

Norco College

Faculty Advisement Information Sheet

What is faculty advisement?

Faculty advisement is a process of mentorship and communication between faculty advisors and students that enhances the quality of a student's college experience. Faculty advisors help students explore education and career goals as well as identify program pathways and appropriate courses. Faculty advisors also refer students to an array of college resources.

Faculty Advisor-Counselor Collaboration

Ongoing collaboration among counseling and faculty advisors is core to the faculty advisement model. Counselors refer students to faculty advisors for subject-area expertise. Faculty refer students to counselors based upon specific guidelines. With the guidance of counseling faculty, faculty advisors provide services and information to students, and students should always be reminded to speak directly with a counselor for details and current information regarding transfer and degree and certificate requirements.

Guiding Principles

1. Faculty advisement is voluntary.
2. There is value in counseling faculty collaborating with faculty of all disciplines to improve student success.
3. Faculty advisers are experts in their discipline and can be significant in terms of providing specific information to students.
4. Counseling faculty are experts in helping students navigate the requirements for certificate, degree, and transfer completion. Counselors must meet minimum qualifications under Title V.

Role of Faculty Advisors

1. **Mentorship:** Faculty advisors serve as a subject-area mentor for students.
2. **Providing information** regarding programs, career opportunities, and course selection in their disciplines.
3. **Referring students to appropriate services:** the faculty advisor can provide a link for the student with other essential services: counseling, financial aid, career center, veteran's resource center, services for students with disabilities, tutoring center, health center, etc. Faculty advisor training must include learning to recognize when referrals back to counseling are necessary.
4. **Coordinating with counseling departments:** non-counseling faculty are excellent resources for discipline-related information; counseling faculty can provide comprehensive training on skills and strategies necessary for successful advising. Instructors who advise and the counselors who train them share the responsibility to make faculty-advising activities a supplement to, rather than a replacement for, counseling services.

Role of Counseling

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1. **Counseling** required when the student needs more than the discipline-specific information
2. **Goal setting assistance** when goals are not yet set, decision not yet made
3. **Advising** when issue goes beyond need for static data
4. **At-risk Student Counseling** with undecided students and probationary and dismissal students

Benefits of Faculty Advising for Faculty

1. Contribute to students success
2. Promote, strengthen, and grow your program
3. Opportunity to talk about the discipline you love
4. Demystify areas of your discipline
5. Continue teaching relationship outside of the classroom
6. Recognition as institutional service and/or flex credit

Examples of Existing Best Practices in Faculty Advisement at Norco

- Music provides students with a range of opportunities to engage with the faculty and the community e.g., information session regarding all music programs at Norco on the first Thursday of every semester during college hour, music showcases, the creation of music cd's.
- Early Childhood Education provides students with a tracking tool and a copy of the rotation of courses. These documents facilitate a conversation about the possible sequence of courses students could take to complete certificates and degrees, the timeline for completion, careers in education, and colleges for transfer.
- Art provides students with opportunities to expand their professional identity via art displays at the gallery, auctions of their art work, panel discussions, and interactions with visiting artists and field trips with the faculty as the guide.
- Business helps their students to get real world experience by enabling students to work directly with members of the community through tax preparation.