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/EPI, physical education, swim test)? 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? Do you need advice on how to declare a major?

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, 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.
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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 2021 Pre-registration
Advising meetings should take place on May 10-14, 2021 and pre-registration for fall 2021 will take place on May 12-19, 2021.

Academic Resources and Student Support Services at Williams

- Associate Dean of Students / Dean of First Year Students
  Christopher Sewell cjs4@williams.edu
- Assistant Dean for Sophomore Students
  Tamanika Steward tts1@williams.edu
- Quantitative Skills Programs and Peer Support
  Laura Muller, Director, ljm3@williams.edu
- Writing Programs and Peer Support
  Julia Munemo, Interim Director, jmm3@williams.edu
- Accessible Education
  G. L. Wallace, Director, glw3@williams.edu
- '68 Center for Career Exploration, wcc@williams.edu
- Davis Center (formerly Multicultural Center), daviscenter@williams.edu
- Office of Campus Life
- Chaplains’ Office, Nancy.Luczynski@williams.edu
- Health & Wellness Services
- Integrative Wellbeing (Counseling) Services
- Title IX
- Financial Aid finaid@williams.edu
- Office of Student Accounts studentaccounts@williams.edu