

## Statement of Philosophy Regarding Academic Advising

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My main approach and thought into any situation working with people, be it in the higher education world or elsewhere is to “meet them where they are”. I consider the same philosophy regarding academic advising and career preparedness at the university level. I am fortunate enough to work with students in all varieties. Most of my students are non-traditional, working full-time, have families, etc. Some students work in their assigned program field and others are completely fresh without occupational experience at all. Some are switching careers completely, and others have goals as specific as “pursuing licensure to work in a specific setting with a specific population” and others have a goal as broad as “desiring to help others”. It is important to know where the starting point is for a student is coming into their program, so their Advisor or Success Coach has an idea of where to begin guiding them. Academic consultation involves a development of narrowing *interests*, completing *exploration* and/or *exposure*, while considering *academic skillsets*, *goals*, and *experience*. Defining a combination of those individual things results in a custom-made plan designed for the student.

It is important to gather as much information as possible about those five categories to decide what next steps a student should take to progress themselves in the subject field, or academic experience, or career position they want to be in. Some students come in without a goal in mind beyond the idea of obtaining an education. Education is important, however, developing these five ideals can create a more organized plan, making goals much more obtainable. As an advisor it lets me personally know how much a student may need encouragement from me, or praise, or additional guidance from me. It helps a student maintain motivation to complete their educational program, encouraging them to engage further with their peers and faculty, and to succeed toward the next steps in their academic and something their career phase. It is important to have this process with students so they are aware they have access to academic and career resources that can assist their personal growth and future professional development while engaging in their academia.

Meeting the student where they are involves working with them as a team to develop a plan that begins at their individual starting point and assists them to seek both academic and career-related resources. It empowers them to be active in their academic program interests and presents potential opportunities for growth that not only improve their educational experience but increase the university post-graduation percentile regarding students who leave with a degree and *apply* that education to their intended career field. Meeting students where they are helps prepare them for their future and potentially progresses their quality of life. In a world where education is now a needed entity, and an expensive one, I want to ensure that I am advising students with quality and individualized support in mind.