

How does the University Advising Center support faculty advising?

Undecided Academic Advising

The professional academic advisors in the University Advising Center (UAC) are responsible for advising undecided arts and sciences students. Each student is supported in a structured decision-making process that focuses on options and possibilities, rather than the negativity that is sometimes associated with being “undecided”. This developmental advising process encourages the student to create a personalized learning history that includes an academic program plan, pre-professional and scholarly experiences (research), and an inventory of life and professional skills that will be acquired throughout her or his four years of college.

All undecided students also have an assigned faculty advisor. Prior to meeting with the faculty advisor during the prescribed advising period each semester, a student has completed, or is involved in, the process outlined above. A report summarizing the work the student completes in the UAC is forwarded to the faculty advisor. As a result, the faculty advisor has substantive data on the student that allows for an informed advising meeting, and the lifting of the PERC hold for registration purposes.

When a confident choice-of-major decision is reached, the student is assigned to a faculty advisor in that major. The goal of the center is to enhance the faculty advisor/advisee relationship by ensuring that the undecided student enters into the advising relationship with information and confidence regarding her or his choice of academic program. The advisors in the UAC work with each student and with faculty, to ensure each student is prepared to be not only an active participant in the faculty advising process, but an enthusiastic and contributing student scholar in her or his chosen major.

Faculty Advisor Professional Development

All new faculty attend a required New Faculty Advisor Training Program in August. At this event, new faculty members are introduced to the culture and expectations of academic advising at Roger Williams. Additionally, staff and faculty from key agencies on campus participate to welcome and inform new faculty about services and programs on campus.

Throughout the academic year, the University Advising Center sponsors seminars, workshops or colloquia on timely and current topics in the field of academic advising. New faculty members are strongly encouraged to attend these events.

They are open to all faculty and staff. Faculty interested in attending these professional development opportunities should contact the Advising Center, and watch for email notification of scheduled morning workshops and afternoon seminars.