

## ***Beyond Foundations: Developing as a Master Advisor***

### **Chapter 5 - Defining Student Success**

#### **Reader Learning Outcomes**

Readers will use knowledge gained about student success to

- Articulate or formulate definitions of student success from the perspective of the advisor, advising unit, student, and institution;
- Identify the people targeted by success measures based on personal, unit, and institutional definitions;
- Recognize potential conflicts between personal and institutional definitions of student success and create a strategy to manage it;
- Design a plan that aligns advising responsibilities to the student and the institution with the NACADA Core Values of Academic Advising (NACADA, 2005);
- Balance the responsibilities to the advisee and to the institution; and
- Base practice upon the assessment of student needs and institutional expectations.

#### ***Aiming for Excellence discussion questions and activities***

- What is your definition of student success?
  - Whose success is measured by your definition?
  - Identify the theories that inform your perspective on student success.
  - Assess the best practices you employ that promote student success.
  - Periodically review your philosophy in light of institutional and student needs.
- What is the definition of student success in the advising unit or academic department?
  - Carefully read and dissect the statements on advising mission, responsibilities for advisors, and expectations for advisees. Do these statements focus on student success?
  - Facilitate advisor discussion groups on the topic of student success.
- How do students describe their own success?
  - During advising sessions, prompt students to explain their idea of success.
  - Ask students the reasons they are in college and their goals for their college experience; document responses for continuing discussions.
- What is the definition of student success at your institution?
  - Whose success is measured by the institutional definition?
  - Carefully read and dissect the institution mission statement; highlight sections of the institution's strategic plan for student success.
  - Facilitate cross-campus discussions among administrators and faculty members on the topic of student success.

- Select a conflict that will likely affect advising practices and design a strategy to manage it.
- Delineate your responsibilities based on your advising role at the institution.
- Identify institutional expectations for advising outcomes.
- Review NACADA (2005) Core Values 1 and 3, which address advisors' responsibilities to advisees and to their institutions. Respond to the following questions:
  - How does your definition of student success and description of your responsibilities exemplify the NACADA Core Values?
  - Do institutional expectations for advising outcomes demonstrate the NACADA Core Values of Academic Advising?
  - How can the roles of advisor and institutional expectations be better aligned with NACADA Core Values?
- Use the case of Shonda to complete the following exercises:
  - Identify Shonda's personal and student characteristics.
  - Assess the institutional response to Shonda.
  - Create a strategy to assist Shonda.