Getting the most of your experience with an academic advisor

Academic advisement is an important step along the path to college graduation. Each semester students should make an appointment with an advisor in their academic area to ensure the courses they're registering in meet the curriculum requirements. Students should also work to develop a relationship with their academic advisor. By building a rapport with the student, the advisor will be better suited to help the student select courses and other college and career opportunities.

Meet Bridget Drummer, just one of UND’s academic advisors

“Hola!” A friendly voice calls out each morning to anyone who happens to be standing on the second floor of the UND Memorial Union. While many incoming students and families have the chance to meet Student Academic Services advisor Bridget Drummer at the Getting Started program, it is likely they underestimate the enormous impact this small lady makes all over campus.

Drummer, originally from Drake, ND, has seen first hand how the college experience has changed over the years. Proudly a member of the last “Nifty-Gifty” class, Drummer began taking UND classes after her junior year of high school. She quickly fell in love with the campus and the Chester Fritz Library. According to Drummer, “I just read and read and read. I wanted to learn all that I could.” After a dynamic professor introduced her to the field of anthropology, she was hooked and graduated with a major in Anthropology and a minor in Spanish (thus explaining the “hola”). Following graduation, Drummer accepted a position as an academic advisor, which she continues in today.

Over the years, Drummer has seen many changes. First, families have become more educated and more involved in the college process in recent years. Secondly, students and families are investing more financially into colleges, so they tend to shop around more. Finally, students are highly mobile and more technologically inclined than previous generations. Drummer helps students and families adjust to these changes every day. She provides a smile and a sense of comfort as she helps everyone involved become more informed about the options and resources that UND has to offer to students.

Drummer also is aware of many of the common mistakes that students make and has plenty of advice to help students avoid these errors. The two most common mistakes she encounters are a lack of study habits and succumbing to distractions.

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UND offers courses aimed at improving study skills, as well as a tutoring center for any students who may need additional assistance. Drummer also feels talking to one’s advisor is very important because they know the student and can help the student get back on track.

There are also many things she feels a family can do to help students succeed. “Families need to foster independence and independent thinking. Being less possessive and doing less tugging can help students make the break from high school and into college life.” As Drummer suggests, families should encourage students to make connections to campus, forming a life at UND. The more involved a student becomes, the more connected a student feels, increasing their chance of success.

If you would ask any of the hundreds of students who Drummer has advised or worked with, they would certainly agree with her. It is this advice for success that she gives to students that contributes to her popularity as an advisor. She has touched many students and played a role in each one’s success. The pictures of happy former and current UND students that paper the walls of her office attest to the positive impact she has on students and staff around campus.

Your UND Family Association

The mission of the Family Association is to advocate for families of UND students. This mission is fulfilled through its purpose as a resource for families. The association seeks to provide information and services to help families support their student(s).

While all families of UND students are members of the Family Association automatically, a volunteer Advisory Board helps ensure that the mission and purpose of the Association are fulfilled. Board members provide counsel and accountability to ensure that the needs of UND families are considered fully as enrollment management decisions are made and strategies and activities are planned that impact families of UND students.

Do you want to get involved in the Association? You can do this by assisting in on of many capacities - from assisting with Welcome Weekend, Family Weekend or participating in regional recruitment activities. We have recruitment outreach events in areas like Denver, Seattle, Long Island, Minneapolis and Fargo where UND personnel meet prospective students and their families to discuss their decision to consider UND.

Consider a leadership role in the UND Family Association - as an active participant or even as a member of the Advisory Board. We have two or three meetings a year with members from around the country-hosting a conference call from the Grand Forks campus.

If you’re interested in the Board or in more involvement, please contact Rochelle Bollman at 701-777-6468 or send an email to rochellebollman@mail.und.nodak.edu. The Family Association website is also a helpful resource at http://www.und.edu/dept/divsos/familyassociation/.

Get ahead with UND summer sessions

The University of North Dakota offers a full complement of academic experiences in the summer. A wide range of classes across all disciplines is balanced by athletic camps and special institutes, conferences and workshops. There is truly something for everyone during the summer at UND!

Housing is plentiful and parking is a snap. The campus is less crowded, and many classes meet outside. Whether a student wants to graduate early or just grab a class for fun, Summer Sessions has just what they want!

Most courses will be offered on a six-week format, but three- and nine-week courses are also available.

Twelve weeks
May 16 to August 5, 2005
First six weeks
May 16 to June 24, 2005
Second six weeks
June 27 to August 5, 2005
Mid six weeks
June 6 to July 15, 2005

For more information about summer sessions check out the web page at http://www.und.edu/dept/summer/index.html