

Suggested Questions for First Advising Meetings

Many students (not all) submitted information to share with you during the summer, in response to a set of questions about their academic experiences and plans. That's available in the Faculty Advising App, and it helpful to review in advance of talking with them in person. Sometimes the information helps you get to know them sooner, and sometimes they mention questions that are already on their minds, and those can be a good starting point for your first conversation.

In addition to questions about their past experiences, here are some other questions that could be asked in a first meeting:

- What are one or two things that would make this coming year a success for you? How are you approaching those goals, and how will you know if you are successful?
- How are you considering using your time and selecting your courses in the first semester, in light of our shadow grading policy?
- Apart from academics, what other activities are you considering this year? Do you plan to look for a job, play a sport or musical instrument, or join a student organization?
- As you think about courses for this fall, what's pulling you to your choices? What would make a "good" schedule for you?

Then some specifics about registration itself:

- We like to see students taking one course in each of the three major distribution areas during the first semester. Can you show me what options you've considered for accomplishing this?
- Have you thought about the balance in your proposed course schedule, in class meeting times as well as the kinds of work you will do?
- Have you reviewed your writing course placement and your seminar placement (if you have one), to make sure your schedule will work?
- What's your plan for meeting the foreign language requirement?
- Do you have back up choices, in case your first choices for courses are not available?
- Do you feel comfortable with your plans for registration? Do you think you will need any help from the Academic Success Coaches or First Year Mentors?

Finally, be sure to talk about how you will communicate and meet through the semester, so you have shared expectations about that.