

## 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 and programs 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 Graduate and Professional Students
- Advising Student Athletes
- Advising Students with Disabilities
- Advising Transfer Students
- Advisor Training and Development
- Engineering and Science 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. 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 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.

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 URLs 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](http://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 more information, contact NACADA at  
(785) 532-5717 or visit the NACADA web site at  
**[www.nacada.ksu.edu/](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/)**

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## 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. To provide academic advisors ways to learn how to enhance student learning and development among adult learners
2. To affirm the role of academic advising in the success and persistence of adult learners
3. To anticipate the academic advising needs of the adult population and to educate advisors and institutions on ways to prepare for these needs
4. To foster the talents and contributions of the commission members and promote the involvement of diverse populations
5. To 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](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C01/index.htm)

Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C01/listserve.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C01/listserve.htm)

## Advising Administration

The purpose of the Commission on Advising Administration is to provide a forum for sharing ideas and discussing common concerns. To reach out to the large number of commission members, each of the geographic regions has a liaison who sits on the steering committee of the commission. Regional liaisons also represent the commission at regional conferences. At each national conference, the commission selects and sponsors six proposals in the field of advising administration. The commission has its own publication, *The Advising Administrator*, as well as an 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](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C05/index.htm)

Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C05/listserve.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C05/listserve.htm)

## Advising Business Majors

The goal of the Advising Business Majors Commission is to provide a forum for exchange of information among business advisors and to support our members' presentations at national and regional conferences. We are currently organized by interest committees: MBA and Graduate Programs, Career & Internship Advising, AACSB and Accreditation Concerns, Web Development and Advising, Developing a Support Network of Business Advisors, Encouraging Publication of Material Useful to Business Advisors, Research of Advising Business Students, and Brainstorming Future Programming at Regional and National Conferences. The commission promotes small group discussions of issues, 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](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C11/index.htm)

Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C11/listserve.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C11/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 commission 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](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C06/index.htm)

Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C06/listserve.htm](http://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 out-

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side 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](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C12/index.htm)  
Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C12/listserve.htm](http://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](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C16/index.htm)  
Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C16/listserve.htm](http://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](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C19/index.htm)  
Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C19/listserve.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C19/listserve.htm)

## Advisor Training and Development

This commission is one of NACADA's largest with over 1100 members. The purpose is to provide members with a network for discussing advisor training and development issues. It also suggests projects to the NACADA Commission & Interest Group Division Representatives and to the Board. The first of these was the highly successful NACADA advisor training video. Current goals for the commission include developing standards for advisor training, working with NACADA to publish a monograph on advisor training and development, encouraging commission members to present workshops and roundtables about advisor training and development at the state, regional and national conferences, and further developing a commission web site that can be a resource for training and development.

Web site: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C17/index.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C17/index.htm)  
Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C17/listserve.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C17/listserve.htm)

## 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](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C21/index.htm)  
Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C21/listserve.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C21/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](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C15/index.htm)  
Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C15/listserve.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C15/listserve.htm)

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## 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 more 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 that cannot attend conferences to get involved.

Web site: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C18/index.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C18/index.htm)

Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C18/listserve.htm](http://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](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C03/index.htm)

Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C03/listserve.htm](http://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.

During the coming year, the commission anticipates that NACADA will publish a monograph devoted to academic advising at small col-

leges and universities. This monograph has emerged from the work of the commission’s Committee on Publications.

Web site: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C08/index.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C08/index.htm)

Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C08/listserve.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C08/listserve.htm)

## Technology in Advising

The purpose of NACADA’s Technology in Advising Commission is to help academic advisors and advising administrators (1) understand the impact that technologies such as the Web, e-mail, degree audits, and student information systems can have on academic advising, (2) use technology effectively in their work, and (3) appreciate the appropriate uses of technology in higher education. This commission seeks to serve as a central resource for information about innovations and issues in academic advising technology. The commission maintains the “Academic Advising Resources on the Internet” Web site, an extensive, annotated list of links to Web resources, arranged by topics, for academic advisors. Through our commission Web site and electronic discussion forum (TECADV-L), as well as national and regional conferences, we actively encourage NACADA members to engage in topical discussions and activities related to the uses of technology in advising.

Commission activities include our annual review and sponsorship of national conference proposals, coordination of the Electronic Publication Awards selection process, selection of Service to Commission Award winners, and solicitation of national and regional conference presentations. Commission members contribute to the *NACADA Journal*, *Academic Advising News*, monographs, and other publications on critical issues related to technology in advising. Through the commission’s volunteer network, members can participate in the activities listed above as well as in our Advising Technology Education Center (ATECH) and related projects. The commission chair is assisted by an active steering committee, with membership by invitation.

