

ASSESSMENT OF ADVISING IN THE MAJOR

RATIONALE

Two advising assessment questionnaires (freshman advising and advising in the major) were developed over the past two years by a sub-committee of faculty, under the aegis of the Scholastic Committee. An objective and anonymous freshman evaluation has been in place since 1998. This second questionnaire asks questions appropriate for advanced students working with advisers in their majors. Up to now, no data has been collected about advising in the major.

The motivating factors for having an evaluation of advising by advanced students are:

1. Advising is an important part of the instructor/ adviser assignment and one of UMM's unique strengths as a public liberal arts college. An evaluation will assess the nature of advising at the upper division level.
2. Advisers will receive confidential feedback about their advising.
3. This evaluative process offers advisers qualitative and quantitative data to be used at their discretion.

THE PROCESS

The assessment of advisers will have similarities with the course instructor evaluation process:

1. The questionnaire will be distributed and collected as part of the application for graduation. Responses will be distributed through the Advising Office.
2. Students will be asked to evaluate their current adviser, but they may also choose to evaluate a second adviser. A system protecting anonymity will be used to track students who have not responded.
3. To protect students' identities, results of evaluations will be distributed to faculty in batches of at least five or more.
4. The Advising staff will key the data. Computing Services analysts will run a statistical package and provide the resulting summaries.
5. Once five or more evaluations have been collected, completed evaluations will be shared in their entirety with the adviser. Advisers may use this information in the faculty review process as they deem appropriate.
6. Summary statistics will be shared with the campus community.

Dear UMM Applicant for Graduation,

You have applied to graduate from UMM. Congratulations for being near the completion of your program. As part of this process, we are asking you to evaluate the advising you have received during the past two years. Please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire below. UMM intends advising in the major to play an important role in establishing a relationship between you and the faculty; yet the college has little specific information about how advising is working, and faculty advisers don't have the systematic feedback that course instructors receive. Please help us learn more about advising at the upper division level. Your identity will be protected. Evaluations will not be sent to advisers in groups of fewer than five students. Summary statistics will be shared with the campus community. If you choose not to fill out the questionnaire, please go to the end of the questionnaire.

BASIC INFORMATION

Please fill in the blanks or circle the number of the appropriate answer. You may type your responses, if you prefer.

1. You may have had more than one adviser since coming to UMM. On this form, you are asked to evaluate your current assigned adviser. You may request additional forms from the Advising Office to evaluate an informal adviser in a second major or minor or a faculty or staff member who has played an advising role for you during the past two years. Please write the name of the adviser you will evaluate on the line provided.

2. Which of the following characterizes this adviser's role?
 1. formal adviser
 2. adviser in second major
 3. adviser in minor
 4. course instructor who played advising role
 5. other: Please specify: _____
3. How long have you been working with this adviser?
 1. less than one year
 2. one year
 3. two years
 4. more than two years
4. Advising can be initiated by either the adviser or the student. How often have you met with this adviser?
 1. never
 2. once a year
 3. once a semester
 4. three or more times a year
5. How important has advising been to you?
 1. Important
 2. Somewhat Important
 3. Not Important

QUESTIONNAIRE

Instructions: Answer the following questions as they apply to the adviser you have identified. For each question, indicate your response by circling whether you were:
Very Satisfied Somewhat satisfied Somewhat dissatisfied Very Dissatisfied Not Applicable

How satisfied are you with this adviser's role in:

1. providing you with information about academic requirements and choices.
Very Satisfied Somewhat satisfied Somewhat dissatisfied Very Dissatisfied Not Applicable
2. helping you explore and clarify your educational goals.
Very Satisfied Somewhat satisfied Somewhat dissatisfied Very Dissatisfied Not Applicable
3. encouraging you to find out about academic experiences available at UMM (e.g., internships, study abroad, and UROP).
Very Satisfied Somewhat satisfied Somewhat dissatisfied Very Dissatisfied Not Applicable
4. helping you assess your strengths as well as areas in which you may improve.
Very Satisfied Somewhat satisfied Somewhat dissatisfied Very Dissatisfied Not Applicable
5. helping you think through, as needed, your academic program decisions, such as graduate or professional school, and your future career plans.
Very Satisfied Somewhat satisfied Somewhat dissatisfied Very Dissatisfied Not Applicable
6. showing respect and concern for you as an advisee.
Very Satisfied Somewhat satisfied Somewhat dissatisfied Very Dissatisfied Not Applicable
7. Rate how well this advising relationship meets your expectations.
Very Satisfied Somewhat satisfied Somewhat dissatisfied Very Dissatisfied Not Applicable
8. Which of the advising roles described in questions 1 through 6 above were most important to you? Circle the number of the question (s).
9. What are your adviser's strengths? In what areas could your adviser improve?
10. Are there additional comments you would like to make?

Thank you for filling out this questionnaire. Please return it to the Registrar's Office, along with your application for graduation.

() *I choose not to complete this assessment.*