New Academic Advisor Training

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Academic Advising Mission
The Keys to Student Success
Advising Is Teaching
MCC Model for Advising
Complete College America
Degree Works
College Scheduler
Advising Resources and Tips
Training Outcomes

- Identify the elements of our High Quality Advising Model
- Define Developmental and Proactive Advising
- Identify elements of Complete College America
- Identify Advising Resources that can be used in your work with students
Academic advising at Middlesex Community College is a shared practice throughout the institution that supports teaching and learning. Individualized, collaborative relationships between students and advisors lead to a better understanding of current skill levels, aptitudes, interests and strengths. This fosters an appreciation of the role of higher education planning in developing and achieving student objectives.

The advising process includes providing timely, accurate information about academic and career opportunities and requirements, college policies and procedures, and seamless transfer pathways. Advisors also connect and refer students to support services and resources.

Through frequent interaction, advisors engage students in assuming an active, self-sufficient role in their academic planning. Advisors promote student retention and progress by encouraging students to identify and pursue their appropriate educational and professional goals.
The Keys of Student Success

Welcoming Environment

Financial Resources

Motivation

High Quality Teaching

Broad Campus Resources

Time Management & Study Skills

Goal Setting

High Quality Academic Advising
Advisors strive to **teach students how to behave as citizens** who engage in the wider world around them.

Chattanooga State Community College
Think about advising as an independent study course—as an advisor, you get to work one-on-one with students as they develop questions, research background information, learn about opportunities, face challenges, reach their goals.

University of North Carolina Asheville
Frequent faculty-student contact in and out of the classroom is the most important factor in student motivation and involvement. (Chickering and Gamson)

Quality interaction with faculty the single strongest predictor of success for at-risk minority students (Levin & Levin)
Redefining Academic Advising

• From an event to a teaching process that is integrally linked to student engagement and learning.

• Much more than a service that supports registration….
Shared Goals of Teaching & Advising

- Increase knowledge
- Enhance critical thinking abilities
- Skills acquisition
- Increase problem solving abilities
- Integration of learning: making connections and finding meaning
- Broaden perspectives
MCC Model for Academic Advising

Developmental Advising

Proactive Advising

High Quality Advising
"Developmental academic advising is defined as a systematic process based on a close student-advisor relationship intended to aid students in achieving educational, career, and personal goals through the utilization of the full range of institutional and community resources."

Formerly known as Intrusive Advising

Defined by the work of Robert Glennen

Glennen took developmental advising theory one step further to help advisors reach out to students.

Programs utilizing proactive academic advising build structures that incorporate intervention strategies mandating advising contacts for students who otherwise might not seek advising.

Effective with at-risk populations
Next to the quality of instruction, academic advising is consistently the next most important area of the college experience to students.

National Student Satisfaction Report
Noel Levitz 2006
High Quality Academic Advising

- RELATIONSHIP BUILDING
- GOAL SETTING
- ASSESSMENT
- RESOURCES
- HIGH QUALITY ACADEMIC ADVISING
• Identify Roles and Responsibilities

• Periodic Advising Meetings (Advising is not just registration)

• Ongoing Academic Planning and Assessment
Assessment - 2\textsuperscript{nd} element:

- Academic Skill Level
- Career & Educational Interests
- Motivation
- Personal Obligations
- CPT Success in Coursework
- FOCUS2 & Career IDS
- Advisor Meetings
I. Intervention by Academic Advisors

II. Classroom Difficulties

Referrals to campus resources

Student Services (e.g. Tutoring)
Goal Setting - 4th element:

- Short-Term Goals (semester by semester)
- Long-Term Goals (year to year)
- Action Planning
- Academic Maps/ Pathways / Degree Works
The curriculum of academic advising includes the meaning, value, and interrelationship of the institution’s curriculum and co-curriculum; modes of thinking, learning, and decision making.

Advising as Teaching
Eric White, 2006
Developmental Advising focused on Persistence and Retention (first 30 credits); serves as a solid foundation for students.

+ Complete College America builds upon this foundation using more Proactive Advising with Pathways and Academic Maps and focuses on Completion in timely fashion (60 credits in 2 years)
15 to Finish

- 5 Courses per Semester
- Use of Summer and Winter Sessions
- On Course to Graduate in 2 Years
Some Keys to Staying on Track

- Pathways Maps (Meta-Majors)
- Academic Maps
- Milestone Courses
- Proactive Advising
Academic Maps

- Course Sequence by Semester (4)
- Milestone Courses
- Recommended Electives
- Advising Notes
- Career and Transfer Outlook
Pathways Maps (Meta-Majors)

- Designed for first-semester students who may still be exploring academic interests and career opportunities
- Help students stay on track and complete core courses, while trying to choose a major program of study
- First 15 Credits
Pathways Maps (Meta-Majors)

- Describes general career areas this Pathway may lead to
- STOP Sign for developmental students
- Includes FYE and contextualized career courses
- Depicts programs (majors) Pathway Map leads to
- Meet with advisor to select program of study after Pathway complete
Degree Works: Features

- Run a degree audit
- Review major requirements
- Review CPT Test Scores
- View list of courses fulfilling a major requirement or a General Education requirement
- View Mass Transfer block
- Run What-If audits
- Post advising notes
- Plan courses for future semesters
College Scheduler: Features

- Allows student to generate schedule templates based on their availability
- Incorporates “breaks” or times not available
- Can select courses, campus, time of day, instructional method, etc.
- Notes indicate prerequisites, co-requisites
- Can register directly from the system
- Should be used in tandem with Degree Works & Academic Maps
Advising Resources & Tools

- Academic, Career and Transfer Website
- Degree Works, College Scheduler
- Academic and Pathways Maps
- FOCUS 2
- Optimal Resume
- Mass Transfer Website
Set up an early semester appointment with your advisees each semester to get acquainted if they are new to you or to check on their progress for the start of the semester.

Encourage your advisees to think ahead about courses they want/need to take prior to the registration period.

Remind students to register early when the registration period opens to get best choice of classes & times.

Refer students to campus resources they may need to be successful.
Redesigning America’s Community Colleges: A Clearer Path to Student Success by
Thomas R. Bailey
Shana Smith Jaggars
Davis Jenkins
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