

University of Wisconsin Colleges

Definition of Academic Advising System

Academic advising in the UW Colleges is an integral part of the total learning process. Its primary purpose is to assist students in the development of educational plans that are compatible with their life goals. An understanding of individual student needs and the nature of our student body underlies this important activity. The advising process begins with the initial contact with the student, continues throughout enrollment in the UW Colleges, and includes post-enrollment planning.

The ultimate responsibility for making decisions about educational plans and life goals rests with the student. The advisor assists by helping identify and assess alternatives. Within this context, the goals for academic advising should include:

- Establishing an ongoing one-to-one relationship between the student and the advisor;
- Assisting in the student's acclimation to university life;
- Clarifying academic and career goals as they relate to life experience;
- Guiding in the selection of appropriate courses and other educational experiences;
- Interpreting institutional requirements;
- Increasing student awareness about educational resources available;
- Recognizing other student needs and referring to appropriate campus and community resources;
- Evaluating student progress toward established goals;
- Teaching student self-direction and encouraging intellectual development.