

COMMISSIONS AND INTEREST GROUPS

Benefits

Commissions represent the specific interests of each group. Members join other advisors who have similar interests and benefit from:

- Identifying professional development needs
- Networking with others with similar interests
- Sharing information from the commissions on specific activities through the NACADA *Newsletter*, *Journal* and e-mail lists
- Participating in commission business meetings, projects, discussion groups, e-mail lists
- Serving on commission steering committees
- Serving in elected leadership positions within the commission
- Participating in mini-conferences or roundtables related to commission topics
- Presenting ideas to the Division Representatives
- Nominating advisors, programs and electronic resources for national NACADA awards
- Collaborating on choices of presentations for national conferences
- Nominating colleagues for elected leadership positions

Commission Interests and Activities

On the following pages, each commission is listed with purpose statements or goals and objectives, the constituency each represents, and/or an idea of what activities are sponsored. This information is provided to help members decide which of the commissions they would like to join.

Getting Involved

NACADA Commissions

The NACADA Commissions provide members an opportunity to join others with similar academic or specific student population interests in advising. Commissions advise the NACADA Commission & Interest Group Division Representatives about their concerns and issues and represent their members by serving on national and regional conference planning committees. The current commissions include the following:

- Advising Administration
- Advising Adult Learners
- Advising Business Majors
- Advising Education Majors
- Advising Graduate and Professional Students
- Advising Student Athletes
- Advising Students with Disabilities
- Advising Transfer Students
- Advisor Training and Development
- Assessment of Advising
- Engineering and Science Advising
- ESL & International Student Advising
- Faculty Advisors
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Allies Concerns
- Multicultural Concerns
- Small Colleges and Universities
- Technology in Advising
- Two-Year Colleges
- Undecided and Exploratory Students

NACADA members can choose membership in two commissions and two interest groups each year when they file their membership dues with which they will have voting privileges and will be eligible to hold elected or appointed positions. Members may change affiliations from various commissions or interest groups at that time or at any time during the membership year. Annual commission meetings are held at the National Conference, but frequently overlap, so members may have to choose one major commission meeting to attend. Commission membership assumes a commitment to active participation in programming and activities. Members are encouraged to select commissions to which they are able to devote time and energy. Beyond these selections, members may subscribe to any number of listserves and have unlimited access to the information and resources for all commissions and interest groups on the NACADA web site.

For most commissions and interest groups, an e-mail list has been established to initiate dialogue about issues and concerns for its constituents. Web pages have been established on the NACADA web site as yet another avenue for all commissions and interest groups to share information with their members and other interested colleagues. The web site URL for the e-mail list subscription instructions and home web page for each commission or interest group are provided in this brochure.

If there is a specific facet of advising not currently represented by an existing commission or interest group, and you are interested in forming such a group, guidelines for your reference are provided on the NACADA Commission & Interest Group Division (CIGD) web site located at www.nacada.ksu.edu/CandIGDivision/cigdivinfo.htm. Additional information on commissions and interest groups and the Division itself can also be found on this web site. For a comparison of the similarities and differences between commissions and interest groups, visit the NACADA web site at www.nacada.ksu.edu/CandIGDivision/CIGDComparisonChart.htm.

For more information, contact NACADA at
(785) 532-5717 or visit the NACADA web site at
www.nacada.ksu.edu/

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ADVISING ADMINISTRATION

The purpose of the Advising Administration Commission is to provide a forum for sharing ideas and discussing common concerns. To reach out to the large number of commission members, there are several liaisons who sit on the steering committee of the commission. Liaisons also represent the commission at regional conferences. At each national conference, the commission selects and sponsors five proposals in the field of advising administration. The commission has its own e-mail list.

