

Academic Advising Syllabus
Dickinson College
Fall 2008

Advisor: Tim Wahls
Office: Tome 244
Phone: (717) 245 - 1743
E-Mail: wahlst@dickinson.edu
Office Hours: TF 1:30 - 2:45 p.m, W 2:45 - 3:45 p.m., R 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and by appointment
Text / Materials: College Bulletin
Advising Web Resources

Academic Advising Description / Definition

Academic advising is an educational process that, by intention and design, facilitates students' understanding of the meaning and purpose of higher education and fosters their intellectual and personal development toward academic success and lifelong learning.

At Dickinson College, academic advising provides students with the opportunity to build a relationship with their advisor for the purpose of gaining assistance in planning their educational career, in learning the skills needed for academic success, and in learning how to access the variety of resources and services available to them on the Dickinson campus.

Academic advising is a collaborative educational process whereby students and their advisors are partners in meeting the essential learning outcomes, ensuring student academic success, and outlining the steps for achievement of the students' personal, academic, and career goals. This advisor/student partnership requires participation and involvement of both the advisor and the student as it is built over the student's entire educational experience at Dickinson. Both the student and the advisor have clear responsibilities for ensuring the advising partnership is successful.

Advisor Responsibilities – What You Can Expect

You can expect me as your advisor to:

- Understand and effectively communicate the curriculum, graduation requirements, and college policies and procedures
- Encourage and guide students as they define and develop realistic goals
- Encourage and support students as they gain the skills to develop clear and attainable educational plans
- Provide students with information about and strategies for utilizing the available resources and services on campus
- Assist students in understanding the purposes and goals of higher education and its effects on their lives and personal goals
- Monitor and accurately document students' progress toward meeting their goals
- Be accessible for meeting with advisees through office hours for advising, telephone, e-mail, or web

access.

- Assist students in gaining decision making skills and skills in assuming responsibility for their educational plans and achievements
- Maintain confidentiality
- Assist students in working closely with their professors

Advisee Responsibilities – What You Are Expected To Do

As an advisee, you have clear responsibilities in the advising partnership in order to be successful:

- Schedule regular appointments or make regular contacts with advisor during each semester
- Come prepared to each appointment with questions or material for discussion
- Be an active learner by participating fully in the advising experience
- Ask questions if you do not understand an issue or have a specific concern
- Keep a personal record of your progress toward meeting your goals
- Organize official documents in a way that enable you to access them when needed
- Complete all assignments or recommendations from your advisor
- Clarify personal values and goals and provide your advisor with accurate information regarding your interests and abilities
- Become knowledgeable about College programs, policies, and procedures

Expected Student Learning Outcomes for the Academic Advising Experience

In order for you and your advisor to accurately measure and document that you have achieved the learning outcomes for academic advising, the two of you will develop an on-going portfolio of your advising work. This portfolio will consist of a variety of documents including your educational plan, your semester schedules, collaborative work done due to various referrals on campus, and a variety of documents that you and your advisor will develop together to demonstrate your achievement of these outcomes.

Assistance With Issues Involving Disabilities

Dickinson College is dedicated to providing equal opportunity and access for every student. It is important that if you believe you need accommodations for a learning or physical disability, that you make your advisor aware of these needs. Your advisor will refer you to Disability Services in the Academic Advising Office for assistance. The staff in Disability Services provides a broad range of services in an effort to support each student. Additionally, the staff functions as an advocate for students with disabilities on the Dickinson campus. Through active involvement with all areas of the College, this office is able to monitor conditions relevant to students with disabilities and to provide help with decisions affecting their ability to be successful students at Dickinson College.