

Academic Advising at Acadia - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

What is Academic Advising?

Academic advising is a service offered at Acadia University to provide students with assistance and guidance in their academic decision-making. Academic advising can provide you with important information and answer your questions about academic rules and regulations. Advisors can help you develop a general program of study, and ensure that you are on track for graduation. If you are seeking information about a particular major, minor, or doing an honours program - you should consult an Academic Advisor.

Every department at Acadia has academic advisors to help ensure your success. Being familiar with the university and its programs, advisors can either answer your questions or re-direct you to another resource.

What can Academic Advising do for me?

- Provide information about choosing programs and courses.
- Assist in the selection of appropriate courses.
- Provide information on course availability and registration procedures.
- Help students choose a major or minor.
- Direct students to other campus resources for additional information if needed.
- Assist students in checking their graduation requirements.

Can I make an appointment to see an Academic Advisor?

YES! Please contact your department head or departmental secretary (listed in your department) on the Advisor Contacts section of this website to set up an appointment.

What should I bring to my appointment with an advisor?

There are several things you can do to prepare for your session with an advisor:

Make sure to read the information about your degree in Acadia 's academic calendar. Knowledge of the degree requirements is essential to good program planning. The Acadia Student Union has produced a helpful Guide to the Academic Calendar that may make the Calendar easier to understand.

Before you come in to the office, ask yourself what you need from the advisor. It would be helpful to make a list of your questions and request(s) beforehand and bring it to the appointment.

Try to bring to documentation of any situations that form the basis of your request (i.e. notes from a professor or department, your transcripts, The departmental secretary can provide you with a copy of your Program Advisement or PACE if you ask. These can help the advisor make a decision at the time of your appointment. Otherwise, you may have to obtain the documentation and set up another appointment.

Finally, don't forget to bring a pen and paper so you can write down the advisor's recommendations! You can help the advisor help you make a fully informed decision if you are on time, if you are clear about what you are requesting, and if you present supporting documentation.

What does an Academic Advisor do?

Academic advisors provide advising support through regular contact with students. Advisors help students explore various fields of interest, select a specific academic major, research career options that relate to their programs, and develop plans of study appropriate for their educational goals. They also refer students to other campus offices for assistance in academic, personal, and career counseling; and other academic and study resources.

When should I visit an Academic Advisor?

Visit your Academic Advisor when you:

- have questions about the registration process.
- have questions about majors, minors, and academic programs.
- want to plan a schedule for the next semester or create an academic plan for your major.
- are preparing to register for the next semester.
- have questions about anything on campus from "How to drop or add classes" to "Where can I get career information?".
- are having academic difficulties.

Can I change my Academic Advisor? How?

If you feel your assigned advisor is not a good fit, you can see your department head instead or can simply approach another professor in the department. This happens frequently; you need to be comfortable with an advisor in order to approach them with your questions.