The Commission's goals are to:

1. Provide a forum for sharing ideas, identifying and discussing common concerns, and bringing critical issues to the attention of the NACADA leadership.
2. Reach out to the large number of commission members in all NACADA regions.
3. Promote presentations, speakers, and workshops addressing advising administration topics at national, regional, and state levels.
4. Identify professional development needs and suggest programs to meet those needs.
5. Work with the NACADA leadership to explore strategies for initiating and maintaining NACADA-sponsored research on issues related to advising and advising administration, and enhance institutional recognition across colleges and universities of the importance of academic advising in undergraduate education.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C05/index.htm

Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C05/listserve.htm

ADVISING ADULT LEARNERS

The Advising Adult Learners Commission serves advisors who spend a significant portion of their duties in serving adult students. Through the sharing of information and experience our commission assists advisors of adult learners to understand and address the unique needs of adult students. This commission's network assists members in working directly with students and administrators to properly address the needs of adult students. The commission works to advocate for the needs of adult learners in terms of providing: 1) support for their learning development; 2) services convenient for adults; 3) networking and community building opportunities; 4) strategies for dealing with financial and family responsibilities; and, 5) motivation to complete their programs. Besides providing and sponsoring sessions at the national and local conferences and circulating a commission newsletter to share information, the commission also organizes business meetings and social gatherings for its members.

The Commission's goals are to:

1. Provide academic advisors ways to learn how to enhance student learning and development among adult learners.
2. Affirm the role of academic advising in the success and persistence of adult learners.
3. Anticipate the academic advising needs of the adult population and to educate advisors and institutions on ways to prepare for these needs.
4. Foster the talents and contributions of the commission members and promote the involvement of diverse populations.
5. Help all advisors and members of NACADA become aware of the diverse needs of adults in higher education and how these needs differ from those of traditional students.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C01/index.htm

Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C01/listserve.htm

ADVISING BUSINESS MAJORS

The goals of the Advising Business Majors Commission are to:

1. Encourage and sponsor programming at the National and Regional conferences.
2. Encourage sharing and sponsoring of materials useful to advising business students.
3. Develop a network of advisors and business students to keep in touch and share information.
4. Help advisors of business students stay abreast of changes in the academic environment as it relates to business students specifically (AICPA, AACSB, etc.).
5. Encourage NACADA to develop relationships with business agencies such as AACSB.

We are currently focusing on hot topics and issues related to advising business majors which include dealing with oversubscribed programs, faculty advising, advising technology, helping probationary students, AACSB issues, and advising assessment. The commission promotes small group discussions of issues, and sharing advising techniques and best practices for advising business majors. Commission members are encouraged to post to our e-mail list and view our web page for current information.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C11/index.htm

Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C11/listserve.htm

ADVISING EDUCATION MAJORS

The mission of the Advising Education Majors Commission is to identify and address critical issues in advising education majors and to provide a forum of support by encouraging the sharing of best practices through presentations and discussions. The commission serves as a support network for discussion, sharing of knowledge and practices, recruitment and retention strategies, and utilization of technology to enhance advising. Individual and collaborative presentations and publications at the national, regional, and local levels are encouraged.

The goals and objectives of this commission are to:

1. Harness the experiences of education advisors in order to provide a support network for discussion and support.
2. Examine the use of technology such as the World Wide Web, e-mail, and student information database systems in order to obtain and maintain students, Federal and States programs completers accountabilities.
3. Advance the commission's knowledge and practices on academic advisement.
4. Share best practices through presentations and workshops at the national and regional levels.
5. Encourage sharing through publications.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C22/index.htm

Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C22/listserve.htm

ADVISING GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS

This commission comprises professionals who advise the post-baccalaureate student community. We welcome those individuals who work with traditional graduate students, professional degree seekers, adults returning for advanced degrees or certificates, and alternatively delivered and structured graduate and professional programs. Small in size but great in commitment, our commission provides a collegial and mutually supportive context for discussion of issues particular to serving these student populations. Ongoing projects include encouraging discussion of pertinent topics on our com-

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mission listserve, keeping our website up-to-date, and increasing our presence at national and regional meetings.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C06/index.htm

Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C06/listserve.htm

ADVISING STUDENT ATHLETES

Members of this commission share ideas and best practices for advising student-athletes at the NCAA Division I/II/III level, community colleges, Canadian institutions, and NAIA schools. Commission members include advisors who work solely with student-athletes as well as those who see student-athletes as a part of a larger advising audience. Current topics of discussion often include NCAA rules (which may change on an annual basis), academic eligibility, career counseling, technological advancements, ethical issues in sport and/or athletic academic advising, transfer concerns, and life skills development of student-athletes. As advisors to a unique population with a significant time commitment outside the classroom, commission members often serve as a liaison with faculty and other advising offices on their home campus. Both beginning and seasoned advisors interested in working with student-athletes are welcome and encouraged to join the Advising Student Athletes Commission.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C12/index.htm

Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C12/listserve.htm

ADVISING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Members in this group seek to raise awareness of all academic advisors about the legal and ethical responsibilities of institutions of higher education for students with disabilities who attend institutions of higher education. It serves as a resource by providing models for administrators, faculty, and staff whose primary responsibility is providing advising services for students with disabilities. The commission seeks to establish standards of good practice in such areas as protection of privacy, documentation of disability, and determination of reasonable accommodation. It maintains an e-mail list through NACADA and hopes to produce an advising manual.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C16/index.htm

Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C16/listserve.htm

ADVISING TRANSFER STUDENTS

In our highly mobile society, students are increasingly apt to transfer one or more times before completing a degree. Members of the Advising Transfer Students (ATS) Commission are interested in developing strategies to address the needs of these students. The ATS Commission includes individuals from all aspects of advising - from admissions professionals to faculty advisors to advising administrators and from all types of institutions - two and four year, public and independent. Members of ATS have defined six action areas for research, collaboration, sharing of "best practices," presentations and advocacy:

- Transfer Credit Issues
- Transfer Student Orientation/Transition Programs
- Technological Resources
- Transfer Student Groups with Special Needs
- Assessment of Transfer Student Issues
- Discipline-based Transfer Student Advising

The Commission's goals are to:

1. Advance the body of knowledge on advising transfer students.
2. Identify key issues in advising and retention of transfer students.

3. Identify innovative and effective methods used in advising transfer students.
4. Increase the level of involvement of commission members.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C19/index.htm

Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C19/listserve.htm

ADVISOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The mission of the Advisor Training and Development Commission is to promote ongoing, comprehensive professional development for professional and faculty advisors, and to provide members with a network for discussing training and development issues and exchanging ideas and best practices. The commission suggests projects to the NACADA Commission and Interest Group Division Representatives and to the Board. The first of these was the highly successful NACADA advisor training video. Most recently, commission members were actively involved in the publication of an advisor training and development monograph, released in 2003. Members are encouraged to share ideas and suggestions on the commission's listserve, present workshops and roundtables about advisor training and development at state, regional and national conferences, actively participate in the nomination and selection of conference sessions and national award winning advising professionals and advising programs, and further develop the commission web site as a resource for training and development.

The commission enthusiastically welcomes *any* advising professionals interested in training and development, be they new advisors or seasoned veterans. Interested participants have the opportunity to share ideas with more than 1200 commission members.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C17/index.htm

Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C17/listserve.htm

ASSESSMENT OF ADVISING

Because academic advising is a multi-dimensional field in higher education, the assessment of advising has some unique challenges. Advising is multi-level (from individual appointments to campus-wide programs), multi-disciplinary (from student development theories to specific curricular fields), and multi-functional (from conducting degree audits to teaching credit classes). The method of delivery of advising services can vary from institution to institution and advising may be provided by a variety of sources. Given this unique multi-dimensionality assessment context, the Assessment of Advising Commission (ASAC) strives to serve all NACADA members who want to discuss, learn about, or share expertise on the assessment of academic advising.

Goals for the commission include:

1. Serve as a venue for advisors to educate themselves on the issues of assessment so that they can become proactive participants or spearhead advising assessment initiatives at their home institutions.
2. Promote member submission of proposals to NACADA national and regional conferences, as well as to external assessment related conferences.
3. Promote member submission of articles to the *NACADA Journal* and other professional publications.
4. Develop various publications and reports, such as the "Status of Assessment of Academic Advising Survey" and an "Assessment of Advising Primer".

