

Conducting an Effective Advising Interview

I. Assessment of Student's strengths and talents

A. Discuss high school or other prior formal learning experiences

Helpful Questions to ask student:

1. What did you learn with greatest ease?
2. What did your teacher's compliment you about?
3. In what areas do you feel you have the greatest academic skills?
4. What was your favorite course in high school?
5. What do your friends say they like best about you?

B. Think about learning, studying and performing

Helpful Questions to ask student:

1. In what ways do you find it easiest to learn?
2. On what types of tests do you score highest?
3. What types of problems do you enjoy solving?
4. What was your favorite assignment?
5. What subjects do you most enjoy studying? Which do you like least?
6. What academic projects give you the most feeling of pride?
7. What sorts of teaching styles or classes do you find most challenging?
8. What sort of learning do you enjoy *outside* school settings?

C. Predict achievement

Helpful Questions to ask student:

1. If you were to choose three classes in which you would be most likely to achieve, what would these classes be – topic, content, classroom activities, assignments, etc?
2. In what academic areas do you feel that you are at your best?

II. Assessment of motivation

Helpful Questions to ask student:

1. What do you look forward to in college?
2. What do you want to happen during your college years? What do you hope will happen?
3. Imagine it is the end of the term and you feel great – successful and fulfilled – what will have to happen in order for you to feel this way?
4. What are the two things you most want to accomplish while you are at FSC?
5. What are the two things you most want to be able to do after college – as a result of college?
6. In what academic areas are most motivated to learn?
7. What are some of the questions you have that you wish you could find answers to?
8. In what areas, academic and personal, would you like to explore and grow?

III. Assessment of preparation

Helpful Questions to ask student:

1. In what areas and subjects do you have the greatest background knowledge?
2. For which specific courses do you feel most prepared?
3. In which courses are you most likely to earn your highest grades because of what you already know or have experienced?
4. What types of academic competition do you thrive on?
5. What types of academic cooperation or collaboration do you thrive on?
6. Which of your academic skills are your strongest?
7. When you have to perform to earn grades, which type of performance activities provide the best opportunities for you to achieve success?

IV. Matching strengths and motives to opportunities

Helpful Questions to ask student:

1. What courses would be a direct extension of your intellectual interests and curiosities?
2. What types of courses would capitalize on your strengths, talents and skills?
3. In which of the classes identified above are you most motivated to learn, grow and develop?
4. What types of extracurricular activities might stimulate your desire to grow and/or motivate you to learn?

V. Fitting potential courses to demands and requirements

- A. How much time and energy does the student have, and of that, how much is he or she willing to invest in learning activities?
1. What employment or volunteer obligations?
 2. What obligations to friends, spouse, children, parents?
 3. Estimate of time/energy required for commuting/travel?
- B. How much time and energy will selected courses require?
- C. How can potential courses be used to fulfill graduation requirements, and in what areas do courses need to be found to fulfill requirements?
- D. Are potential courses offered at a time that fits the student's schedule?