Three Advising Conversations YOU Should Have

Did you know your adviser plays an integral part to your college experience? Their purpose is to advise and guide, providing much more than just your registration TAP number, course list, and signatures. Here are three types of conversations that you should have to get the most out of your advisement meetings and to best build your advising relationship.

1. **Informational** - Conversations regarding the University’s policies, requirements for your degree and major, important dates and deadlines, and programs of study available. Short-term registration planning. Just the facts, man.

2. **Individual** - Conversations that focus on your individual values, interests, strengths, and weaknesses. Also, inform them of any extracurricular activities you may be involved in (i.e. clubs, jobs, etc.). Getting a bit more personal.

3. **Future** - Conversations on goal-setting, career options, internship opportunities, and steps to turn goals into reality. Mentoring. Where do you see yourself going and what guidance can your adviser provide?

A key point to remember is that your adviser is a valuable resource, a possible mentor, and an MU community member. You should ask them questions, seek assistance and direction. You have responsibilities in your advisement relationship too! Come to meetings prepared, do your advisement "homework" before appointments, and be respectful of your adviser.

Mark Your Calendar

- **Sept 22**: Winter Schedule available online
- **Sept 23**: Carnival of Majors (SMC MPR, 12-2pm)
- **Oct 8**: Change of Major/Minor deadline
- **Oct 10-15**: Fall Break
- **Oct 13**: TAP numbers available
- **Oct 31**: Last day to withdraw from a course and receive a W grade (Registrar’s Office)
- **Nov 6-14**: Undergraduate early registration for Spring 2015. Check Registrar’s website for registration schedule date and time
- **Nov 25 - Dec 1**: Thanksgiving Break
- **Dec 8**: Summer 2015 Schedule available
- **Dec 9-13**: Finals and evaluation period
- **Dec 14**: End of Fall 2014, Commencement
Success Strategies for Transfer Students!

Millersville welcomed over 650 new transfer students this fall. Many came from local community colleges while others transferred from various four-year colleges. Some will live on campus while others commute daily. All face the risk of transfer shock, a phenomenon where students feel overwhelmed, lonely and uncertain about their decision to transfer. This may adversely affect their academic and social success at MU. While these feelings are common, Millersville wants to help transfer students cope and succeed in their new environment. To help, we’ve developed a list of tips to becoming a successful Marauder:

Find a social net: Get to know the people in your major that share similar interests. Join a club or organization that aligns with your passion. Or check out Philadelphia House, the commuter lounge, a great environment for commuting students to relax and do work. Find your social niche, feel connected to MU. Don’t just attend class and go home or back to your room—you’ll miss out on college life!

Understand the advising structure: Advising is different at every school. Introduce yourself to your faculty adviser and make sure you are on track to meet your academic and professional goals. If you are undeclared, work with your exploratory adviser to discover different majors. Check in with Kim Morton, the Advisement Coordinator for Transfer Students in Academic & Student Development (Lyle Hall Rm. 261) for support and assistance.

Be prepared for the challenges: Upper level courses require more reading, writing, and studying. Be cautious of falling behind in classes or overscheduling with a job or extra activities. MU has many great resources to help students including the Tutoring Center (Lyle Hall, 3rd Floor), the Chryst Writing Center (Chryst Hall and the McNaury Library), the Math Assistance Center (Wickersham Hall, Room 100), and dedicated librarians. If you find yourself struggling, reach out for help before you get too far behind. MU Counseling Center (Lyle Hall, 3rd Floor) is also helpful for students experiencing personal and academic difficulties.

Get to know your professors: Don’t be silent in the classroom! Introduce yourself to your professors, ask questions during class or office hours, participate in discussions, clarify assignments that seem vague, and volunteer to help with their research. You may gain great experience, opportunities, and most of all, knowledge!