

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Mission Statement for Academic Advising

The mission of academic advising in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is to promote the personal and academic development of the student in the context of a mentoring relationship with an academic adviser. By being available to the student in the office and in informal settings, the adviser communicates genuine interest in the student as a person. The academic adviser aids in broadening the student's interests and outlook by encouraging self-discovery, academic breadth and respect for truth, regardless of academic discipline. The adviser supports the student in the emotional transitions of academic life thereby fostering self-acceptance and is skilled at referring the student to campus and community resources when necessary.

Academic advisers assist students in achieving their academic goals by providing accurate and timely information regarding the institutional requirements and protocols of the university, college and academic major. As a member of the faculty within the student's major, the adviser communicates his or her own enthusiasm and sense of relevance for the subject matter, thereby stimulating intellectual curiosity, creativity and inviting the student to develop academic depth and expertise. As a practicing professional, the adviser aids the student in developing personal and professional goals which are challenging, worthy and realistic. The adviser informs the students of university and career-related opportunities and serves as an advocate by helping the student capitalize on those opportunities.

Beyond the demands of academic life, the adviser encourages participation in activities which develop leadership and interpersonal skills, recognize achievement and promote personal responsibility and integrity. Realizing that personal and professional development continue throughout life, the adviser takes advantage of continuing educational opportunities to develop and deepen his or her advising abilities. The adviser remains available to alumni for consultation, guidance and continuing interaction.