

Senior Year Advising Guide for Academic Advisors

This advising guide is to provide academic advisors with guidelines to support the advising process, and is geared toward the concerns of Seniors. Seniors are transitioning out of college and they will likely be feeling a mix of emotions – excitement but also some sadness. Some will have post grad plans lined up and others will still be trying to figure out what's next. Almost all will be feeling some level of anxiety about what life will be like after college.

We hope that advisors acknowledge these emotions and be encouraging and supportive regardless of whether or not the student knows what they will be doing in the next year. Continue to have conversations about personal and career goals, and see how they are doing academically, mentally, and socially.

In order to have the most productive advising meeting, you should be prepared for:

- Ensuring that they will fulfill all Core, major and degree requirements on time
- Knowing something about career opportunities and graduate school options within your field
- Discussing their interests, and where they see themselves going in the next year and beyond

The Core:

- Do they have any [Core requirements](#) left to fulfill? If so, how will they finish them in time for graduation? Complete them!

The Major & Minor:

- Do they have any major or minor requirements left to fulfill? If so, how will I finish them in time for graduation? Complete them!
- Students are only required to have ONE major for graduation. If they have too many requirements left for that second major or minor, it may be time to drop them.

The Thesis:

- If the student is writing a thesis, how can they submit their work for Scholar of the College and other honors?
 - After putting so much work into a thesis, be sure to explore all avenues of possible honors so that the student can be recognized for their work.

Jobs, Internships, Career Readiness:

- What courses may be of interest or practical necessity for the pursuit of career goals?
- What jobs are available to people within their major?
- Does the major department support semester internships for course credit?
- Suggest that they visit the [Career Center](#) early in the year, and attend Career Fairs for post graduate opportunities.

Graduate School:

- If the student is applying to graduate school, what advice do you have about the application process?
- What advice do you have about schools that have strong departments that match their interests in the field?
- Applying to graduate school is a long process and graduate education can be a long commitment depending on the field. Discuss the student's reasoning for seeking a graduate degree.

Health and Wellness:

- Always check-in about overall [health and well-being!](#)

For more information and advising resources, go to the Academic Advising Center's [website](#).