

Student Services' Role as Academic Advisor

Kendra Bradford

Coordinator of Student Services

LeTourneau University – Austin, TX

Plan of Action

- Devotional Thought: Seeking Wisdom for Daily Decisions at Work
- Examining Academic Advising
- Does Academic Advising Differ for the Non-Traditional Adult Learner?
- Increasing Effectiveness
- Topics for Discussion

Student Services' Role as Academic Advisor

-Devotional Thought: Seeking Wisdom

-Examining Academic
Advising

-Does Academic
Advising Differ for the
Non-Traditional Adult
Learner?

-Increasing
Effectiveness

-Topics for Discussion

Devotional Thought: Seeking Wisdom for Daily Decisions at Work

In thinking of some of our daily decisions as
advisors...

- deciding students' courses
- deciding students' circumstances
- deciphering the truth in a situation
- deciding what steps to follow for situations not covered in the manual
- Etc.

...we can seek God for true wisdom.

Student Services' Role as Academic Advisor

-Devotional Thought: Seeking Wisdom

-Examining Academic
Advising

-Does Academic
Advising Differ for the
Non-Traditional Adult
Learner?

-Increasing
Effectiveness

-Topics for Discussion

Devotional Thought: Seeking Wisdom for Daily Decisions at Work

2 Corinthians 1:12

...we have conducted ourselves in the world...in the holiness and sincerity that are from God...***not according to worldly wisdom*** but according to God's grace.

Romans 11:33a

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge ***of God!***

James 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ***ask God***, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

Matthew 10:16

Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves.
Therefore ***be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.***

Student Services' Role as Academic Advisor

-Devotional Thought:
Seeking Wisdom

-Examining Academic Advising

-Does Academic
Advising Differ for the
Non-Traditional Adult
Learner?

-Increasing
Effectiveness

-Topics for Discussion

Examining Academic Advising: Characteristics

- Goal-setting, required processes, and available options (Kadar, 2001)
- Emphasizing mutual roles of advisor and advisee; outlining responsibilities of each
- Communicating accurate and complete information
- Providing academic skills, such as tutoring, test-taking skills, etc.
- Preparing for post-baccalaureate career

Student Services' Role as Academic Advisor

-Devotional Thought:
Seeking Wisdom

-Examining Academic Advising

-Does Academic
Advising Differ for the
Non-Traditional Adult
Learner?

-Increasing
Effectiveness

-Topics for Discussion

Examining Academic Advising: Zooming In

- *Prescriptive* advising (course scheduling) vs. *developmental* advising
- Developmental advising is more holistic with a focus on relationship building.
- Adult students benefit because of the advisor's awareness of the students' personal background and the advisor's ability to be flexible around life's obligations.
- The developmental advisor advocates for the student by ensuring the accessibility of effective campus resources (Bland, 2004).

Student Services' Role as Academic Advisor

-Devotional Thought:
Seeking Wisdom

-Examining Academic Advising

-Does Academic
Advising Differ for the
Non-Traditional Adult
Learner?

-Increasing
Effectiveness

-Topics for Discussion

Examining Academic Advising: Zooming In

- Developmental advising viewed as an overall part of college student development
 - Developing competence
 - Managing emotions
 - Developing autonomy
 - Establishing identity
 - Freeing interpersonal relationships
 - Developing purpose
 - Developing integrity
- (Kadar, 2001, p. 175)

Student Services' Role as Academic Advisor

-Devotional Thought:
Seeking Wisdom



-Examining Academic
Advising



**-Does Academic
Advising Differ for the
Non-Traditional Adult
Learner?**





-Increasing
Effectiveness





-Topics for Discussion



Does Academic Advising Differ for the Non-Traditional Adult Learner?

Student Services' Role as Academic Advisor

-Devotional Thought:
Seeking Wisdom

-Examining Academic
Advising

**-Does Academic
Advising Differ for the
Non-Traditional Adult
Learner?**

-Increasing
Effectiveness

-Topics for Discussion

Does Academic Advising Differ for the Non-Traditional Adult Learner?

- Facilities/campus setup
- Age differences
- Parental influence/support network
- Goals
- Relationships sought
- Degree sought
- ...

Student Services' Role as Academic Advisor

-Devotional Thought:
Seeking Wisdom

-Examining Academic
Advising

-Does Academic
Advising Differ for the
Non-Traditional Adult
Learner?

**-Increasing
Effectiveness**

-Topics for Discussion

Increasing Effectiveness in Academic Advising

- Academic advising resources:
online materials, guidelines,
manuals
- Staff roles and responsibilities
- Mission statements and goals
- Student and advisor feedback

Student Services' Role as Academic Advisor

-Devotional Thought:
Seeking Wisdom

-Examining Academic
Advising

-Does Academic
Advising Differ for the
Non-Traditional Adult
Learner?

