Academic Advising
Teaching & Learning Salon

Lori Tenser, Dean of Academic Support and Advising
Brian Koslowski, Director of Academic Advising
Julia Mani, Director of Peer Academic Support
Academic Services

- 5 units
- 22 full-time staff
  - 14 are staff academic advisors to undergraduates
- Primary location: Usdan 2nd floor
What do Academic Advisors do?

- Responsible for an undergraduate caseload of 400-500 students
- Counsel students regarding course planning, major/minor options, academic resources and opportunities, graduation requirements, and academic policies [Do For, Walk With, Cheer On]
- Collaborate with campus partners: faculty, Registrar’s Office, DOSO, BCC, Hiatt, ICC, Athletics, ISSO, etc. as part of a holistic advising strategy
- Assist students with the process to go on - or return from - a leave of absence
- Presents student petitions for academic policy to EXCO or COAS
What do Academic Advisors do?

- Lead the Independent Interdisciplinary Major program, MLK Fellows
- Liase with the Columbia Combined Plan for Engineering
- Teach HWL 28: Strategies for Academic Success
- Serve on university committees
- Offer orientation webinars for students and families
- Attend and present at local and national conferences
- Research, propose, and implement changes to academic policy - allowing for greater transparency, accessibility, simplicity, and equity
Advising Topics

Academic Planning:
- major selection
- course planning
- graduation requirements
- university policies

Academic Support:
- study skills
- dealing with setbacks
- using resources
- taking a leave

Personal Growth:
- goal-setting
- self-care
- identifying strengths

Exploration:
- exploring interests
- academic opportunities
  (study abroad, internships)
New Advising Initiatives

Deli Drop-ins

- Every T-Th during academic year
- No appointment required

New early alert form

- Replaced mid-semester performance alert
- Concerns communicated in real time between students and faculty

UWS/Ac Serv partnership

- Latte resource-sharing
- Roosevelt Fellow visits to course sections

Enhanced study skills offerings

- Workshops, Study Skills tutors, HWL 28 (Strategies for Academic Success)
Peer Advising Support (Roosevelt Fellows)

- Group of 11 juniors and seniors
- First student point of contact for incoming students
- Extensive training on academic policies, curriculum, and navigating difficult situations
- Close collaboration with Academic Services units/advising
- Available for 20 & 30 minute appointments, and via email
- Fall drop-in utilization: 373 appts booked
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Roosevelt Fellows</strong></th>
<th><strong>Staff advisors</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Navigating college transition &amp; balance between academics &amp; extracurriculars</td>
<td>Personal or health challenge impacting academics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building relationships with professors</td>
<td>Taking a leave/returning from leave</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perspectives on a course/instructor/major/minor</td>
<td>Navigating a challenging situation impacting academics</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Both:</strong> Course selection</td>
<td>Petitions for exceptions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deciding on a major or minor; mapping out majors/minors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connecting to campus resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding academic policies, Brandeis core, and requirements</td>
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Roosevelt Fellows & UDR's- what's the difference?

**Roosevelt Fellows**

- Peer academic advisors across curriculum
- Trained on academic policies, core & curriculum
- Assigned to FY’s but open to all undergrads
- Events focused on registration, new student transition
- Hold regular drop-in hours
- Supervision in Academic Services

**UDRs**

- Peer advisors for a specific department
- Provide curricular advisor specific to dept/program
- Liaisons for students & faculty within dept
- Plan department events (Meet the Majors, etc)
- Supervision in Dean of A&S
Advising Survey Results (Spring 2023)

**Resources**

*In a typical semester, how often do you engage with the following resources to inform decisions about your academics?*

Respondents indicate the resources with which they most often engage are friends and the Academic Progress page on Workday.

Peer advising, the Hiatt Career Center and the Academic Services newsletter are sighted as the least frequented resources by respondents.
Advising Survey Results (Spring 2023)

Support through Academic Challenges

*How frequently do you connect with the following people when you are facing academic challenges?*

- Respondents indicate that when facing academic challenges, they most frequently connect with friends, family, the professor of the course and/or the TA of the course.

- Peer advisors and BUGS tutors are the least frequently connected by respondents.

![Bar chart showing frequency of connections](chart.png)
Advising Survey Results (Spring 2023)

Please share your level of agreement with the following statements:

- Respondents generally agree with the statements provided. They most strongly agree that they are aware of the Brandeis Core requirements.
- There is little variation between class years
In communication and meetings with an academic advisor, how frequently do you discuss the topics below?

*Academic planning, Course selection, and Academic progress* are the topics most frequently discussed with academic advisors.

Topics including *Study skills, Social and extracurricular life, and Personal health challenges* are discussed with the least frequency.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course selection for the upcoming semester</td>
<td>3.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My current academic progress</td>
<td>2.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic major choice</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic challenges</td>
<td>2.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic planning for future semesters</td>
<td>2.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of degree audit</td>
<td>2.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevant academic policies (i.e., pass/fail, ...)</td>
<td>2.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study skills</td>
<td>1.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicating with faculty</td>
<td>2.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal health challenges</td>
<td>1.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal goal setting</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social and extracurricular life</td>
<td>1.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referrals to campus supports (tutoring, ...)</td>
<td>1.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career options and post-graduate planning</td>
<td>2.02</td>
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</table>

1=Never  
2=Rarely  
3=Occasionally  
4=Frequently
Discussion

What questions do you have?
How can academic advising best support you?