

Beyond Foundations: Developing as a Master Advisor

Chapter 4 - Defining Academic Advising: Concepts and Contexts for Practice

Reader Learning Outcomes

Readers will use knowledge gained about the context and concepts of advising, including incorporation of the three pillar documents, to

- Clarify the importance of advising values and definitions at the individual and institutional levels;
- Understand the alignment of institutional vision and mission, academic program objectives, and statements of advising vision and mission as well as goals and outcomes;
- Identify advising practices consistent with an advising vision and related goals and outcomes;
- Connect an advisor's (including one's own) role and philosophy to the institutional vision for advising and related goals and outcomes.

Aiming for Excellence discussion questions and activities

- Assess your level of understanding by completing the following statements:
 - The primary difference between vision and mission statements is . . .
 - The pillars of academic advising inform advising programs and practice in a number of ways, including (list as many as possible) . . .
 - Advisors enact their personal advising philosophies through _____.
 - The advisor as teacher philosophy means that the advising relationship focuses on_____.
- If the institution has defined an advising mission and vision and also has developed goals and program objectives, convene advisors to review them in relation to the overall institutional mission and vision statements. Specifically,
 - Compare the broader institutional mission and vision statements to the mission and vision statements for academic advising to identify areas of alignment and misalignment, and
 - Identify strategies for addressing any misalignments and for creating practices that take advantage of and highlight the alignments.
- If the institution does not have an identified mission and vision, or no program objectives have been created for academic advising, use Table 4.2 to draft them. Specifically,
 - Collaborate with academic advisors and other stakeholders and review examples of other institutions' mission and vision statements as well as program objectives.
 - Identify key ways the studied statements do and do not fit with the local context and then draft preliminary statements of mission, vision and program objectives based on identified areas of commonality between the benchmarked institutions and your own institutional situation.

- Review existing assessment data on advising effectiveness at the institution and identify key gaps or shortcomings. Based on your findings, name aspirations to inform the creation or revision of advising mission and vision and related program objectives.
- Host a brown bag lunch for academic advisors and instructors of first year seminars, orientation courses, or other critical introductory programs. Discuss stated learning objectives for such courses in relation to institutional advising objectives and identify areas of common focus. Look for strategies that mutually support student achievement of shared outcomes.
- Encourage advisors to draft an advising philosophy and definition of his or her role as an advisor. Share and review the statement in a meeting. Review themes and practices as they relate to existing or needed advising program objectives.