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C32/index.htm

Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C32/listserve.htm

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ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE ADVISING

The Commission on Engineering and Science Advising welcomes the participation of all advisors in the areas of engineering, physical science, mathematics, computer science, and technology. The commission focuses on improving advising for these students by finding answers to these challenges: highly structured curricula, importance of accreditation issues, student attitudes toward college, poorly defined learning objectives, high level of stress among students, critical diversity and equity issues, academic support problems, competitive nature of admissions, and the high percentage of international and ESL students.

The Commission values contributions from anyone interested in these issues. We are especially looking for those interested in enhancing the young Commission's reputation for having active NACADA members at both the regional and national levels.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C21/index.htm

Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C21/listserve.htm

ESL & INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISING

It is apparent to many advisors who have worked with students from International and ESL backgrounds that these students face particular difficulties when they enter post-secondary education. Apart from the fact that English is often not their mother tongue, this is not a group that is easy to categorize: some may be foreign students studying on visas, others may be citizens who arrived in the country as immigrants or refugees, some may have been in the country only a matter of days, while others may have been in the country for many years. Some may be very proficient in English, while others may still be struggling to achieve the level and kind of language they need for success in their post-secondary studies. The premise for the ESL/International Student Advising Commission is that there are particular circumstances that these students face in our schools that require special attention from advisors. The ESL/International Student Advising Commission highlights the needs of this segment of the student community, and provides a framework within which ESL/International Student Advisors can share their knowledge and experience, and learn from others.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C26/index.htm

Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C26/listserve.htm

FACULTY ADVISORS

The Faculty Advisors Commission was formed because faculty are the largest group of college and university professionals who have advising as part of their contract/teaching responsibilities. However, because most faculty use their time and budget to attend their respective professional meetings, the commission has been established to assist and train faculty members for their advising responsibilities. Through its web page, e-mail list, and NACADA-sponsored workshops, the commission intends to focus on faculty needs and provide information and materials to aid commission members in their advising arenas.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C15/index.htm

Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C15/listserve.htm

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDERED, AND ALLIES CONCERNS (LGBT)

In existence since 1997, this commission has identified the following for its primary goals:

- EDUCATE the NACADA membership about the myths and concerns that confront gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered students.

- ENCOURAGE conversations amidst the NACADA membership about sexual orientation and gender identification and its relationship to issues in advising, education/career planning, curriculum, and retention.
- ESTABLISH a supportive environment where advisors can discuss and address homophobia and heterophobia in their institutions and in NACADA.
- ENABLE NACADA LGBT folks the opportunity to network with each other at regional and national conferences.

The commission continues to offer workshops at both regional and national conferences to educate the advising community on LGBT issues. Commission goals are to:

1. Encourage regional presentations to be made at national conferences.
2. Establish a sound networking effort within the commission to assist our campuses with the procurement of Domestic Partnership Benefits and Sexual Orientation discrimination clauses.
3. Promote Allies aspect of the commission and increase the strength of their support.
4. Develop training modules to be distributed within the commission.
5. Help LGBT folks who cannot attend conferences to be involved.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C18/index.htm

Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C18/listserve.htm

MULTICULTURAL CONCERNS

The purpose of the commission is to address the issues relative to advising people of color and under-represented students and how those issues impact their success in college. Anyone who is interested in the success of these student groups or who has ideas regarding how we can work collaboratively to assist under-represented students is welcome.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C03/index.htm

Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C03/listserve.htm

SMALL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The Small Colleges and Universities Commission focuses on issues of concern to those whose professional setting is the smaller institution. It provides a forum—through commission-sponsored sessions at the national conference and an e-mail list—to facilitate sharing ideas, gathering information, and raising questions. Making connections with others in similar circumstances is important, since those at smaller institutions may wear many hats and may be the only persons on their campuses whose work centers on advising. Topics discussed have included assessment, registration, working with faculty advisors, degree-audit programs, “safety nets” for students in trouble, and working with parents.

