

Advisor News

Spring Semester 2003

Advising and Transition Services - A division of the Provost's Office - <http://www.usu.edu/ats> - 797-3373

Calendar of Events

Advising Coordinating Committee Meetings

All meetings are at 10:30 a.m. in Merrill Library Room 204.

Thursday, January 16
Thursday, February 6
Thursday, March 6
Thursday, April 3
Thursday, May 8

Meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend, and will be broadcast through Distance Education to various Education Centers and Extension Sites.

Career Fair

Wednesday, March 5

Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR)

For students entering USU Summer 2003
Tuesday, March 25

National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) Regional Conference

February 26-28 in Sedona, Arizona

Degree Audit Consultation

February 26-27
(more information on back)

New Advising Assignments

Ronnie Green is a new professional advisor in the Department of Industrial Technology and Education, replacing **Janet Karren**. **Ron Godfrey** is a new advisor in the Department of Management and Human Resources, replacing **Mary Jo Blahna**, who will be advising graduate students in the College of Business. **Julie Wheeler** is advising students majoring in Family and Consumer Sciences Education, replacing **Trudy Hess**. **Judy Swaner**, an advisor in the Computer Science Department, has accepted a position in California. **Jill Long** is a new advisor for Independent Study.

President Hall's Keynote Address to the National Academic Advising Association

President Kermit Hall was a keynote speaker at the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) National Conference on September 29, 2002. President Hall's speech was very well received and was one of the highlights of the conference. A copy of his speech is available at: <http://www.usu.edu/about/president/speeches/>.

Independent Study Credits

The 2002-2004 *General Catalog* policy indicates: "The maximum amount of independent study credit which may be applied toward a bachelor's degree is 30 credits." However, there is no way to verify from the transcript which credits were earned through Independent Study. Therefore, this policy cannot be enforced. Both the Academic Standards Subcommittee and the Educational Policies Committee accepted a recommendation that this policy be discontinued.

Changes Affecting University Studies Courses

HEP 4000 is now HEP 3600 (CI). Effective Summer Semester 2003, the following University Studies courses will change course number or course prefix as follows: HEnv 4070 will become BA 4070 (CI); HEnv 3060 will become FCSE 3060 (CI/DSS); HEnv 1750 will become ID 1750 (BCA); HEnv 1790 will become ID 1790 (BCA); HEnv 3740 will become ID 3740 (DHA); HEnv 3750 will become ID 3750 (CI/DHA); and HEnv 4740 will become ID 4740 (CI). Effective Fall Semester 2003, NR 3600 will become EnvS 3500 (QI).

2002-2003 Advisor Handbook

Additional copies of the *Advisor Handbook* are available. If you would like to receive a copy of this handbook, please visit the Office of Advising and Transition Services in TSC 304, or call 797-3373.

Additional University Studies Courses Approved

Since the 2002-2004 *General Catalog* was printed, the following courses have been approved as satisfying University Studies requirements:

Breadth Life Sciences: PISc 2100 (BLS) Introduction to Horticulture (3)

Depth Humanities and Creative Arts: Musc 3790 (DHA) Symphonic Band (1)

Depth Life and Physical Sciences: AWER 3100 (DSC/CI) Fish Diversity and Conservation (3)

Depth Social Sciences: FHD/Psy 3120 (DSS) Abuse and Neglect (3)

Quantitative Intensive: NFS 4420 (QI) Nutrition Research Methodology (2)

Advising & Transition Services Staff

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John Mortensen 797-9303

Assistant Director
Wade Oliver 797-1133

Program Administrator
Aaron Anderson 797-1125

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SOAR Office
Student Coordinators 797-0283

Advising Students in Groups

(text from *Academic Advising: A Comprehensive Handbook*)

Although individual advising is generally acknowledged to be ideal for the delivery of advising programs, there are situations in which one-on-one advising is not needed or may not be possible.

