University of Iowa
Academic Advising Center
Vision, Mission, and
Program Goals

Vision:

The Academic Advising Center promotes student success through excellent developmental academic advising focused on student learning and engagement. We aspire to provide advising leadership at the institutional, regional, and national level.

Mission:

The Academic Advising Center strives to help each student make a successful transition to the University, explore their interests and possibilities, develop an appropriate academic plan, and engage in educationally meaningful experiences. We do this through one-on-one advising and by advocating for and developing programs, policies and procedures that create an environment that supports student success. We aim to create an inclusive environment where all students feel welcome and valued.
Program Goals:

Provide students with academic advising, support, and programming. Educate students on the tools and resources available to them to successfully manage their college experience. Specifically, advising includes:

- Teaching students how to navigate the University, make informed decisions, and take an active role in planning their educational experience.
- Guiding students to utilize the tools and resources to understand their interests and abilities, identify academic goals and develop appropriate academic plans.
- Encouraging students to challenge themselves in their growth and development.
- Engaging students in conversation and reflection to understand the purpose and value of their educational experiences.
- Helping students understand that their well-being is related to their success in college.
- Challenging students to cultivate their curiosity.
- Encouraging students to identify and participate in educationally meaningful co-curricular activities.

Promote and contribute to a diverse, inclusive, and equitable campus community. Specifically, advisors:

- Create a welcoming, inclusive, and accessible environment.
- Commit to ongoing learning and development of our staff.
- Advocate for inclusive and equitable practices across campus.

Promote and advocate for institutional programs, policies, requirements, and procedures that enrich the student experience and facilitate student persistence to graduation.
Academic Advising in the AAC is:

- **Caseload-based** - Students are assigned to an AAC advisor based on their major.
- **Mandatory** - Students must be authorized to register by an advisor.
- **Proactive** - Advisors contact students about course planning, academic performance, co-curricular opportunities, campus resources, etc.
- **Teaching-oriented** - Advisors teach students how to plan their academic programs of study, select courses each semester, explore possible majors, and seek information and resources.

The AAC is a “one-stop shop” for any student who is exploring and wishes to find information on various academic programs.
Advising During a Pandemic

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Academic Advising Center retained a small in-person presence on campus to serve students who needed or wanted to meet in-person. The vast majority of our advising conversations were held successfully in Zoom or over the phone. Our priority during this challenging time remained to support our students and uphold our vision to promote student success through developmental academic advising. We played a vital role in communicating student experiences and concerns with the Office of the Provost and the Colleges. We advocated for and adapted to shifts in policies, deadlines, and course offerings to help students during a time of change, different learning environments and unknowns.

During the spring semester of 2021 we had 8,105 Zoom appointments. Data was not yet available for fall semester of 2020 while we were primarily working remotely.

In Spring 2020, the AAC quickly pivoted to an entirely virtual Orientation Advising model, created with and supported by Orientation Services. The AAC designed online advising content, including videos and other information, for students to review prior to meeting with their academic advisor. Advisors met individually with each student in 45-minute Zoom or phone appointments in Summer 2020.

”Of all the things that have been difficult this year with COVID, my advising experience hasn't been one of them.”

”The advisors I have had meetings with have been very kind and accommodating, making sure I knew what I was responsible for and how to feel comfortable. I have been so grateful for my advisor!”

”My advisor was super good about keeping as much of the advising experience as before and helped me navigate being a student during this time which was super helpful.”

”My advisor has been nothing but helpful during these times and always makes sure during our appointments to ask if I am doing alright with the current stressors such as COVID!”

