

Building an Effective Peer Advising Program

While freshmen find advice from many people, upperclassmen are a critical part of their informal board of advisers. This workshop will address ways of harnessing the energy, experience, and passion of upperclassmen by creating a formal peer advising program. The session will present as a model the Peer Advising Fellows program at Harvard University, begun in 2006.

Participants will engage in individual exercises, small-group work, and discussion on common benefits and challenges of starting a peer advising program. Topics will include maintaining a successful program via effective hiring practices, thorough training, ongoing support, careful assessment of advisers, and development of student leadership.

Participants will leave with concrete examples of successful elements of a peer advising program and ideas for next steps toward developing a program at their home institution.