The New Advisor Guidebook: Mastering the art of advising

Chapter 9 - Learning about Advisees—Putting together the puzzle

Reader Learning Outcomes

Readers will:

- Determine the key statistical elements that help define students.
  - Consider in what ways these elements work together to help the advisor get to know their institution’s students better
  - Establish the ways can this knowledge can help an advisor understand the issues that his/her advisees are/will face
- Clarify the kinds of statistical elements needed to develop programming, both academic and advisor based and Consider how these elements help to shape programming
- Understand the fit of the individual student within the statistical framework of their campus
- Delineate key concerns that an advisor can incorporate into advising notes including what kind of information is helpful for the next appointment
- Learn to measure a student’s level of comfort and involvement in the campus environment
- Ascertain how the information provided in this chapter helpful for an advisor with a high caseload including determining what elements are most helpful in helping an advisor anticipate and address the challenges that may face their advisees.

Aiming for Excellence discussion questions and activities

- Which pieces of the puzzle described are relevant to your advising situation?
- Which student data do you find the most helpful in learning about an advisee? What additional data would be helpful? Discuss data needs with your supervisor and/or colleagues to determine if the requested data exists and can be accessed.
- Discuss what can you learn from information already in the student’s folder with colleagues
- Visit offices across campus to make connections. Collect business cards to help you expand your student referral network.
- Use Koll’s campus environments bullet points (p. 181) to determine how you see your campus climate. Discuss your insights with colleagues. Do they evaluate the campus climate the same way you do? What insights into the campus can they provide?