Why am I an academic advisor?
How do I make a difference in the lives of students and colleagues?
How do I let my students know their lives matter?
Defining Your Advising Philosophy in Three Little Words

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Why a Personal Academic Advising Philosophy?

• Everyone already operates under a personal philosophy of advising

• Articulating it (according to NACADA guidelines)
  – Gives structure to sessions and provides foundation
  – Awareness enables us to examine and improve our work
Core competencies in the **Conceptual component** (concepts academic advisors must understand) include understanding of:

- The history and role of academic advising in higher education.
- NACADA's Core Values of Academic Advising.
- Theory relevant to academic advising.
- Academic advising approaches and strategies.
- Expected outcomes of academic advising.
- How equitable and inclusive environments are created and maintained.

[https://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Resources/Pillars/CoreCompetencies.aspx](https://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Resources/Pillars/CoreCompetencies.aspx)
NACADA Core Competencies

Core competencies in the **Informational component** (knowledge academic advisors must master) include knowledge of:

1. Institution specific history, mission, vision, values, and culture.
2. Curriculum, degree programs, and other academic requirements and options.
3. Institution specific policies, procedures, rules, and regulations.
4. Legal guidelines of advising practice, including privacy regulations and confidentiality.
5. The characteristics, needs, and experiences of major and emerging student populations.
6. Campus and community resources that support student success.
7. Information technology applicable to relevant advising roles.
NACADA Core Competencies

Core Competencies in the **Relational component** (skills academic advisors must demonstrate) include the ability to:

- **R1** Articulate a personal philosophy of academic advising.
- **R2** Create rapport and build academic advising relationships.
- **R3** Communicate in an inclusive and respectful manner.
- **R4** Plan and conduct successful advising interactions.
- **R5** Promote student understanding of the logic and purpose of the curriculum.
- **R6** Facilitate problem solving, decision-making, meaning-making, planning, and goal setting.
- **R7** Engage in on-going assessment and development of the advising practice.
Definition

Personal philosophy of academic advising is...

- A positive, self-motivating statement of academic advising as perceived by the advisor
- Unique to each individual
  - No wrong answers
  - Can change/evolve
- Not easy or quick
- Uses theory for approaches
- Length matters less than quality of ideas and their significance to the advisor
Today’s Task

• Identify Three Words from which to draw inspiration to formulate/articulate your personal philosophy statement
• Intentional reflection

"I cannot teach anybody anything, I can only make them think."
~Socrates
...some examples

- Relate, acclimate, graduate
- Connect, support, transition
- Credibility, trust, relationships
- Empower, expression, freedom
- Educational excellence, global preparation, engaged
- Reach, learn, celebrate
- Fair, humane, loyal
- Caring, high standards, respect/empowerment
- Honesty, excellence, accountability, respect, teamwork
What is my approach to academic advising?

- Intrusive, developmental, informative, appreciative, prescriptive, community-based, etc.
Second Word

What theories shape my approach?

- Student development
- Human development
- Learning theories
- Helping professions
- Business/Management
- Multi-cultural
- Others
Theories common in advising

• Social Sciences
  – Developmental (psychosocial, cognitive, student, learning, person-environment interaction, personality, multicultural, etc. etc.)
  – Self-authorship
  – Identity theories

• Education
  – Constructivism
  – Social Constructivism
  – Curriculum theory

• Humanities
  – Hermeneutic Communication
  – Post-Modernism
Third Word

How do I make a difference?

– What are my strengths?
– Do I feel an affinity towards specific types of students?
– What do I find most rewarding?
– What do I do that no one else does?
Recap

• First word: Approach
• Second word: Theoretical lens
• Third word: Impact/outcomes

“My personal advising philosophy is based upon (first word), (second word), and (third word).”
“I find that (a genuinely caring) approach creates a (connection) with my advisees.”
“Using (person-centered) techniques help me foster a (supportive) and/or (trusting) environment and produce (empowering) outcomes.”
“I feel I have made a difference when a student (transitions) into a new phase and (overcomes) challenges they have faced.”
Next steps

• Elaborate
• Evaluate
• Edit
  – Opinions change
  – Students change
  – We change
• Explore
  – Research, learn, develop, share, adapt
Positive impact

- Accomplishment
- Satisfaction
- Sense of purpose
- Starting point
- Provides ideals
- Contribute to the profession/comprehensive philosophy
Resources