In 2003, a NACADA monograph “Advising and Learning: Academic Advising from the Perspective of Small Colleges and Universities” was published. Former commission chairs—Martha Hemwall (Lawrence University) and Kent Trachte (Franklin and Marshall College)—served as editors, and chapters were written by commission members. The monograph, available through NACADA, emerged from the work of the commission's Committee on Publications. Articles of interest have also appeared in *Academic Advising News* (“Advising in a Learner-Centered Environment: A Small College Perspective”, June 2004) and the *Clearinghouse* (Advising Students in Selective Majors). Other resources are included on the commission web site.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C08/index.htm

Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C08/listserve.htm

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TECHNOLOGY IN ADVISING

NACADA's Technology in Advising Commission helps academic advisers and administrators to understand the impact that wide ranging technologies have on academic advising, to use technology effectively in their work, and to determine the most appropriate uses of technology in higher education. The commission seeks to serve as a central resource for information regarding innovative uses of academic advising technology. On the commission web site, we publish "Advising Resources on the Internet", an extensive, annotated list of on-line resources for academic advisers. Through the electronic discussion forum (TECADV-L), members learn from each other by asking questions and sharing experiences regarding the implementation of various technologies. During national and regional conferences, the commission encourages NACADA members to see and learn about the many exciting uses of technology in advising.

Commission activities include our annual review of technology-related national conference proposals, and the coordination and selection of the Electronic Publication Awards and the commission's Service to Commission Award. Opportunities for publication exist on many levels from short electronic articles on the commission's website to articles in the *NACADA Journal*, *Academic Advising News*, monographs, and other publications. We also have a volunteer network that enables commission members to get involved in a variety of professionally rewarding activities. The commission chair is assisted by an active steering committee, with membership by invitation.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C14/index.htm

Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C14/listserve.htm

TWO-YEAR COLLEGES

This group of professionals, concerned with advising programs at the two-year college level, established the following objectives.

1. Encourage two-year college commission members to actively participate in regional and national conferences.
2. Provide continued support to and encourage networking among our members.
3. Provide a link to the regions through representatives.
4. Report activities to the membership.
5. Establish and augment venues for sharing of ideas, data, and support among professional two-year colleagues.

The commission has an active electronic mail list for the exchange of information and networking. It is a ready source for ideas and models when addressing campus issues including recommendations for changing procedures and methods to enhance the student experience. Some of the challenges addressed are students seeking specialized and associate degrees in unique situations, transfer credit issues, and retention. To continue our efforts to augment both communication and resource building, we have just begun publishing a new *Two-Year College Newsletter* and also maintain a commission web page.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C07/index.htm

Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C07/listserve.htm

UNDECIDED AND EXPLORATORY STUDENTS (CUES)

The mission of this commission is to promote the advancement and improvement of academic advising of undecided and exploratory college students through the greater dissemination of resources and research pertinent to this educational endeavor. Undecided and exploratory students represent a significant proportion of the entering student body at most colleges and universities. Many other students (between 60% -75%) who begin university studies as declared in majors, change their majors at least once before they graduate. Retention becomes an issue if programs are not available and strategies are not developed to help students understand how to progress from being undecided to declared in a major that fits their abilities, values and interests. Strategies developed for undecided students will ultimately impact the majority of students on campus. The number of students who are undeclared and who have a high attrition rate is even more dramatic at community colleges and open-access institutions.

Advising students who are undecided is a challenge because of the variety of reasons they are undecided. Students may be feeling pressure from family and friends, they may not be at a developmental stage to make a decision of this magnitude, they may be "good" at and interested in many things, or they may not be able to find anything that holds their interest. It is important to try new approaches and tailor approaches to the individual needs of the student. Developing a commission to address the challenges that undecided and exploratory students present will provide a forum for discussion of new strategies and an opportunity to network with individuals who have responsibility for advising this significant group.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C13/index.htm

Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C13/listserve.htm

Service to Commission Awards

Commissions offer the Service to Commission Awards to recognize members who have contributed to commission activities at an outstanding level. Specific information for these awards can be found on the NACADA web site at www.nacada.ksu.edu/Awards/CService.htm.

Leadership Opportunities

Those interested in a leadership opportunity in the NACADA organization may want to start as a member of a commission steering committee or serving on a Commission committee. Then they may consider the position of Commission Chair. The Chair provides leadership for commission activities in support of the profession. The Chair represents the members of the commission, their needs and concerns, assists with the selection and evaluation of presentations for both national and regional conferences, and communicates with the members through the national newsletter. The Chair attends the fall Division meeting and communicates commission needs and concerns to the Division Representatives who serve on the NACADA Council. Eligibility for this elected position as Chair requires at least one year of membership in the commission prior to taking office and a commitment of two years of service.

