What Does Advising Mean for You?
Ways Advisors Can Help

Continuing our new column on advising, let’s explore some of the specific ways meeting with faculty and academic advisors can help students. Future columns will delve into the topics brought up here in more detail.

Advising is a critical component of the college student experience. Students who have not declared a major are assigned an academic advisor; students with a declared major are assigned both an academic advisor and a faculty advisor in their major department.

Advisors are resources for all students, wherever they are in their academic career. There are many valuable ways to create a connection with advisors and develop meaningful relationships that last throughout an academic and professional career.

Major & Career Exploration

Students with a declared major or career path in mind can meet with their faculty advisors to learn more about their major, plan classes, learn about internships, apply for scholarships, explore career and graduate school opportunities, and learn about many other recommendations.

Students who are not sure of their major or career path can meet with their academic advisor to explore different majors and how they can use their strengths to develop a rewarding career. Academic advisors have a good understanding of student organizations on campus and can help students develop their major and career interests.

Students can work in collaboration with their advisors to design a graduation plan that works specifically for their needs.

Navigating USM & Academic Resources

The student experience in college is similar to learning about being a part of a new ecosystem. Faculty advisors and academic advisors help students navigate the university system and learn more about areas such as financial resources, health and counseling services, disability services, and campus life.

Advisors also assist students in discovering academic resources such as the Learning Commons, Community Engagement & Career Development, and International Programs, as well as understanding the Core curriculum requirements, and utilizing MaineStreet for resources such as the degree planner and the Degree Progress Report.

Learning Strategies & Academic Support

Advisors can help students discover and utilize tools to increase their student success, such as test taking tips, overcoming procrastination, time management strategies, the GPA calculator, and more.

Advisors also support students in their academic recovery process if they’ve fallen behind, and help them develop and reach their goals.

Registration

Faculty and academic advisors help students develop a course plan, create a “Wishlist” on MaineStreet, and register for courses in the next semester. Stay tuned, the next column will address priority registration for Spring 2016!

Someone to Talk With

Just looking for someone to talk with? Advisors can help there too; they are always available to discuss topics of interest to students at USM. Meeting with advisors on a regular basis and building relationships is a rewarding experience that can have a positive impact on students’ lives during college and beyond.

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