

THE GAME PLAN FOR SUCCESSFUL ADVISING

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There are six weeks left in the semester. You're darting through midterm exams left and right. Your advisor is sprinting directly toward you from left court. You take the shot. Suddenly, your sights are focused on the next semester. But do you get the schedule you want?

Advising is a three-week long period during which professors in the communication department meet with students one-on-one to discuss their academic progress and determine the appropriate academic road ahead. This might include advice about which classes to take, organizing a schedule, troubleshooting scheduling conflicts, and talking about internships, study abroad, and graduation.

At the advising meeting, your advisor also reserves you seats in communication courses. This is just one of the many perks of being a communication student: less stress come registration day, since you're already guaranteed a spot in your major classes.

Making sure you have the appropriate number of credits and are on track to graduate on time is essential. However, with advising and other tools (like DegreeWorks) your advisor is your coach throughout the whole game, cheering you on from the sidelines.

Advising is just the warm-up, but it really and best prepares you, leading up to the big day: registration. We all know registration day is just as stressful as the last 10 seconds of a tied ball game. However, following the little training guide below and listening to your coach will guarantee a win come game day.

Steps to stress-free advising:

1. Check out the course list as soon as it becomes available.
2. Check your DegreeWorks to determine what classes you still need to fulfill.
3. Look out for the Chair's e-mail to see when the list of advisors and advisees is available. (Hopefully, you'll get to keep the same advisor for all eight semesters. The department really tries to do this for you.)
4. Also, as soon as the Chair sends this e-mail, schedule an appointment with your advisor. Advising is on a first-come-first-served basis.
5. Determine a logical timeline for which classes you want/need to take and when.
6. Make a mock-schedule (or 2 ... or 4) with the classes you wish to take.
7. Meet with your advisor. If you run into an unexpected conflict with your meeting time, e-mail your advisor right away or reschedule on SignUpGenius. (Don't forget to open up your scheduled appointment on SignUpGenius for someone else.) Generally speaking, though, try to not miss your appointment.
8. Spend a stress-free rest of the semester. •