

The ACADAOS Professional Development Program was launched in the autumn of 2014 in an effort to reward and encourage academic advisors to participate in professional development. This program is designed to allow any advisor, regardless of the constraints of resources, to be able to participate and be recognized for their professional development efforts through a formalized process for tracking and acknowledging those professional development activities. The goals of the Professional Development Program are to: create opportunities for any advisor to grow as a professional, regardless of access to funds and resources; recognize and reward advisors for sustained commitment to their own professional development; help administrators, faculty, staff, and students better understand the purpose and value of academic advising; and facilitate the legitimization of advising as a profession across the University community. The creation of the Professional Development Program has empowered advisors to take advantage of the resources and opportunities available to them locally and nationally. The commitment advisors have shown to their own development has provided students with advisors who are open to learning new and innovative approaches to assist with attaining educational goals. The knowledge obtained through participation in professional development has benefited the university because advisors are able to share resources and directly apply the information gained to their work. The result of participating in the Professional Development Program has not only benefited advisors who have chosen to partake, but the students we serve and the institution as a whole.