

NACADA Advising Program Award

Major Change Advising
University Advising Center
University of South Carolina

Program Abstract

Major Change Advising (MCA) is a service provided through the University Advising Center at the University of South Carolina (USC). USC employs a shared-split model of advisement with most advising provided by faculty and/or professional staff advisors in the academic colleges. This decentralization of advisement makes it challenging for both advisors in the colleges and students to navigate the major change process. MCA serves all undergraduate students who are seeking to change majors to a different college/school. Full-time professional staff advisors work one-on-one with students in transition to provide support and guidance through the major change process. MCA appointments are scheduled for 30-minute sessions, and MCA also offers drop-in hours for students who have a quick question and/or are in need of supplemental advisement as they work through the major change process. For highly competitive majors, students are also encouraged and advised for a parallel/alternative degree option. Students are encouraged to matriculate into a new major after two major semesters of meeting with a Major Change Advisor in order to progress to graduation in a timely manner (parallel/alternative majors are also discussed in these situations).