



Introduction to Academic Advising at PolyU (Workshop I)

26 Sep (Mon) V 302





Content

- . Academic advising foundation
- Academic advising @ PolyU
- Roles of Academic Advisors
- . Tips & Support for Academic Advisors

Warm up activity

Advising helps students make sense of their education as a whole, not as a series of isolated experiences or items on a checklist.



How and why is academic advising integral

Good advising may be the most underestimated characteristic of a successful college experience.

"Graduating seniors reported that certain kinds of advising, often described as asking unexpected questions, were critical for their success."

Richard Light, Making the Most of College

Academic advising foundation

The Story of Academic Advising

- In medieval times, a preceptor shared his knowledge with his students
- In 1841, Kenyon College (Ohio) uses the term "advisor"
- In the 1880s, a system of faculty advisors was established at Johns Hopkins.
- In the 1960s, Centralized advising centers & Peer & professional advisors
- In 1972, Terry O'Banion outlined 5 dimensions of advising
- In 1979, NACADA (National Academic Advising Association) was established.

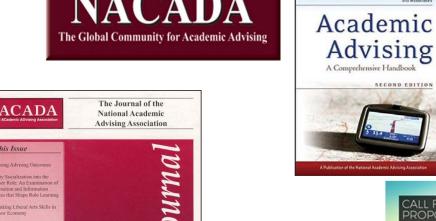


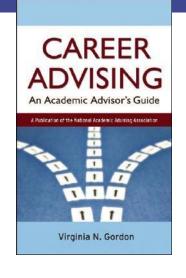
Reynolds, M. (2014). Academic Advising: Exploring past, present, future, Academic Advising Summer Institute, Portland, USA, June 22-27, 2014. NACADA



Nowadays...









G OFFICE OF GENERAL UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

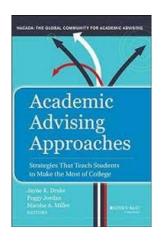




Virginia N. Gordon , Wesley R. Habley , Thomas J. Grites









Definitions of Academic Advising

Academic advising, based in the teaching and learning mission of higher education, is a series of **intentional interactions** with a curriculum, a pedagogy, and a set of student learning outcomes. Academic advising synthesizes and contextualizes students' **educational experiences** within the frameworks of their **aspirations**, **abilities** and **lives** to extend learning beyond campus boundaries and time frames.

NACADA (2006)

Advising is Teaching

A Comparison of the *Knowledge, Skills, and Characteristics of Effective Teachers and Advisors*

Effective Teachers	Effective Advisers
Master their subject matter	Possess accurate information about the policies, procedures, resources, and programs of their departments and institutions
Plan, organize, and prepare materials for classroom presentation	Are well prepared for advising sessions
Provide regular feedback, reinforcement, and encouragement to students	Provide timely feedback, reinforce learning that has taken place, and applaud student successes
Serve as a resource to students	Provide materials to advisees and refer them to others when referral is an appropriate response
Relate course content to students' experiences	Assist students in the consideration of their life goals by helping them relate their experiences, interests, skills, and values to career paths and the nature and purpose of higher education



Academic Advising @ PolyU

Introduction

Academic Advising was formally introduced in PolyU in 2012 to help students transit to their university life and make appropriate study plan under the new undergraduate curriculum.

Academic Advising and their Study

Academic Advising helps you in the following important events and key decisions:

Year 2 Year 1 Year 3 Year 4 Understanding graduation Career requirements & study Work-Integrated Education Minor Study Preparation progression patttern Adjusting to University life Capstone Project / Exchange and the new mode of study Final Year Project Review the fulfilment of **Exploring University** graduation requirements resources Formulating goals Electives Establishing social life Choosing majors Activities on and off campus Achieving goals

Goals of Academic Advising in PolyU



PolyU Academic Advising System

A Dual System

Department-based

Institutional Level

Academic Advisors

OGUR Academic Counsellors

Major Context GUR Context

Educational Experiences

"...4-year undergraduate curriculum from 2012/13 and onward...":

Appendix 1: Policy Paper (LTC/42/A4)



LTC

Learning and Teaching Committee

Paper for : Endorseme

Subject: Revised proposal on a system with associated guidelines for academic advising under the 4-year undergraduate degree structure at PolyU

