

Faculty and academic advising: A focus on student learning

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NACADA: The Global Community for Academic Advising

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Session Overview

- Why is academic advising important?
- How is academic advising similar to teaching?
- What is the relationship between student learning and academic advising?
- How do we think about student success?
- What are the foundational concepts and competencies that inform and inform learning-centered advising?
- How do technology and data influence advising practice?
- How do we center equity in academic advising?

“Learning transpires when a student makes sense of his or her overall curriculum just as it does when a person understands an individual course, and the former is every bit as important as the latter”

Lownstein, 2005

LIKE THE EXCELLENT TEACHER, THE EXCELLENT ACADEMIC ADVISOR

- Asks
- Shows
- Clarifies
- Challenges
- Supports



Philosophy of Advising

- What are the purposes of advising?
- Normative vs Descriptive Theories
- The identity of any system is defined by its behavior –
Donella Meadows

“The very principles and practices that promote student retention (persistence) also promote student learning (academic achievement).”

(Cuseo & Farnum, 2011)

Persistence vs. Retention

- Retention is an institutional metric
- Persistence follows the student

(Hagedorn, 2006, Troxel, 2018)



Advisors Know

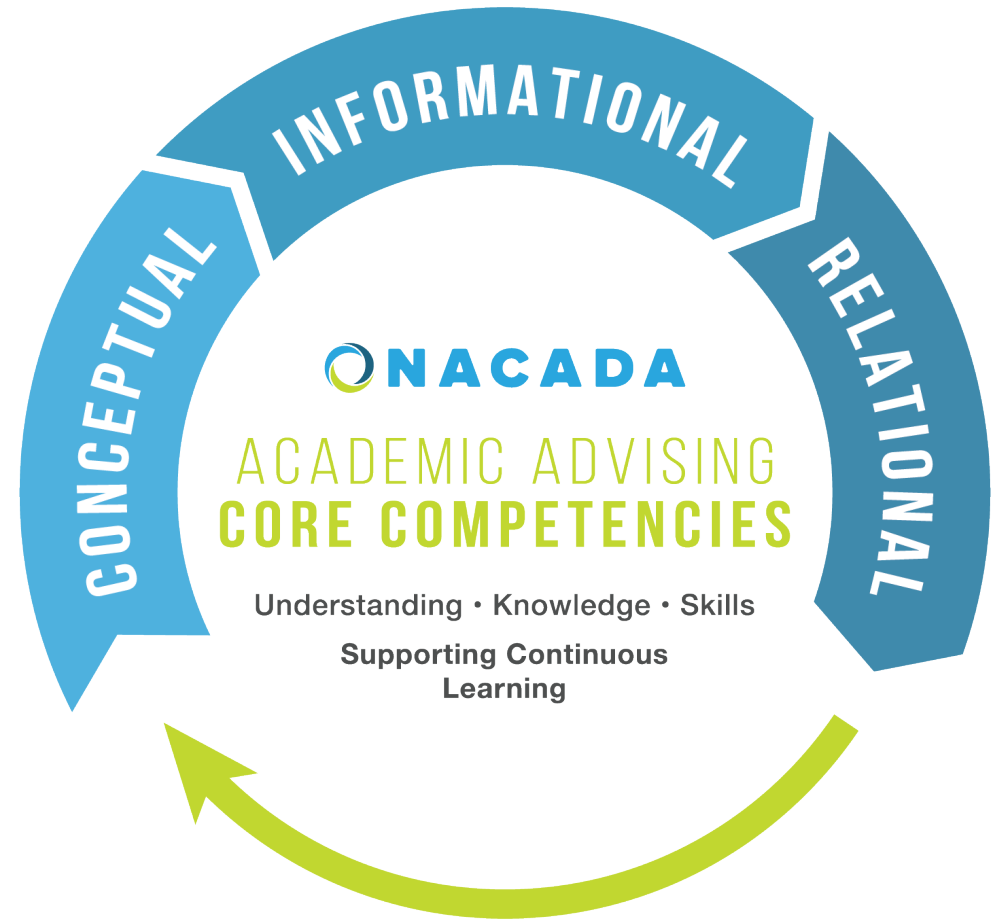
- How students are negotiating their institutions.
- Where the trouble spots are for students.
- Why students have come to the institution
- When students are first thinking about leaving and what might be prompting this desire to leave.
- Why students leave.
- Other issues facing students (troubles at home, difficulties with adjustment to college, relationships, addictions, mental health concerns, financial challenges)

(Steele and White, 2019)

What Issues Are You Seeing?



Concepts and Core Competencies





CORE VALUES



Promoting Excellence in Academic Advising begins with

Commitment to Excellence

Institution-wide mission

Policy and procedures defined that support that mission

Inclusive of all stakeholders

A focus on student learning

Student learning outcomes tied to mission

Assessment of those outcomes

Student Success & Equity

What is working in our students' success?

For whom is it not working?

How do we ensure that those students receive what they need?

Technology has...

Increased Access
Continued Operations
Supported health and safety

Revealed inequities
Become overwhelming
Turned into the quick fix



Data Driven Decisions

- Disaggregate data by student groups
- Employ focus groups, pulse surveys to get data
- Identify leading and lagging indicators
- What stories are the data telling?





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