

## Advising Questions

to ask at different points in a student's career

### First Semester Freshman Year

August: Suggested Activity – Who am I? Make a copy of this student worksheet and revisit occasionally throughout your advising encounters. What has changed? Why?

- What was your favorite class in high school? In which classes did you do the best? Which were most challenging for you? Why?
- Is there anything in your current schedule that you want to change?
- Which class is going to challenge you this coming semester? How are you going to devote time to succeeding there? What resources can you use?
- Have you done all of the paperwork regarding learning disabilities? Have you been diagnosed with ADHD, for instance? Are you taking any medications?
- Are you ready to take forms about learning disabilities and sports schedules to your professors?
- How are you going to keep track of your schedule? (phone? organizer?)
- Have you located when and where you hope to study?
- How are you planning to take care of yourself, now that you are a college student? For instance, when will you sleep and exercise?
- Why are you here?

*Important points of Contact: Coaches and Parents*

Consider sharing some of these questions during Parents' Session

Fall advising session: Suggested resources: Goal Setting 1 & 2, Who am I?, Values Card Sort, Mapping Your Success (for more advanced students), Planning Ahead, Mid-Course Self-Evaluation, Midterm Check-in, Mr. Fix-it!

- How is your social life going? How is dorm life?
- Are you going to class regularly?
- Is there anyone in our advising group about whom you have concerns academically
- Are you finding activities, clubs, and groups that feel right for you?
- How are you going to take care of yourself differently based on recent experience? (\*\*This can be asked at every meeting.)
- Which class is your most challenging, and why?
- Which classes seem to play to your strengths? Is there something you are surprised to find you are good at?
- Since you didn't get to choose your first semester courses, the spring course registration is really your first opportunity to take ownership of your choices. What direction do you want your studies to take?

*Suggestion from a colleague:* Consider having two individual meetings with your freshman. “The first is the longer, “advising” meeting where we talk about what to look for in courses and about the core and any possible majors. Then send them off to build a schedule and, at a much shorter meeting, I check over their choices, talk about the practicalities of registration (i.e., how to use the Tiger Web system), and clear them.”

## **Second Semester Freshman Year**

Spring advising session: Suggested resources: Goal Setting, Who am I?, Values Card Sort, Mapping Your Success (for more advanced students), Planning Ahead, Mid-Course Self-Evaluation, Midterm Check-in, Mr. Fix-it!

- How will you study differently based on your performance from last semester?
- Are you using the resources on campus that can help you succeed, like the Office of Academic Success and disciplinary tutors?
- How did housing draw go? Are you happy with your roommates for next year?
- Are you pledging a fraternity? How is that going and how is it changing your life here?
- What are you going to do with your summer? Are you interested in doing an internship?
- Are you feeling comfortable in Farmville as a new home base? Have you learned your way around? Is transportation working out for you and can you get where you need to go?
- Do you feel like your values have changed as a result of your time here so far, and do you think it might impact your decisions about career and life going forward? What has challenged your worldview in or out of the classroom?

## **First Semester Sophomore Year**

*Suggestion:* Find ways to meet with your sophomores as a group early on in the year, soon after everyone returns to campus. Suggested resources: Goal Setting 1 & 2, Values Card Sort (if not done in the previous semesters), Mapping Your Success, and Planning Ahead. **Remember to direct your students to the Major and Minor Checklists.**

- What are you interested in majoring in? Are you going to take at least one class in each possible major or minor next semester?
- Why are you interested in the majors we’ve been discussing? Has something or someone in particular nudged you in that direction?
- Do you have any ideas of who might advise you in your major?
- Are you making progress on the core?

- What are you thinking of doing next summer? Should you pave the way for this over winter break?
- Is study abroad in your plans? Have you gathered good info on this? When might you go?
- Are you taking on any leadership roles so far on campus? How are you balancing that with other responsibilities?
- Are you seeing differences in yourself and your approach to life now that you're well into college? Are your values shifting or being clarified? Has anything challenged or surprised you that we need to talk about?

## **Second Semester Sophomore Year**

*Note:* There may not be a structured time to see sophomores before they declare, but they may want support anyway, so it can be a good idea to notify them of your office hours and encourage them to stop by.

- Who would you like to be your major advisor? (\*\*This can be talked about in the fall semester, too, especially since they will declare fairly early in the semester)
- Are the classes in your planned areas of study everything you hoped they'd be? Do they seem like a good fit? (\*\*It might be good to have this discussion at the end of freshman year, for those students who are on a particular "track.")
- Are you working towards a minor or some other focus?
- What is your legacy? If you are in a leadership role within a club or organization, are you mentoring a new member? Are you recording program data for more efficient planning for future club or organization leaders?