

Expectations in Advising Worksheet



MACALESTER

Name	
Current Adviser(s)	
Intended major(s), minor(s), concentration(s)	

Circle the number between the two statements that best matches your understanding or view. 1 and 5 indicate strong agreement with the statement closest; 2 and 4 indicate mild agreement. 3 indicates no strong preference.

1. An adviser should be available by phone/text as well as email, and should respond over weekends.	1	2	3	4	5	An adviser does not need to be available via phone/text, or reachable on weekends.
2. I plan on dropping by my adviser's office for unstructured conversations.	1	2	3	4	5	I plan on contacting my adviser in advance for advising appointments.
3. It is important for an adviser and advisee to share one or more core identities (race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, other).	1	2	3	4	5	An adviser and advisee do not need shared identities in order to have a productive, even close relationship.
4. I want my adviser to be willing to talk about personal subjects (e.g., mental health, relationships, finances), when they are affecting my classes and learning.	1	2	3	4	5	I do not need my adviser to discuss personal subjects that are best handled by campus support staff in student life or health and wellness.
5. An adviser should foster relationships, such as by occasionally hosting advisees for dinner or other events.	1	2	3	4	5	An adviser doesn't need to foster relationships with advisees away from campus.
6. I need or want my adviser to be helpful in discussing career options and strategies.	1	2	3	4	5	My adviser need not have any particular expertise or role in career advising.
7. An advisee should have at least a couple courses with an adviser over the course of a college career.	1	2	3	4	5	A faculty member can be an adviser without ever having the advisee in class or sharing close intellectual interests.
8. I look for an adviser to be consistently supportive, a cheerleader in my corner.	1	2	3	4	5	I look for an adviser to be frank, hold me accountable, and have very high expectations.
9. An advisee should come to registration appointments with their plan already worked out, ready for a "check in" on progress toward graduation.	1	2	3	4	5	An advisee can come to registration appointments without a clear plan about future courses, in order to get ideas and talk over possibilities.
10. I want to meet or communicate with my adviser somewhat regularly over the term.	1	2	3	4	5	I only need and want to communicate with my adviser at a once-per-semester pre-registration meeting.
11. I would resist or begrudge reflection writing or other assignments before registration advising appointments.	1	2	3	4	5	I would welcome being asked or required to prepare for advising meetings, such as through written reflections.
12. My adviser might also be a friend on social media.	1	2	3	4	5	My adviser should not be a friend on social media.
13. It is the advisee's responsibility for knowing when to make appointments and setting the agenda.	1	2	3	4	5	An adviser should indicate when it is time for appointments and help to set the agenda.
14. If I didn't schedule or forgot a meeting, and it's time to register, I would want my adviser to send my registration PIN by email and have a meeting later.	1	2	3	4	5	It is reasonable for my adviser to insist on a meeting before giving me a registration PIN, even if that means missing my registration time.

Perspectives on Advising



MACALESTER

Prof. Patrick Schmidt, Political Science & Legal Studies

1. I don't have many boundaries as to days and times. I don't like phones and texting, but I respond to emails as soon as I can, whenever I can. Two students once called me while I was in San Francisco in the summer, because their car had been towed by their landlord and they didn't know what to do, and that didn't bother me at all—in fact, the three of us laugh about it now.
2. My door is usually open when I'm in the office, and I welcome opportunities to talk with you about whatever is happening, whether that's politics, big ideas, or things going on in your life. But some advisees don't need that, and that's o.k., too.
3. I believe that some of the unlikeliest friendships in life are the greatest, and I welcome any and all students as advisees. Many times the most enduring questions that arise in advising are those that we all share as humans, and to the extent that something related to your identity comes up, I am eager to listen, learn, and reflect on those questions.
4. Like most faculty, I have no expertise in many serious matters, and will refer you to the appropriate services if that's what you need. But neither do I set sharp boundaries for our conversations. In my life, I have grown to appreciate just how much our stress levels and our relationships and our health affect our "intellectual" lives and the work we do; we frequently can't talk about one without talking about the other. I will not pry; I never want you to be uncomfortable about such things.
5. The more I see students outside of the office, the more I appreciate all that is going on in their lives and who they are. I welcome being invited to sporting events, concerts, or other things that are important to you. I try to hold an on-campus event for advisees once a year, but I live in Roseville and rarely have students over to my house. That doesn't mean I don't want to, it's just hard.
6. Because I am also the pre-law advisor for the college, and have scholarly interests related to the legal profession, I spend a lot of time keeping up to date on and advising people related to legal careers. I am also happy to work with you on internships, connecting with alumni, and other activities as it relates to careers, whether related to law or in another direction.
7. I will accept advisees without having had them in class, but I would like to have all advisees in class at least once before they graduate. With a student in a FYC, I will be a reference or provide a letter of recommendation for you in your first two years of college, but because college students change so much in college, FYC advisees should take another class if they wish to have me as a reference beyond the sophomore year.
8. My approach is different with each advisee. Please share with me the things you know about yourself and what it is that you're looking for. I have tried to grow in understanding how much positive reinforcement a person needs. At the same time, don't expect me to offer hollow praise; you can expect me to be honest. As for expectations, I am always asking advisees to look just beyond the horizon, so that you can imagine the possibilities. I have been known to ask things like, "so what's on your summer reading list this summer?" or "where do you think you're going to be in five years?"
9. I welcome you coming to advising meetings with any level of preparation. It's a little frustrating when advisees have no idea whatsoever what they want to take, because to me, the problem *should be* that there is far more to learn and to be curious about than we can ever do. But on the flip side, I find that I'm disappointed when a student comes in with a multi-year plan all worked out! It's fun to talk over the possibilities and I like being helpful.
10. This will vary with the advisee. I value the relationships I have had with close advisees—and I love to see them at reunion or hear from them years later. I hope to have more such advising relationships. If that's not what you need, that's o.k. But even if I only see you once per semester, I want us to have a meaningful conversation.
11. I do not give any assignments for all advisees. Please let me know if you affirmatively want that for yourself.
12. I am active on Facebook and welcome seeing / engaging advisees through social media.
13. Each term, I send out a link to a Google appointment calendar for pre-registration appointments. Beyond that, it's up to you to.
14. I don't give out PINS through email, except when a student is on study away. I expect to have a face-to-face meeting with you. I have occasionally given out a PIN when an advisee has forgotten and there's only one seat left in a class at that moment, but I get angry about it—please don't put you and me in such a situation. Plan ahead.