

Peer Advisor/Mentor Guidelines

There is a difference between *advising* and *giving advice*. PA/Ms, like professional advisors, are expected to advise-you should refrain from giving advice to the students who seek your help. So, what is the difference?

ADVISING	VS.	ADVICE
~ Making students aware of options.		~Offering the solution
~Based on established practices, resources, policies, etc.		~Based on personal opinion
~Puts responsibility on the student		~Puts responsibility on the PA/M

Sample Questions....

1. What's a good *humanities* course?

Advising:

- Refer to degree audit to see if any specific requirements exist in this area.
- Show student how to find humanities courses in the catalog and on-line.
- Ask student about interests and abilities.
- Suggest other ways to get more information about courses.

Advice:

- Suggest a specific course or professor that you or a friend had that you liked or thought was easy.

2. Cameron is a sophomore and he comes into the PA/M office a week before he is to register for his second semester of classes. He is completely undecided about which major to choose. He is upset and is almost half way through his sophomore year of college and he has no idea what he wants to do with his life. Cameron tells you that his parents want him to major in business, because there are a lot of jobs in business. However, Cameron doesn't think that business is for him, but he doesn't know what other kinds of jobs are out there.

Advising:

- Suggest doing an informational interview with someone in an area that he is interested in
- Refer him to a major exploration course
- Show Cameron how to use exploratory websites

Advice:

- Tell Cameron that he is going to love being a business major because that is what you major is, and you love it.
- Suggest that he just stick it out because he is almost a junior.

3. Penelope is a first year student. She was a straight A student in high school and good grades came very easy to her. Penelope came to the University to be a nursing major, but after she got a C-on her first Chemistry test, Penelope wonders if she can make it in Nursing or even in college. Her self-confidence is rattled because she has never gotten a low grade before. Even though it is early in the semester, Penelope comes into the PA/M office looking for information about other majors, because she is questioning if she is cut out to be a nurse.

Advising:

- Refer Penelope to the tutoring office
- Show her how to explore other health majors
- Inform her of Study Skills or Reading Strategies courses

Advice:

- Telling her the a C isn't that bad
- Suggesting who she should take next time if the course needs to be repeated
- Telling Penelope that she is going to have to change her major