There are many incidences when group advising may be desirable. From a practical standpoint, there are situations in which individual advising is simply not a viable option. For example, when the number of students to be served far outweighs the number of available advisors, group advising becomes an alternative that can work. This is particularly true in cases of oversubscribed majors or at peak advising times. Giving students the option of a group advising session may assist both the student and the advisor in addressing the time pressures that are so prevalent among today's students and advisors.

Group advising can be an extremely efficient and effective means of sharing important information. Rather than repeating the same information again and again, using groups can enable advisors to convey important information to several students at the same time, thus freeing advisors to spend their one-on-one advising time addressing individual needs.

There are several categories of information that can be shared quite well in a group format, including giving instructions about the registration process, course selection, and policies and procedures; offering general career-planning advice; and providing a framework for selection of a major.

The methods of delivering group advising vary widely. Options that exist on many campuses include orientation programs, freshman seminars, advising and learning communities, advising in residence halls, senior capstone courses, and advising for special populations.

Assessment of the feasibility of group advising should consider the interests of three major campus constituencies: administrators, faculty, and students. Each of these constituencies has a vested interest in group advising services.

From an administrative perspective, advising groups are related to retention, because they connect students to a peer group and a mentor. These connections are invaluable in establishing a student's sense of belonging to the institution, a critical factor in retention.

Faculty can relate to the value of group advising with regard to time issues. Because of the multiple demands of teaching responsibilities, research, and other institutional commitments, many faculty view group advising as an efficient use of their time.

Finally, students who participate in group advising appreciate the opportunity to interact with peers, as well as with an advisor. The feeling of not being alone is a powerful by-product of the group experience.

While it is true that the relationship established between an advisor and advisee most naturally develops during an ongoing one-to-one advising process, there is a definite place for group advising in an institution's overall advising program. When group delivery of advising services is done well, these groups can indeed aid retention, ease a faculty member's advising load, and enhance and supplement students' advising experiences.

Representatives from Ball State University to Provide Degree Audit Consultation

USU is pleased to host two representatives from Ball State University on February 26-27. Michael McCauley, Director for Academic Systems, and Troy Holaday, Assistant Director for Academic Systems, will be on campus to discuss and demonstrate their degree audit system. Ball State University has the nation's leading automated degree audit program, known as ACTS (Automated Course Transfer System).

ACTS is a web-based system and is programmed and maintained separately from their student records system. In 1999-2000, Ball State found that their transfer applications increased by 40 percent and their transfer enrollment increased by 43 percent. They had a similar increase in transfer applications and enrollment every year since. Ball State University is known as one of the most "transfer friendly" institutions in the nation.

As part of the consultation, many issues will be discussed including: issues related to advising transfer students, project management and organization, funding and return on investment, and many other issues. On February 27, there will be a hands-on session with advisors and recruiters in the Agricultural Science computer lab, AGSC 119. Advisors, recruiters, and administrators are encouraged to attend and participate in these sessions. A detailed schedule of sessions is listed below.

Ball State University Degree Audit Consultation

Michael McCauley, Director for Academic Systems
Troy Holaday, Assistant Director for Academic Systems

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

9:00 am - 10:15 am	Degree Audit Demonstrations	ECC 205-207
10:30 am - 12:15 pm	Automated Course Transfer System (ACTS) Demonstrations	ECC 205-207
12:30 pm - 1:45 pm	Lunch	
1:45 pm - 3:15 pm	Meeting with people responsible for project organization and management (Mike)	ECC 201
	Meeting with advising personnel regarding transfer system (Troy)	ECC 203
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Meeting with senior-level administrators to discuss funding and return on investment (Mike)	ECC 201
	Meeting with admissions recruiters regarding transfer system (Troy)	ECC 203

Thursday, February 27, 2003

8:30 am - 10:00 am	Hands-on session with advisors and recruiters	AGSC 119
10:15 am - 11:15 am	Meeting with USU Information Tech. personnel	ECC 208
11:30 am - 1:00 pm	Lunch	
1:15 pm - 2:45 pm	Wrap-up session with administrators	ECC 203
3:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Wrap-up session with advisors and admissions professionals	ECC 203