**-Increasing
Effectiveness**

-Topics for Discussion

Increasing Effectiveness in Academic Advising

- Academic advising resources: online materials, guidelines, manuals
 - <http://academicadvising.boisestate.edu/>
 - http://www.hlg.edu/advance/upload/Student_Handbook_2006.pdf (Hannibal-LaGrange; adult student handbook)
 - <http://www.jhu.edu/~advising/> (Johns Hopkins; advising handbook for parents)
 - <http://www.letu.edu/opencms/opencms/Portal/cetl/helping-students-learn/advising.html> (LeTourneau; advisor resources)

Student Services' Role as Academic Advisor

-Devotional Thought:
Seeking Wisdom

-Examining Academic
Advising

-Does Academic
Advising Differ for the
Non-Traditional Adult
Learner?

**-Increasing
Effectiveness**

-Topics for Discussion

Increasing Effectiveness in Academic Advising

■ Staff roles and responsibilities

-Have a thorough knowledge of program information

-Be flexible and tactful with institutional changes

-Ensure advisees understand their own responsibilities

-Utilize advisor resources provided by institution

-Capitalize on role as Student Services personnel to
enhance developmental advising

-Consider having an academic advisor whose primary
role is advising (See Kadar, 2001 and Bland, 2004)

-Consider sharing the load with other departments for
prescriptive advising duties

Student Services' Role as Academic Advisor

-Devotional Thought:
Seeking Wisdom

-Examining Academic
Advising

-Does Academic
Advising Differ for the
Non-Traditional Adult
Learner?

**-Increasing
Effectiveness**

-Topics for Discussion

Increasing Effectiveness in Academic Advising

- Mission statements and goals
 - <http://www.eou.edu/advising/> (Eastern Oregon)
 - <http://www.northwestern.edu/advising-center/about/index.html>
(Advising Tutorial – Mission Statement)
- Student and advisor feedback
 - Student Services surveys with questions about quality and availability of academic advising
 - Advisor self-assessments
<http://www.letu.edu/opencms/opencms/Portal/cetl/helping-students-learn/advising.html>

Student Services' Role as Academic Advisor

-Devotional Thought:
Seeking Wisdom

-Examining Academic
Advising

-Does Academic
Advising Differ for the
Non-Traditional Adult
Learner?

-Increasing
Effectiveness

**-Topics for
Discussion**

Topics For Discussion

- What do you find to be the biggest challenge for advising adult students?
- What about the biggest advantage?
- What are some tools you use regularly as an academic advisor?

Further Resources

Academic advising resources: online materials, guidelines, manuals

- <http://academicadvising.boisestate.edu/>
- <http://www.eiu.edu/~advising/> (Eastern Illinois)
- <http://www.eou.edu/advising/> (Eastern Oregon)
- <http://www.gvsu.edu/advising/index.cfm?id=57791407-C44B-E2EE-425F6051453616FB> (Grand Valley State)
- http://www.hlg.edu/advance/upload/Student_Handbook_2006.pdf (Hannibal-LaGrange)
- <http://www.ipfw.edu/academics/advising/> (Indiana -Purdue Fort Wayne)
- <http://www.jhu.edu/~advising/> (Johns Hopkins)
- <http://www.lcc.edu/advising/index.shtml> (Lansing Community College)
- <http://www.letu.edu/opencms/opencms/Portal/cetl/helping-students-learn/advising.html> (LeTourneau)
- <http://www.northwestern.edu/advising-center/about/index.html>
- <http://www.ufadvising.ufl.edu/> (Florida)
- <http://www.usd.edu/advising/> (South Dakota)
- <http://www.wiche.edu/Telecom/resources/publications/guide/guide.htm>
(Guide to developing online student services – Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education)

References

- Bland, S. M. (2004). Advising adults: Telling or coaching? *Adult Learning, 14* (2), 6-9.
- Kadar, R. (2001). A counseling liaison model of academic advising. *Journal of College Counseling, 4* (2), 174-178.
- Marques, J.F., & Luna, R. (2005). Advising adult learners: The practice of peer partisanship. *Recruitment and Retention in Higher Education, 19* (6), 5-6.
- Wlodkowski, R.J., Mauldin, J., & Campbell, S. (2002). Early exit: Understanding adult attrition in accelerated and traditional postsecondary programs. *Synopsis: Higher Education Research Highlights*, (pp. 1-11).