

Guidelines for Undergraduate Advising

At St. Bonaventure University, we come to know our students on an individual basis and become their mentors. With this in mind, St. Bonaventure University will assign a faculty adviser to every undergraduate student. Students who have declared a major will be assigned an adviser from the major department (or a faculty member closely aligned with the major program). Students who are undecided about their major will be assigned an adviser from the student's selected school (undeclared Arts; undeclared Sciences; or undeclared Business).

Academic advisement at St. Bonaventure is dedicated to total student development, including intellectual and personal growth. The goals for advising are to help the student:

- Become active participants in the advising process,
- set and achieve goals related to academic excellence,
- acquire needed and relevant information,
- find out about and access academic and related University services, and
- make responsible decisions consistent with the student's interests, goals, abilities, and degree requirements.

Advisers should encourage students to meet with them regularly. Advisers of first year students, especially, should be attentive to the academic progress of their advisees.

Advisers' responsibilities include, at a minimum,

- helping advisees develop a degree plan,
- working with advisees to prepare for course registration,
- helping advisees interpret major and degree requirements,
- helping advisees resolve academic problem, and
- helping advisees explore professional and graduate school opportunities.

Academic advising, however, goes beyond the important functions of scheduling classes and preparing degree plans. Although advisers are responsible for helping advisees understand and meet university and major requirements, they also guide advisees toward utilizing university resources. They refer their advisees to appropriate academic and other university support services. Academic advisement promotes the making of responsible and appropriate choices, helping lead to a successful academic experience.