How to Prepare for an Effective Advising Appointment

There are several things you can do to prepare for your advising appointment that will allow the session to be more useful to YOU.

1. Think about the classes you want to take next semester and look at the Schedule of Classes on One Stop.
2. Review your Degree Audit on One Stop to see what kinds of course requirements you have remaining and how any courses you've already registered for will count toward those requirements.
3. Think about your career goals. What classes would best fit these future goals? If you're not sure, write down questions to ask your advisor.
4. Make a list of things that would be helpful for your advisor to know about your experience and be sure to share that information. This can include:
   a. Things you are specifically interested in learning or experiencing while in college
   b. The subjects in which you do have or do not have academic confidence
   c. Your living arrangements (ex. on-campus, off-campus, with family, with roommates, etc.)
   d. Whether you are the first in your family to attend college (since some things may deserve additional explanation)
   e. Any excitement, concerns or worries about your current classes (i.e. what are you loving and what’s causing challenges)
   f. Whether you are using financial aid or have specific financial concerns (since certain academic choices can impact your finances)
   g. Any personal issues you will be managing while you are in college
5. Make a list of any other questions you have for your advisor and be sure to ask all of them.

Potential Questions to ask your Advisor:

- How often should I meet with my advisor?
- What are the experiential learning opportunities for my discipline? Can they count for academic credit? Are there also others available?
- Are there special opportunities or programs that I should be aware of that would be of benefit to me?
- What kinds of minors and certificates are available and how can they help meet my career goals?
- What should I do if I am unsure about my career goals or may major?
- Are there any grades from another school that are considered in my GPA for my major or admission to a program?
- What if I didn't make the grade that I expected/wanted? Should I take that particular course again?
- If I repeat a course, are both grades figured into my GPA or can I use a grade replacement?
- Is there a minimum grade required for a course to count towards my major/minor or a certificate?
- Do you have an advising syllabus that you would like me to consult?
- When should I do a graduation check with my advisor to make sure that I’m on track?