

Philosophy of Academic Advising - Summary  
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As faculty members at a premier university, we have the opportunity to take on many roles including that of teacher, researcher, mentor, and advisor. Advising is much more than simply explaining the program, discussing courses, and recommending appropriate course sequencing so that students can earn their degrees in a timely manner. Advising includes working with students and helping them meet their full potential, technically, professionally, and personally. This can be achieved by making students aware of opportunities and providing unique experiences to stimulate interests in new areas. These opportunities will expand the students' perspective so that they are open to a range of experiences beyond their academic studies. As an advisor, one must consistently look for various ways to provide these opportunities to undergraduates, including supporting and encouraging students to participate in student clubs, supporting undergraduate research projects and providing research experiences, and directing academic programs beyond the Athens campus. As an advisor (officially or unofficially), being accessible, promptly responding to questions, and serving as an advocate for the students, are important characteristics. When working with students, it is important to see things through their perspective. Many students have a variety of challenges they are dealing with, and this influences their decisions at any given time. By asking questions, listening carefully, and discussing options, I encourage the student to make choices that will enable them to successfully meet their academic, professional and personal goals.