

# How to Advocate for Your Needs at an Advising Appointment

Fall 2020



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# Preparing for an Advising Appointment

# Things to consider before the appointment

- Understand degree requirements of colleges and majors you are considering.
  - Review the curriculum before your appointment.
- Be aware of academic deadlines [here](#)
- Review course descriptions to be aware of any prerequisites and co requisites for your [classes](#)
- Prepare a list of questions for you and your advisor to discuss.
- Decide what your goals are as a student, i.e. what do you want to accomplish this semester?

# What to do During the Advising Appointment

# How to Speak to Advisors

- The Advisor's purpose is to **help** you figure out how you will complete your major(s)/minor(s) on time
- Let them know what will make you most successful as a student meaning...
  - Whether you thrive with a larger workload (higher credits, less free time) or a smaller workload (lower credits, more free time)
  - What subject areas you are genuinely interested in
- If you have any yet, let them know what your career goals are so they can guide you in building a proper schedule
- Be kind and build a friendly relationship with them!
  - Remember that they are here to help you succeed and are on your side

# What to Do During the Appointment

- Take notes in a small journal for future reference.
- Be honest with your advisor – it's okay if you do not know what you want to major in or what career you are interested in!
- *Remember:* this appointment is to help you understand what classes are available to you, which of these you are interested in taking, and how you can achieve your goals through taking them - ask as many questions as you would like.

# Questions You Could Ask an Advisor (1/2)

- How flexible is this major?
- What classes are required for this major (Math, foreign language, etc)?
- What skills will this major help me develop?
- How many classes should I take every semester?
- What kind of careers can I pursue with a degree in this major?
- Do you think I need to get a higher degree? What should I do to prepare for graduate study?
- Can I change my major? How?
- Should I pursue a minor area of study? What minor would be most beneficial for my career path?

\* All questions taken from <https://www.notredamecollege.edu/resources-and-services/student-success-resources/academic-advising-center/questions-to-ask-your-advisor/>



# Questions You Could Ask an Advisor

## (2/2)

- Is an internship required for this major? Would one be beneficial to me?
- What other campus resources do you suggest I utilize? If I'm struggling academically, what resources should I utilize?
- Am I on-track to graduate?
- When and how can I register for classes?
- Do you suggest taking online courses? Why or why not?
- What academic goals should I set for myself?
- What, exactly, is your role as my advisor?
- What electives do you suggest I take?
- If I have any questions, what is the best way to reach you?
- What courses do you teach?
- Do you have any advice or tips for me?

\* All questions taken from <https://www.notredamecollege.edu/resources-and-services/student-success-resources/academic-advising-center/questions-to-ask-your-advisor/>

# Other Advising Programs Available at University of Maryland

# CMNS Peer Mentors

- Who are the Peer Mentors?
  - “We are a group of undergraduate students in the College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences. Our goal is to help students set and attain academic, career, personal and social goals by offering a peer perspective. Stop by for help on making **four-year plans**, to **discuss course content**, and for **assistance with course scheduling and registration**. Note that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Peer Mentor Office is currently closed. We will continue to update this page with any changes.” – Peer Mentors
- Website: <https://cmns.umd.edu/peermentors>

# Additional School-Specific Advising Resources

# Links to School-Specific Advising Pages

- [Department of Computer Science](#)
- [College of Agriculture and Natural Resources](#)
- [College of Arts and Humanities](#)
- [College of Behavioral and Social Sciences](#)
- [Robert H. Smith School of Business](#)
- [College of Computer, Mathematical and Natural Sciences](#)
- [College of Education](#)
- [A. James Clark School of Engineering](#)
- [Philip Merrill College of Journalism](#)
- [College of Information Studies](#)
- [School of Public Health](#)
- [School of Public Policy](#)
- [Letters and Sciences](#)