

# Advising Undecideds

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## Abstract

This topical session focuses on undecided students (variously known as “undeclared” or “exploratory”) to understand their characteristics and their reasons for being undeclared. Advising strategies, advisor attitudes, advisor knowledge and skills that are requisite for assisting this student population will be discussed. To extend to underlying principals that inform academic advising in these instances, various theories pertaining to student development and learning will be highlighted. Practical application of advising strategies and techniques will also be emphasized.

## Outline

1. Who are undeclared students?
2. Informational issues in advising undecided students
3. Developmental issues in advising undecided students
4. Personal-Social issues in advising undecided students
5. Other issues that arise in advising undecided students
6. Advisor Attitudes
7. Advisor Knowledge
8. Advising strategies for undecided students
9. Why theory?
10. Chickering’s Theory of Identity Development
11. Perry’s Theory of Intellectual and Ethical development
12. Myers-Briggs Theory of Personality Types
13. Holland’s Theory of Vocational Personalities and Environments
14. Diversity: Additional theories to consider

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