

# Tips on How to Advise Rising Sophomores

## Introduction

Thank you once again for serving as a faculty advisor for our first year students.

The purpose of this document is to provide talking points that could be useful during your meetings with rising sophomores. Rising sophomores may need guidance as they explore their interests and begin the process of choosing a major (or two).

As you know, the primary goals of academic advising include:

- providing a structured contact for each student with their faculty advisor;
- normalizing the use of resources, such as office hours, Writing Workshop, tutoring, and academic accommodations;
- assisting students as they create balance between their course loads and co-curricular plans; and
- reminding students about the importance of academic integrity including the Honor Code.

We also provide links to key offices whose directors would be pleased to partner with you in support of your advisees. Feel free to contact the offices as well as the [Class Deans](#) at any time.

## Possible Topics for Your Advising Sessions

**Encourage students to reflect on this past year.** You could begin your advising session by asking these questions: What aspects of your courses did you like the most? What did you find most challenging? Have you discovered any new academic interests over the course of the semester? How might your experiences last semester shape your courses next semester?

**Engage in a brief course audit.** Ask students: How are you working to complete the [degree requirements](#) (divisional, writing, quantitative, DPE, physical education)? Do you have a plan for how/when to do so? Have you thought about ways to make the most of these requirements (i.e., find courses that both meet the requirement *and* pique your interest)? What majors are you interested in at this time?

**Discuss available resources.** Ask students if they have used any of our academic resources so far and remind them of what we have to offer so they can keep them in mind right from the start next spring: Writing Workshop, Math/Science Resource Center, Economic Resource Center, peer tutors, Accessible Education, Dean's office. Remind students that academic resources are not designed/reserved only for "struggling students." These are the resources that strong students use to get stronger, and they have something to offer for everyone.

**Continue to encourage students to build an advising team.** As a first-year advisor, you have a wealth of information to pass on to your advisees, but there are many other folks on campus who can help advise them. Now that students are wrapping up their spring semester, do they have any thoughts about other faculty/staff that they would like to add to their **advising team**? These faculty could serve as the student's major advisor.

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## Fall 2023 Pre-registration

Advising meetings should take place on April 19 through April 29, 2023.

Pre-registration for fall 2023 will take place on April 26 through May 5, 2023.

## Academic Resources and Student Support Services at Williams

- Dean of First Year Students, Christina Walsh [cfw2@williams.edu](mailto:cfw2@williams.edu)
- Dean for Sophomore Students & Transfer Students, Tamanika Steward [tts1@williams.edu](mailto:tts1@williams.edu)
- [Peer Tutoring](#)  
Ivy Krofta, Academic Engagement Coordinator, [ik3@williams.edu](mailto:ik3@williams.edu)
- [Writing Programs and Peer Support](#)  
Julia Munemo, Director, [jmm3@williams.edu](mailto:jmm3@williams.edu)
- [Quantitative Skills Programs and Peer Support](#)  
Nick Hanford, Director, [nh8@williams.edu](mailto:nh8@williams.edu)
- [Accessible Education](#)  
G. L. Wallace, Director, [glw3@williams.edu](mailto:glw3@williams.edu)
- ['68 Center for Career Exploration](#)
- [Davis Center \(formerly Multicultural Center\)](#)
- [Office of Campus Life](#)
- [Chaplains' Office](#)
- [Health & Wellness Services](#)
- [Integrative Wellbeing \(Counseling\) Services](#)
- [Title IX](#)
- Financial Aid [fnaid@williams.edu](mailto:fnaid@williams.edu)
- Office of Student Accounts [studentaccounts@williams.edu](mailto:studentaccounts@williams.edu)