NACADA Interest Groups

NACADA Interest Groups

If members have an interest in a topic or constituency not included in the commission structure, an interest group may be formed. A meeting is held at the national conference to generate support, the interest group is formed and when sufficient interest and commitment is generated, the interest group may apply for commission status. Currently, the following interest groups have been organized:

- Advising Fine Arts Students
- Advising High Achieving Students
- Canada
- Distance Education Advising
- First-Generation College Student Advising
- Health Professions Advising
- High School to College Advising
- Liberal Arts Advisors*
- Native American and Tribal College
- Peer Advising and Mentoring
- Pre-Law Advising
- Probation/Dismissal/Reinstatement Issues
- Study Abroad Advising
- Theory & Philosophy of Advising

* Indicates that this Interest Group has applied for commission status. If approved at the 2004 fall Leadership meetings, this Interest Group will officially become a commission at the conclusion of the National Conference in Cincinnati.

On the following pages, each interest group is listed with a short description of its mission and purpose, the constituency each represents, and/or an idea of what activities are sponsored. This information is provided to help members decide which of the interest groups they would like to join. Leadership opportunities are also available, including overall Interest Group Chair or Committee Chair within the group.

ADVISING FINE ARTS STUDENTS

Pursuing a career in the fine arts can lead to a lifetime of fulfilling work. Yet, multiple challenges exist including making money, building a career, capitalizing on limited opportunities, dealing with commercialism, and making sense of the mechanics and metaphysics of this particular career path. Advising fine arts students can be especially challenging for those who do not interact with such students on a regular basis. This interest group is charged with providing information and support to other professionals working with fine arts students. Through on-line dialogue and meetings at the national conventions, participants can share advising strategies, programs, and resources. Whether you advise fine arts students occasionally or daily, we are interested in learning more about your experiences and sharing ours.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C33/index.htm
Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C33/listserve.htm

ADVISING HIGH ACHIEVING STUDENTS

The High Achieving Students Interest Group addresses the issues connected with students who want more than the usual opportunities and challenges. Whether they are gifted undergraduates at a prestigious research university, graduate-school bound students at a selective four-year college, or honors students in a community college, they need advisers who can guide them through getting the most from their educational experience. Members of this interest group are concerned with directing undergraduate research opportunities, administering honors programs, developing enriched curricular opportunities both inside and outside the classroom, organ-

izing summer bridges for promising high school students, recruiting especially able students of diverse backgrounds, mentoring scholarship applicants, helping bright students make realistic adjustments to the college environment, and advocating for general education among students ready to specialize early. Our panels have included students, professionals, and faculty advisers from private and public institutions. We hope to create a forum in which the special needs of able students can be recognized in the context of the whole institution.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C28/index.htm
Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C28/listserve.htm

CANADA

The Canada Interest Group provides a forum for Canadian academic advisers to network with their colleagues across our large country and to share concerns that have a uniquely Canadian focus. The Interest Group was created to ensure that Canadian issues and concerns are addressed within the NACADA organization. One of our goals is to increase communication among Canadian members and to liaise more frequently with provincial advising-related associations. Despite the fact that post-secondary educational systems vary from province to province, Canadian academic advisers share many common concerns. We welcome input from all Canadian student advisers and invite you to meet other Canadians and share your advising interests at our annual meeting at the national conference.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C35/index.htm
Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C35/listserve.htm

DISTANCE EDUCATION ADVISING

The challenge of providers of academic advising via Distance Education is to be able to offer a minimum set of core services related to academic advising which assist distance learners in identifying and achieving their maximum educational potential which enables them to reach their educational goals. The institutional philosophy of a distance learning support services program must be to strive to respond to learner needs rather than the learner adjusting to an institution's established organizational structure.

This interest group will provide a forum for discussion of core services that are provided to distance learners and provide an opportunity to network with other professionals who have the responsibility for providing these services. A listserv has been established to promote a continued support network.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C23/index.htm
Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C23/listserve.htm

FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT ADVISING

First-Generation College Students will most likely fail! Shocking but true.

