



ADVISING
COMMUNITIES

Thinking About Creating an Advising Community?

The Advising Communities Division (ACD) is built on the strength and diversity of its Advising Communities (AC's) that uphold NACADA's strategic goals and provide a breadth of resources to help advisors help their students. Please view the document titled "Process to Become an Advising Community" for the formal process in creating an Advising Community.

Though we welcome proposals for new communities, the ACD leadership asks that anyone considering creation of an AC, reflect on the following before starting the formal process. The requirements for sustaining a viable community were bolstered when the ACD was created; what were once standards for Commissions and Interest Groups (CIGs), may no longer apply.

Consider the following questions and start gathering evidence before submitting a formal proposal to the AC Division Reps and Executive Office Liaison:

Is your proposed topic one that is already represented by another Advising Community?

- There are many Advising Communities across a very wide span of topics listed here: <https://nacada.ksu.edu/Community/Advising-Communities.aspx>
- Is your topic more of a sub-topic of a larger community? There's strength in numbers, so perhaps talk with the current Chair about partnering in ways to create resources on your particular niche. Some communities have subcommittees as well. It can be beneficial to act as a subcommittee to garner support and work on projects as evidence to become an advising community.
- If you desire to take the lead on a topic that falls under another Advising Community, consider talking with the current Chair about a Steering Committee position that focuses on this aspect. There are ways to support publications, web resources, webinars, and conference presentations without starting a separate Advising Community.
- Take a look at the list of [archived advising communities](#) that for various reasons, were not successful. If you are considering starting a community on one of these topics, talk to the Division Reps about what was not working within these topics.

Have you discussed the idea for your Advising Community with other Chairs in the ACD?

Here are some questions to ask the Chairs of Advising Communities.

- What sort of time commitment is involved in starting and sustaining an active AC?
- What challenges will the Chair of a new AC face?

- How difficult is it to get members within an AC to follow through on assigned volunteer work?
- What sorts of grassroots activities will a new Chair face coordinating within a new AC?
- How do you (as a Chair) motivate your members to contribute to the work of the AC?

The Executive Office Liaison to the ACD can provide you with the contact information for Chairs of newer Advising Communities.

Have you considered whether or not the Community will thrive without the leadership of the person that created it?

- Does the Potential Advising Community have longevity beyond the first possible Chair?
 - The Interim Chair that supports the Potential Advising Community (PAC) through the process to AC status must stay on for a two-year term. If the Community remains successful, then the AC becomes part of the formal election cycle.
- Are there others at diverse institutions that would be interested in this topic ongoing?
- Are there enough interested parties to form a Steering Committee to help do the actual work of the Community?

Does the possible Chair understand the scope of work and engagement involved in developing and maintaining a vibrant Advising Community?

- View the [ACD Chair Self-Assessment Rubric](#)
- View the [Advising Community Self-Assessment Rubric](#)

Do you have sufficient evidence of the need for your proposed Advising Community?

- Have you surveyed any NACADA members?
- Is this a topic that can be discussed outside of formal NACADA channels?
- Have you considered starting a discussion on this topic on social media by creating a Facebook group?
- Have you considered organizing an informal social event at a regional or Annual conference to discuss this topic?
- Is there any existing scholarship on this topic that the possible community can utilize?
- Has anyone created proposals/presentations on this topic?

Questions? Comments?

Please consult the [NACADA Leadership "About Us" webpage for the Advising Communities Division](#) to find the contact information for the current Division Reps and the Executive Office Liaison.

Other helpful webpages:
[Advising Communities Division](#)