

Get the Most from Academic Advising

A good working relationship with your advisor will help you to define your skills and interests early and to direct you toward the right major. Your advisor can help keep you on track toward your degree so that you can graduate on time, saving money and effort.

The key is to think carefully and intentionally about your NDNU experience and what sort of help you need. Be prepared for your meetings, and study your options. Your advisor will help you to choose the best among them.

What can my Advisor help me with?

- Identify your academic and career goals
- Develop an academic plan to build the skills and knowledge necessary to reach your goals
- Select and enroll in classes appropriate for your plan
- Understand academic policies and procedures
- Learn to use the academic tools available to you, such as the Degree Audit, course history, and GPA calculator on the Campus Portal.
- Connect with academic support services
- Advocate for you when necessary

When should I see my advisor?

- To discuss academic requirements and progress toward a degree
- To discuss academic progress
- To discuss any problems that affect your academic performance
- To discuss major and minor interests
- To select courses
- To make any changes in units that may affect your eligibility for student housing, financial aid, international student visas, or your fees due.

What is my responsibility?

- Your Advisor can be a knowledgeable guide, but you must make all final decisions.
- Schedule periodic meetings with your advisor, especially prior to advance registration, to discuss academic goals and future course choices
- Come to meetings prepared. Read the catalog and write down questions

- Know your advisor's office hours Be aware of, and respecting, registration and major/minor declaration deadlines
- Keep track of your courses, requirements, and your progress towards your degree
- Complete all the necessary degree requirements and associated paperwork
- Inform your advisor about any Co-curricular activities you are involved in that might affect your academic choices or academic performance
- Contact your advisor as soon as you are having difficulties
- Consider carefully your advisor's suggestions
- Accept responsibility for all academic decisions you make; your faculty advisor will present you with options.

Adapted from *How Should Students Make Use of their Academic Advisor*, by Dr. Ginny Schwarts, St. Lawrence University