Web site: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C14/index.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C14/index.htm)

Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C14/listserve.htm](http://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. To encourage two-year college commission members to actively participate in regional and national conferences
2. To provide continued support to and encourage networking among our members
3. To provide a link to the regions through representatives
4. To report activities to the membership
5. To 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

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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](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C07/index.htm)

Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C07/listserve.htm](http://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](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C13/index.htm)

Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/Commissions/C13/listserve.htm](http://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](http://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 2 years of service.

## 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 Education Majors\*
- Advising Fine Arts Students
- Advising High Achieving Students
- Assessment of Advising\*
- Canada
- Distance Education Advising
- ESL & International Student Advising\*
- First-Generation College Student Advising
- Health Professions Advising
- High School to College Advising
- Liberal Arts Advisors
- Native American and Tribal College
- Pre-Law Advising
- Probation/Dismissal/Reinstatement Issues
- Theory & Philosophy of Advising

*\* Indicates that this Interest Group has applied for commission status. If approved at the 2003 fall Leadership meetings, this Interest Group will officially become a commission at the conclusion of the National Conference in Dallas.*

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.

# NACADA Interest Groups

## Advising Education Majors

The mission of the Advising Education Majors Interest Group 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 Group 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 interest group are:

- a. To harness the experiences of education advisors in order to provide a support network for discussion and support
- b. To 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
- c. To advance the Interest Group's knowledge and practices on academic advisement
- d. To share best practices through presentations and workshops at the national and regional levels
- e. To encourage sharing through publications

Web site: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C22/index.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C22/index.htm)

Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C22/listserve.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C22/listserve.htm)

## 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](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C33/index.htm)

Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C33/listserve.htm](http://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, organizing

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](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C28/index.htm)

Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C28/listserve.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C28/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 Interest Group (AAIG) was created with the intent to serve all NACADA members who want to discuss, learn about, or share expertise on the assessment of academic advising. Over the last two years, AAIG has provided a forum through which members can share their expertise, strategies, and experiences with their colleagues. Goals of the interest group 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. Provide a centralized repository of assessment instruments for advising.
3. Develop publications and reports on assessment of advising topics.

Web site: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C32/index.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C32/index.htm)

Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C32/listserve.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C32/listserve.htm)

## Canada

The Canada Interest Group provides a forum for Canadian academic advisors 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 advisors share many common concerns. We welcome input from all Canadian student advisors 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](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C35/index.htm)

Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C35/listserve.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C35/listserve.htm)

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## 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 will be established to promote a continued support network.

Web site: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C23/index.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C23/index.htm)  
Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C23/listserv.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C23/listserv.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 Interest Group is that there are particular circumstances that these students face in our schools that require special attention from advisors. The ESL/International Student Interest Group 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/InterestGroups/C26/index.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C26/index.htm)  
Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C26/listserv.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C26/listserv.htm)

## First-Generation College Student Advising

The title itself provides the context for which this group focuses. However, specific areas of emphasis cross over all commission and interest groups. Within each area of NACADA is the opportunity to explore unique challenges faced by the students identifying as first-generation. What does it mean to be a first-generation student of color, an undecided/exploratory first-generation student, a high school student considering college enrollment, a high achieving first-generation student, and how do we assess what it is we do as advisers? Is technology an obstacle for these students today or are they more technologically advanced than we give credit? What are our assumptions? What does research say today compared to two decades ago? How do our beliefs influence how we advise? This interest group welcomes your input.

The main purposes of this interest group are to:

1. Increase NACADA membership and membership within the First-Generation College Student Advising interest group.
2. Increase the number of regional and national conference presentations related to first-generation college students.
3. Increase the knowledge base of academic advising issues concerning first-generation college students throughout the organization and at institutions of higher education.

Web site: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C31/index.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C31/index.htm)  
Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C31/listserv.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C31/listserv.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](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C20/index.htm)  
Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C20/listserv.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C20/listserv.htm)

## High School to College Advising

The High School to College Advising Interest Group explores the connection between high school counselors and college academic advisers 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](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C24/index.htm)  
Listserve: not yet established

## 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

# NACADA Interest Groups

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](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C30/index.htm)

Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C30/listserve.htm](http://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](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C36/index.htm)

Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C36/listserve.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C36/listserve.htm)

## Pre-law Advising

Law school applications are on the rise, 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. During the next year, we plan to launch a NACADA web resource for pre-law advisors. Our long-term goals include encouraging pre-law advisors 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 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 advisors who are new to pre-law or for whom pre-law is only one aspect of their role. Pre-Law Advising is one of NACADA's newest interest groups, and we welcome your input as we grow.

Web site: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C34/index.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C34/index.htm)

Listserve: not yet established

## 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 listserve 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 listserve 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](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C25/index.htm)

Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C25/listserve.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C25/listserve.htm)

## Theory & Philosophy of Advising

Our focus is on the necessary but sometimes neglected self-reflective 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 listserve 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](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C27/index.htm)

Listserve: [www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C27/listserve.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/InterestGroups/C27/listserve.htm)

## Other NACADA Resources

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