

Sophomore Advising Guide

While students are defining who they are, advisors can help them with decision making in an encouraging, supportive space.

Checklist

Questions to ask

A. Continue building rapport with your students, creating a welcoming and safe space.

B. Learn about students' academic strengths, skills and abilities and potential majors/careers.

C. Discuss co-curricular opportunities.

- How are you enjoying this semester?
- How does this year differ from your experience last year at Sewanee? (or another institution, if they are a transfer student.)
- How are your courses this semester? (*This is a good time to review their mid-term grades with them.*)
 - Which classes do you look forward to the most? The least? Why?
- What majors are you considering at this point? What is it about that major that interests you?
- Have you considered study away? If so, where and why?
- Have you thought about participating in any research opportunities or internships for the summer?
 - If students need assistance with internship or research options, they may schedule an appointment with a Student Success and Career Readiness Coach through their Student Success portal.

D. Prepare for Easter registration.

- ☐ Review students' SODA with them.
- ☐ Review language requirement to make sure they are on track.
- ☐ Together, create a list of possible courses that would be good options, based on their interests and potential majors.

- What classes or subjects are you interested in taking in the spring? What about those are of interest to you?
 - Because some sophomores are unsure of their major, they may be nervous about selecting the “wrong” course or that they will be taking too many electives and won’t graduate on time. Help them to understand the graduation requirements and identify the number of credits they will need after completing the general education.
 - Taking classes that are of most interest to them will likely assist them in finding a fitting major.

Notables

Midterm Grades: When students are asked about how their classes are going, often they say “fine.” Some students may not share if they are struggling in classes. The Care team and/or Dean Bruce will reach out to students who earn a midterm grade of a D or F and offer guidance. However, they don’t always come in when they need help. Therefore, it is helpful for faculty to review the advisees’ midterm grades with them and share the many areas of academic support on campus, as well as CAPS, and normalize using the resources.

Students who are unsure about their major: If they don't know what they want to study, this is an opportunity to share that a Career Readiness Coach can help them evaluate their strengths and interests to generate ideas for them. Students can learn about programs offered through Career Readiness through Handshake.

Students who know what they want to declare: Students may declare as soon as they know what they want to major/minor in. Students must declare prior to earning 64 credits. It is ideal for them to declare before the advising/registration period in Spring of their sophomore year so they will have a new advisor in their field of study to help them plan for the following year and begin to discuss career interests and possible research or internship options.

Study Away: Students who are interested in study abroad programs should also meet with a study abroad advisor. They may schedule an appointment with someone from the Office of Global Engagement.

Releasing PINS: You may release a student’s registration PIN in the Faculty Student Success Portal, once you have met with them. In doing so, they have access to their PIN from their Student Success Portal (at the bottom of their page). Advisors should meet with their students prior to releasing the PINs. Step-by-step instructions on releasing a student’s PIN may be found in the User Guide to the Faculty Portal (on the main page).

Adding advising notes in the Faculty Student Success Portal: Advising notes are helpful as a reminder to you about your conversations during the meeting and courses you discussed with the student. Additionally, these notes can be viewed by the student’s future advisors when assigned. Should a student contact Dean Bruce about getting the PIN, he will be able to see if a student has met with you. Without such information, they will be asked to reach out to you.