a few. It is my duty to serve the student in a way, that helps them to engage actively in the culture around them. I do this in part, by providing specific resources to assist the student at their point of need. I want to assist in educating my students, on how to seek out intentional, purposeful courses and experiences, such as study abroad and internships to have the most impactful educational experience.

I realize, that students are diverse, and come from various contextual experiences that shape their learning. It is very important that my office is a safe and inclusive space that respects the dignity of each individual student sitting in front of me. It is also my desire that the student feels that I appreciate their unique intellect, and that I want to assist in offering the highest level of support in order to ensure their success. I also employ active listening skills in order to learn more about the student, thereby enhancing myself as an advisor.

Additionally, another important part of my personal philosophy is that I care about my students. This care can manifest in different ways. Although, I have a desire for every student to one day live their dream, I know that unfortunately sometimes those dreams are not going to be realized. So, I have to balance supporting the student, while also challenging them simultaneously at times, to reflect and explore a new vision. I want to support them, and share resources to assist them in discovering new avenues and curriculum that is best suited to their values, interests as well as, their professional goals.

Advising is also a shared responsibility, which makes it important for me to build collaborative relationships, within the university and higher education. When students are connected to appropriate and proper resources it increases the student's sense of belonging. I also have to recognize any institutional barriers, and work with stakeholders to advocate on the student's behalf in order to ensure access and success for the student. (NACADA Core Values)

- Lory L. King, Director of Academic Advising Center