

## Guidelines for Students: Academic Advising at SBU

Academic advising is one of the more important services St. Bonaventure University provides students. You will be assigned an adviser who is a faculty member in your chosen, or a closely related, major. If you have not yet chosen a major, your adviser will be a faculty member from the School in which you have expressed an interest: Arts, Sciences or Business.

### **What Is Advising?**

Your academic adviser can be of great help on your journey as you navigate your years at SBU. Your adviser will help you shape your academic program at SBU.

### **Good advising involves...**

- helping you understand the requirements of your major.
- helping you make choices about what courses to take. While advisers will *advise you* about core courses and requirements for the major, it is your responsibility to fulfill the college's requirements for your major as set forth in the University Catalog that was issued the year you entered SBU.
- answering questions you may have about the University's curriculum.
- guiding you to complete appropriate forms (withdrawing from a class, taking classes elsewhere, etc.).
- taking an interest in your academic progress. Your adviser will talk with you about your grades – but you should take the first step. Talk with your adviser about your successes *and* your struggles.
- discussing graduate and/or career options – or guiding you to others with whom you can talk.
- helping you take responsibility for your own academic success.
- helping you find appropriate resources on campus.

Good advising empowers students to make meaningful choices that direct their studies toward achieving academic goals. [Font change here](#)

### **What Advising Is NOT**

- simply “clearing/approving” advisees for registration. Advisers will not just “check you off.”
- choosing courses or selecting a major for you.
- personal counseling. Students with personal problems that interfere with studies should seek help from the Wellness Center.

### **Your Adviser Expects You to...**

- meet with him/her at least once each semester.
- see him/her before registering for classes and get recommendations for courses.
- talk with him/her about dropping a class BEFORE you do it.
- seek help if you are in academic trouble.
- know the requirements of your major.
- check your degree audit and understand it.
- read your SBU email regularly and respond promptly.

Advisers of first-year students are especially careful about monitoring the academic progress of their advisees. First-year students should meet with their adviser frequently during their first semester. All new students (including transfers) receive official midterm grade reports for their first year at SBU. It is helpful for you to discuss grades with your adviser.

### **What You Can Expect From Your Adviser**

At SBU, academic advising is designed to help you progress successfully on your academic journey. You can expect your adviser to

- be available during office hours and by appointment.
- meet with you at least once each semester to help you plan for course registration.
- take an interest in your academic progress.
- discuss questions you may have about careers and/or graduate school opportunities.