

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.

The second page contains weblinks to key offices whose directors would be pleased to partner with you in support of your advisees. Feel free to contact the [Class Deans](#) at any time.

Possible Topics for Your Advising Sessions

Engage in a brief course audit. You could begin your advising session by asking these questions: What aspects of your courses did you like the most? 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: 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 also 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 2024 Pre-registration

Advising meetings should take place on April 17 through April 24, 2024.

Pre-registration for fall 2024 will take place on April 24 through May 3, 2024.

Academic Resources and Student Support Services at Williams

- Dean of First Year Students, Christina Walsh cfw2@williams.edu
- Dean for Sophomore Students & Transfer Students, Tamanika Steward tts1@williams.edu
- [Peer Tutoring](#)
Madison Kelsey, Academic Engagement Coordinator, mjk5@williams.edu
- [The Writing Center](#)
Julia Munemo, Director, jmm3@williams.edu
- [Quantitative Skills Programs and Peer Support](#)
Nick Hanford, Director, nh8@williams.edu
- [Accessible Education](#)
Katy Evans, Interim Director, ke5@williams.edu
- ['68 Center for Career Exploration](#)
- [Davis Center](#)
- [Office of Campus Life](#)
- [Chaplains' Office](#)
- [Health & Wellness Services](#)
- [Integrative Wellbeing \(Counseling\) Services](#)
- [Title IX](#)
- Financial Aid finaid@williams.edu
- Office of Student Accounts studentaccounts@williams.edu