The literature clearly shows that First-Generation college students are at a definite disadvantage—they are less likely to have taken College Prep courses or College Entrance exams; they are more likely to be required to take remedial classes; they are more likely to work full time once they get to college; they are more likely to come from low income families, have lower educational expectations and receive less support from their families with the application process. First-Generation students are much less likely to attain degrees from their initial colleges than students whose parents completed college. They face pressure from their families to “make us proud” and often straddle two cultures.

Effective academic advising is critical for these First-Generation students. The First-Generation College Student Interest Group is committed to identifying this student population, understanding their special problems, and accessing

NACADA Interest Groups

available resources. Our goal is to enhance NACADA's role in advising First-Generation college students by:

1. Gathering and sharing the body of knowledge concerning First-Generation college students.
2. Increasing this body of knowledge with more research.
3. Exploring ways to become advocates for First-Generation college students.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C31/index.htm

Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C31/listserve.htm

HEALTH PROFESSIONS ADVISING

The Health Professions Advising Interest Group has been created for individuals who work with students preparing for study in health-related professions ranging from medicine, dentistry and optometry to nursing, pharmacy, physician's assistants and a variety of other areas in health care. The focus of this group is to provide a means for sharing best practices, exchanging ideas and discussing current trends. We encourage members to submit proposals for conference presentations on topics related to this area of advising.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C20/index.htm

Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C20/listserve.htm

HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE ADVISING

The High School to College Advising Interest Group explores the connection between high school counselors and college academic advisors in relation to present and future college students. This interest group meeting will provide a forum for discussing current programs which connect current high school students with college academic advisers; programs connecting high school counselors with their former students; possible "turf" issues between college admissions office and college advising units when dealing with high school students; and creative ways to bring college academic advisers and high school together to provide students a seamless transition between high school and college.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C24/index.htm

Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C24/listserve.htm

LIBERAL ARTS ADVISORS

The Liberal Arts Advisors Interest Group was created to promote an understanding of the liberal arts education and to serve as a resource for advisors, administrators, faculty, and the external community. Liberal Arts refers to a broad-based education in a variety of disciplines whose emphasis is on understanding humanity from multiple perspectives (e.g. history, literature, philosophy, psychology) while developing the skills of critical thinking, analytical reasoning, oral and written communication and problem solving with the aim of developing an educated individual who respects diversity and accepts global responsibility. In an ever-changing world, liberal arts majors offer an opportunity for breadth and depth of study while producing flexible, well-rounded individuals with an understanding of life-long learning. It is our mission to develop and provide the necessary resources to advise effectively in this environment.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C30/index.htm

Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C30/listserve.htm

NATIVE AMERICAN AND TRIBAL COLLEGE

NACADA's Native American and Tribal College Interest Group (NATCIG) is intended to bring together both Native and non-Native American students, advisors, faculty and other student service personnel. The forum is designed to address the needs of Native American students, transfer students from tribal colleges and to engage the greater advising community in Native American educational issues. The group will encourage presentations at local, regional and national conferences, support Native American research and scholarship, and act as a resource for educational professionals working with Native American students.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C36/index.htm

Listserve: www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C36/listserve.htm

PEER ADVISING AND MENTORING

The Peer Advising and Mentoring Interest Group was established to bring together advising administrators, advisors and peer advisors in a forum to discuss peer advising in higher education. The goals of the interest group are as follows:

1. Provide support and networking opportunities to those involved in the administration and delivery of peer advising programs.
2. Encourage the establishment of peer advising programs and to provide support to newly established programs.
3. Encourage research concerning the effectiveness of peer advising.
4. Share best practices through publication and presentation.

The interest group meets at the NACADA national conference and encourages interest group meetings, round-table discussions and presentations at regional and national conferences.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C37/index.htm

Listserve: not yet established

PRE-LAW ADVISING

Law school applications are at an all-time high. More students are applying to law school than ever before, and applicants are looking to their academic advisors for information that will give them an edge in the admissions game. Whether pre-law is your specialty, or just one of many "general" advising services you provide, the Pre-Law Advising Interest Group offers resources, support, and networking opportunities for you. We have already launched a NACADA web resource for pre-law advisors. In addition, we share materials and encourage each other to present at regional and national conferences, as well as to submit articles for publication.

