

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Office of Academic Advising

Student Success Center

Additional Information about the Office of Academic Advising and the Position of Academic Advisor:

1. General Operations: The Office of Academic Advising is a large, busy office serving over 4,500 undergraduate students, the majority of which are first-year students and sophomores. AA advises non-declared students, as well as students seeking admission to a selective program such as pharmacy and students on Academic Probation (changing/setting of goals, experiencing academic difficulties). AA also supports the University in fostering an atmosphere of success by creating academic support programming and participating in several outreach programs which range from presentations in the classroom to liaison positions in SIUE's many residence halls.

The Office of Academic Advising staff currently includes ten Academic Advisors, three advising support staff, four work-study students, one administrative support staff member, and one Director. The Academic Advising Center is located in the Student Success Center, which is connected to Morris University Center.

2. SIUE's Academic Advising Mission and Vision: The Office of Academic Advising was established to provide students with advising support as they plan their programs of study. Advisors pursue a proactive philosophy with all students, as well as monitoring students who are experiencing academic difficulty and students who have special needs. The vision of Academic Advising is to be known as the primary and most reliable resource for connecting students with the information and resources necessary for them to achieve their goals.

The mission of Academic Advising is "to guide students as they formulate their educational plans while also assisting students to achieve their academic, career-related, and personal goals while at the University. Advising support includes teaching advisees to set goals, how to gather information, how to use that information to make viable decisions, and how to evaluate those decisions. Advisors try to help students learn to be their own best advisors and how to navigate a large, complex university successfully. Academic Advising at SIUE is viewed as an educational process that is characterized by shared responsibility between student and Advisor.

3. Characteristics of Advisors: We seek individuals who:
- genuinely care about providing a range of support in order to assist students in accomplishing their goals; this entails employing active listening and becoming fully engaged in the academic lives of SIUE students (during most of the year, the entire workday is spent communicating with students);
 - understand and are empathetic to the typical situations of entering students and their families, in regards to transitioning to the University;
 - work well one-on-one with students, possess excellent communication skills; are not overly directive or judgmental;
 - possess an ability to effectively present advising related information in a group setting; i.e., presenting to a classroom or to a group of prospective students and their families.
 - are able to solve problems and teach students how to solve problems;
 - are direct, diplomatic, and compassionate;
 - possess enough emotional resilience to experience and control a range of student emotions (including frustration, joy, sorrow, and triumph) in the span of a single day;
 - are a team player;
 - possess the ability to work in an extremely face paced environment, while working with a set of information that is constantly evolving.