Backgroun

- Under the current 3-year undergraduate degree structure, academic advising at Polyl in provided primarily by academic departments. It is delivered in different forms in different degree of the degree of proctors and/or Mentors). The main focus is on advising students on matter relating to learning in their Maior.
- With the implementation of the new 4-year undergraduate curriculum from 2012/13 onward, PolyU will need to develop a stronger academic advising system to meet the following new challenges:
- The more heterogeneous background of the entering students in terms of their academic preparedness for the chosen major,
- A significant proportion of students being admitted to the Broad Discipline instead of directly to a Major/programme,
- The requirement for students to understand a more complex and demanding set of university graduation requirements, and to choose and successfully complete 30 credits of GURs from a wide range of GUR subjects on offer according to their entry qualifications, interests, abilities, and intellectual and personal goals,
- A much weakened connection between the students and their teachers and peers in their home department, especially in the first two years of their study.
- 3. Densing upon the risk experience of PolyU departments and international best practices in undergraduate academic advising, this paper proposes an enhanced academic advising system at PolyU to most the new childrages. It exponses the aims of academic advising system at PolyU to most the new childrages. It exponses the aims of academic advising for the 4-year curriculum, describes the board principles and justificates to setting up an integraded two-dist academic advising for students from 2012/13 onwards, and deliments the roles and responsibilities of the academic advisions and advises in the advising process. The proposed system and associated guidelines will apply to all undergraduate programmes under the 4-year curriculum offered by departments in the University proper. Programmes offered by CPCE will be allowed to customize the system to suit their contexts.

PolyU Academic Advising System

Departmental Academic Advising

Major Context

- Various formats (face to face, individual or group)
- Usually throughout the student's course of study at PolyU (except BD advisors)
- Documentation
- Administrative support from Undergraduate Secretariat (UgS)
- Academic Advising Plan & Report

PolyU Academic Advising System

Office of General University Requirements

GUR Context

7 full time and 2 half-time
 Academic Counsellors and
 a supportive Administrative Team

The OGUR is committed to:

- General University Requirements (GUR)
- Students
- Academic Departments





Roles and Responsibilities of Academic Advisor

Roles of Academic Advisor

- ✓ building rapport with the students;
- ✓ being accessible, available and responsive;
- helping students to clarify their intellectual, professional and personal goals;
- ✓ helping students to develop an appropriate study plan;
- ✓ alerting students to academic regulations and requirements, particularly those relating to one's Major; and
- ✓ providing early identification of students with special learning needs or signs of learning problems and making necessary referrals;
- ✓ contacting with students regularly and have at least one face-to-face meeting (individually or in small groups) during the academic year.
 Students are expected to consult the advisors before subject registration.
 Other major information that you felt important

√ ...



OGUR Survey on Students Advising Expectation (2013)



Participants

- 1303 Students
 - 829 Year 1 (63.6%), 454 Year 2 (34.8%)
 - Male (45%), Female (55%)
 - 70% have met with their Academic Advisors
 - 95% have met with their Academic Counsellors

Student's Expectation on Academic Advising

Items		Median	SD				
Expectations about Academic Advisor in the Faculty/Department							
7) to know me well.	3.71	4.00	.77				
8) to help me connect to the professors and teaching staffs in my programme of study.	3.76	4.00	.76				
9) is knowledgeable about matters related to my major study.	4.11	4.00	.66				
13) I would like to have more meetings with my Academic Advisor in the Faculty/Department (i.e. more than once per academic year).	3.55	4.00	.80				

Students' Needs on Academic Advising

Rank	Items	M	Median	SD
1	34) I would like Academic Advising focuses more on providing information about the career aspect of my programme of study (e.g. career path, internship).	4.11	4.00	.68
2	36) I would like Academic Advising focuses more on giving me advice when I encounter academic problems (e.g. study skills, adjustment to university life, poor academic performanceetc.).	4.03	4.00	.62
3	35) I would like Academic Advising focuses more on discussing about my academic, career and/or personal goals and helping me make plans to achieve these goals.	4.01	4.00	.66

How to get start doing Academic Advising?



A Typical Cycle of Academic Advising

1. Get the advising info

Programme-specific information

- Definitive Programme Document (DPD)
- Departmental/School Support System (e.g. Programme Leader, UgS)
- A List of Common Resources for Students
- Other major information that you felt important





2. Get to Know Your Students

Background of your advisees

- Academic Background
- Admission route



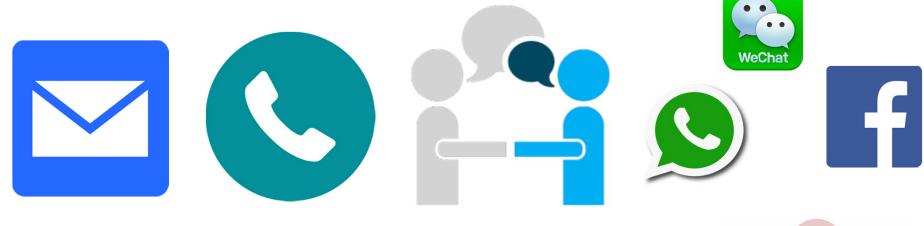
- Admission performance (Strengths and potential weakness)
- Study load
- Academic performance (Strengths and potential weakness)

• ...





