

Advising Undecided Students

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Abstract

This topical session focuses on undecided students (often known as “undeclared” or “exploratory”) and explores their characteristics and their reasons for being undecided. Advising strategies, advisor attitudes, advisor knowledge, and skills that are requisite for assisting this student population will be discussed. Several college student development and learning theories will be reviewed and will be used as helpful lens through which students’ experiences can be better examined and understood. Participants will consider an advising model, resources, and campus partnerships that will support an advising program for undecided students at their institution.

Outline

- I. Who are undecided students?
 - a. Informational
 - b. Developmental
 - c. Personal-Social
 - d. Other
- II. Advisor
 - a. Attitudes
 - b. Knowledge
- III. Advising strategies
- IV. Why theory?
 - a. Identity Development
 - b. Intellectual and Ethical Development
 - c. Personality Types
 - d. Vocational Personalities and Environments
 - e. Diversity: Additional theories to consider
- V. Case Study
 - a. Advising model
 - b. Tips for students
 - c. Resources

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