

UCSC Undergraduate Education: Academic Advising Update

UCSC Undergraduate Advising Initiative: First Year Advising

The advising mission of the colleges is to assist students in making a successful transition to the university and in building an ongoing educational community. For entering students (frosh and transfers), the emphasis on *First Year Advising* (FYA) allows students to participate in hands-on academic advising options that assist them to identify the full range of degree programs and resources the campus has to offer and to structure early contact with UCSC faculty and academic programs.

FYA recognizes that students require generalized and individual support to achieve academic success. The program promotes student self-confidence and independence to self-manage their academic plans and to promote successful academic progress.

The FYA Task Force, with members from the colleges and academic programs, met extensively from fall 2004 through summer 2005 to identify critical advising issues for entering students. This in-depth consultation resulted in adopting the FYA Program Mission and Goals, and the Benchmark Calendar. The task force created a quarter-by-quarter guide for colleges to manage program goals, and will monitor and review program progress throughout the year.

The FYA Task Force gave extraordinarily of their time, expertise in academic advising, and in their commitment to developing new approaches to advising practice for entering students. The collaborative contributions of the task force are exceptional and greatly appreciated.

First Year Advising: Program Mission and Goals

At UCSC, *First Year Advising* fosters a welcoming environment for all entering students (frosh and transfer) to complete the successful transition to the university, from acceptance to orientation and throughout the first year. The colleges support students to research academic programs, find campus resources, and learn self-management skills to direct their educational plans. The FYA Benchmark Calendar provides program details.

Each of the colleges approaches the needs of entering students in a style that fits within the structure of their advising program. The common link among the colleges is to create opportunities, and provide direction, for students to meet FYA program goals and to select their academic direction and complete a degree at UCSC.

Through campus publications and online resources, and in individual and group advising programs, first year student competencies are encouraged in the following areas:

Introduction to Academic Culture

Create a climate of responsibility for students to develop and manage their educational plans.

Consider UCSC student characteristics and needs to develop academic direction by clarifying goals, researching academic options and understanding their own and different learning and teaching styles.

Encourage student self-assessment and skill development to achieve academic success by acquiring good study habits, refine test taking, writing and note taking expertise. Learn time management techniques and computer-related expectations.

Establish Academic and Personal Relations

Support students to be responsible and contributing members of the university community who value and relate to people of diverse cultural backgrounds, characteristics, behaviors and viewpoints.

Encourage students to research academic programs and develop early contact with faculty and programs.

Facilitate development of a personal support system within the university and to establish positive relations with faculty, staff and peers.

Enhance interpersonal communication, personal expression and leadership skills.

Explore Academic Options and Career Interests

Guide students to identify and explore academic interests and capabilities and make progress toward understanding the relationship between interests, classes, majors, internships and careers.

Assist students to assess progress to degree, review their academic record, and understand campus policies and academic requirements.

Encourage students to identify and participate in out-of-classroom activities that enhance their educational experience.

Maintain programs for students to meet the FYA benchmarks in a timely manner.

Explore Personal Integrity and Philosophy

Help students to explore and develop a clear understanding of academic and personal integrity.

Assist students to develop methods to adjust to the demands of a changing environment and to make increasingly responsible decisions about important life choices (concerning such things as, alcohol and substance use, personal safety, sexual behavior, nutrition, physical activity and stress management).

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First Year Advising: Benchmark Calendar

This fall, all entering students, beginning with Frosh, will complete their college's FYA program, using the timeline outlined in the Benchmark Calendar. While one of the primary goals is for students to have, at a minimum, a proposed major by the end of the first year (second quarter of enrollment for transfer students), students may declare a major at any time.

FYA Benchmark Calendar

- FYA requirements will vary from college to college; however, FYA is complete when the student has confirmed, or modified a proposed major with their college, or has declared with an academic program. Students may declare a major at any time.

Frosh: complete by the end of the first year of enrollment.

Transfer students: complete by the second quarter of enrollment.

- The colleges note FYA status in AIS Personal Comments following the Benchmark Calendar; all campus academic advisers may view Personal Comments.

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UCSC Undergraduate Online Advising Center
<http://advising.ucsc.edu/>

Have an advising question?
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