Approach





Timing



- Anytime
- Earliest Possible
- Important Dates/Period:
 - Add/drop period
 - Subject registration period
- Critical moments for individuals
 - Exam reviewing period*
 - Announcement of exam results



Persistence

- Don't give up after one trial
- Seek support from your administrative colleagues(for e.g. UgS), if any
- Collaborate with OGUR Liaison Counsellor

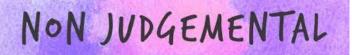




4. Advise after greetings

Start with the **casual and positive** experiences and get to know the advisees' focus of life. Show **interests** in your advisees.

- 1. Can you tell me something you felt good about University life?
- 2. What do you do in your **spare time**?
- 3. Tell me something unique about you.







4. Advise after greetings

You may assess the advisees' adjustment in university study

- 4. Is there anything that you are studying is different from what you expected?
- 5. Can you tell me the differences between University and Secondary school?
- 6. Which subject do you find most easy/difficult so far? Why?

NON JUDGEMENTAL





4. Advise after greetings

End the advising session with a conversation that leads to an **Action Plan/Expectation** on your advisees. Hold them accountable.

- 7. What is your expected GPA? What will you do to achieve that GPA?
- 8. What do you want to achieve in this semester(or your first year or upon your graduation) and how to achieve that?
- 9. If you are not satisfied with what you have now, can you think of anything to change in your life that can help to improve?

Commonly asked questions

- Major-changing
- Curriculum & Progression plan
- Career path
- Academic performance
- Others learning experience like exchange, minor study
 & WIE
- Other: Scholarships, personal issue

5. Follow up if any

You may follow up with...

- an email reminding your advisee(s) about a summary of your conversation, an action plan, an advice, or anything that could bring up a positive memory in the session so as to strengthen your bonding.
- a referral.
- a further discussion with relevant parties related to your advisee's question(s)



6. Documentation

Keep a record with meaningful details:

- Preferred name
- Suggestions /committed action plan
- What impressed you (especially the positive things)

A record is helpful because...

- A Tecora is helpful because...
- save time for you to know your advisee from blank later and surprise your advisee as they seldom expect you to remember details of them
- remind you of the follow-ups that you or your advisee should do
- provide important documentation in case of special situations

Check with your department to see if there is any guidelines/requirements on documentation for academic advising.





A Typical Cycle of Academic Advising

Tips and support for Academic Advisor

- START where they are
- GOOD first impression



Advising Supports to Advisors/Advisees

On Campus Support to Advisors

OGUR – Your liaison Academic Counsellor(s)

Met at least 90% of freshman at least once In their first year through individual or small group meetings,







On Campus Support to Advisors (OGUR)

OGUR – Community of Practice of Academic Advising

(COP-AA)

- E-learning
- Briefings
- Workshops/Trainings
- Books/Online Resources
- Mini projects related to advising activities





 Oversea event sponsorship (NACADA Summer Institute/Conference)



On Campus Support to Students (Others)

- Center STARS
 - Counselling & Wellness
 - Career & Placement
 - Mainland & International Students
 - Financial assistance & Scholarship
- English Language Center (ELC)/Maths Learning Support Center
- International Affairs Office/Chinese Mainland Affairs Office
- Academic Secretariat
- Library
- University Health Service

Introduction to Academic Advising at PolyU (Workshop I)

Advising Tool Kit

- Academic Advising Handbook
- List of Campus Supportive Units
- Key dates for Students
- Academic Counsellor List (OGUR)
- Student Counsellor List (Centre STARS)
- OGUR Information Worksheet
- Conversation Starters



Thank you for your participation!

Our contact: Office of General University Requirements (OGUR)

Location: TU435

Office opening hours: 8:45am-5:15pm (Mon-Fri)

12:45pm-2pm (Closed)

Phone: 3400 8203

Email: ogurenq@polyu.edu.hk

Website: www.polyu.edu.hk/ogur/