The goal of the Pre-Law Advising Interest Group is to create a national network of knowledgeable academic advisors who assist students with the often confusing process of preparing for and applying to law school. If you do any pre-law advising at all, in any capacity, this interest group is for you! We are especially interested in reaching out to academic advisors who are new to pre-law or for whom pre-law is only one aspect of their role. We look forward to your input and participation!

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C34/index.htm

Listserve: not yet established

NACADA Interest Groups

PROBATION/DISMISSAL/REINSTATEMENT ISSUES

The mission of the Probation, Dismissal, Reinstatement Issues Interest Group is to provide an active forum for members of NACADA to share information and insights regarding students who have met with academic difficulties. Topics of interest to this group include intrusive programs that increase student academic success, levels of institutional support for students in academic difficulty, academic standards and dismissal policies, criteria for academic reinstatement, various “fresh start” options, or other related topics.

The PDR Issues Interest Group was created in 1998 with the intent to serve all NACADA members with an interest in discussing and sharing their expertise regarding programs, services and strategies that impact students facing Probation, Dismissal and Reinstatement. The IG has an active listserv for the exchange of information and networking. It also has a website with links to member submitted samples of policies, programs, and forms such as contracts used in the advisement of PDR students at a variety of institutions. New submissions for posting to the web site are actively encouraged.

PDR Goals & Objectives:

1. Increase member involvement through committees developed to assist the IG in setting and meeting its goals and objectives.
2. Encourage sharing of PDR best practices and resources through the IG listserv and web site.
3. Promote presentations, publications, and workshops addressing PDR topics at the national, regional, and state levels.
4. Advance the body of knowledge on advising PDR students and support research and publication relating to PDR issues.
5. Serve as a resource for those seeking information regarding policies, practices, and programs designed to impact student persistence and success.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C25/index.htm

Listserves: www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C25/listserv.htm

STUDY ABROAD ADVISING

Over 130,000 college students from the United States study outside of the country each year. Many advisors at American universities assist these students in a variety of ways, including program selection, course selection, working with the study abroad advisor at their respective institutions, etc. In a recent survey of new college students in the U.S., over 20% indicated a desire to study abroad. Therefore, it seems that those advising professionals working with these students need to be prepared for this new collegiate experience. Not only are advisors involved in the initial stages, they may be the first institutional representatives meeting with these students upon their return.

The Study Abroad Advising Interest Group will serve as a forum for these advisors to share ideas and experiences while providing some with an opportunity for becoming better prepared for advising those students interested in studying abroad.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C38/index.htm

Listserves: not yet established

THEORY & PHILOSOPHY OF ADVISING

Our focus is on the necessary but sometimes neglected self-reflexive work of examining the theoretical and philosophical foundations of academic advising. We eschew the official sanctioning of one theory over another; instead, we welcome the study of academic advising from any theoretical vantage point. We seek to promote the study of the theory and philosophy of academic advising, to promote the presentation of conference programs and of publication in these areas, and to promote an understanding of the importance of theory building in academic advising both within NACADA and to external groups.

Goals of this interest group are to:

1. Encourage submission of conference programs.
2. Maintain listserv discussion group.
3. Create website.
4. Encourage submission of articles to the *Journal*, *Newsletter*, and *The Mentor*.
5. Work toward a special issue of the *Journal* on the theory and philosophy of academic advising.
6. Develop a bibliography of articles, books, and other resources on advising theory.

Web site: www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C27/index.htm

Listserves: www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C27/listserv.htm

Other NACADA Resources

- National Conference
- Academic Advising Summer Institute
- Advising Administrators Institute
- Assessment of Advising Institute
- Regional Conferences
- State drive-in workshops
- Publications & Videos
- National Awards Program
- Research Grants
- Member Career Services
- Consultants Bureau
- Clearinghouse on Academic Advising
- Advising-Related E-mail Lists