

Health and Life Sciences Advising Center

Abstract

The Health and Life Sciences Advising Center at Indiana University Purdue University has been open for just over three years. The staff, made up of Student Success Advisors, a Career Consultant, and a cadre of undergraduate Peer Advisors, are deeply engaged in developing their advising practice and have created a rich array of academic and career advising strategies to serve upwards of 1500 per-health students. Cross campus collaborations and innovative practices are principles that guide staff in pursuit of student success-focused goals. Staff effectively balance service delivery with rich professional development, and are contributing to the profession by sharing unique practices and perspectives at the state, regional, and national level. Most importantly, pre-health students, particularly those who are pursuing competitive undergraduate health majors, benefit. Health and life science (HLS) students are engaged in career exploration in their first year through a variety of channels and parallel planning high-priority. Data demonstrates that this work has resulted in increased retention for HLS students and quicker movement to their degree-granting school, and students who are not admitted to competitive health-focused programs are finding their way to other majors.