”My advisor has been a life saver throughout this entire process of online school. I’ve probably met with her more times than I need & I don't know what I would've done without her.”
The College Transition Seminar was created by a team of staff at the Academic Advising Center and was offered for the first time in Fall 2000. From 2000 – 2010, the course was a 2-semester hour course that focused on the many transition topics experienced by first-year students. In 2011, the course was changed to a 1-semester hour course that focused more narrowly on students’ academic transition to college. At that time, we created the current structure that includes students enrolling in three courses together with a group of first-year students – the College Transition Seminar, the College Transition Workshop, and a general education course. The Workshop is a small, structured learning experience led by a successful undergraduate student (CT Workshop Leader) who helps the students enrolled take the academic skills they are learning in CT Seminar and apply them to their shared General Education course.

“"This class was honestly one of the most valuable tools I have had in college. This class helped me get into the groove of college and made friends. This class has been the best part of college and I will really miss it!" - College Transition Student

General Education Courses included:

- BIOL:1140 Human Biology: Nonmajors
- CHEM:1070 General Chemistry I
- CHEM:1110 Principles of Chemistry I
- GEOG:1070 Contemporary Environmental Issues
- JMC:1100 Media, Uses & Effects
- JMC:1200 Media History and Culture
- PSY:1001 Elementary Psychology
- SOC:1010 Introduction to Sociology

“I enjoy workshop because it gives me the opportunity to create relationships with some of the new faces on campus. It is inspiring to watch the personal and academic growth that happens in just a couple of months. Through workshop, I have had the ability to grow my communication skills and adapt to various learning styles, which has created a new perspective for me on my own academic journey.” - Abby Leibach, CT Workshop Leader

Since 2000, just under 13,000 students have benefitted from the College Transition Program.
"It allowed me to have a reason to not be a homebody in my dorm. I appreciate having something that resembled a college life."
- College Transition Student

"I am very thankful that this class remained in person for those who wanted to stay in person because I feel like I got the most out of my learning."
- College Transition Student

"I learned a lot and was able to attend in person for this class. I know the class is probably different before COVID but it was still very good and informational."
- College Transition Student

Fall 2020 gave us an opportunity to re-think our course and change modalities for our Seminar Instructors and Workshop Leaders who were unable to teach in person. This allowed us to provide a College Transition experience for students who were taking all of their classes remotely. Some of our student comments on the course evaluation indicated that students appreciated the in-person class experience.

In the Fall of 2020 we offered:

- 14 sections of College Transition Seminar in person
- 8 sections of College Transition Seminar on Zoom
- 20 sections of College Transition Workshop in person
- 2 sections of College Transition Workshop on Zoom

The thing I enjoy most about being a workshop leader is knowing I helped students become successful by providing them with new approaches to how they study. Seeing the growth that they make over the first semester from just memorizing information to actually applying and understanding information is what puts a smile on my face."

- Zach Bohle, College Transition Workshop Leader
## Fall 2020 Caseload

9,501 Total Advisees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Student Count</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College of Liberal Arts &amp; Sciences Declared Majors</td>
<td>2383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Med, Pre-Dent, Pre-PT, &amp; Pre-PA</td>
<td>1847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Business Majors</td>
<td>1453</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Majors</td>
<td>717</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enterprise Leadership Majors</td>
<td>666</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing Interest Majors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-Law</td>
<td>438</td>
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<tr>
<td>College of Education Interest Majors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-UI Pre-Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interdepartmental Studies Majors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Degree</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering Interest Majors</td>
<td>104</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radiation Science and Nuclear Med Interest</td>
<td>102</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-Pharmacy Majors</td>
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<tr>
<td>High School/Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>College of Medicine Undergraduate Program Majors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Health Interest Majors</td>
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<tr>
<td>University College</td>
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Outreach & Programming

- 160 Fall Success Meetings (formerly New Student Meetings) held via Zoom
- Presentations via Zoom on topics including:
  - AMCAS- applying to medical school
  - Biology
  - Education
  - Engineering Interest
  - Enterprise Leadership
  - First Generation
  - Health and Human Physiology
  - Journalism & Mass Communication
  - Nursing Interest
  - Open
  - Pre-Business
  - Pre-Health
  - Pre-Law
  - Pre-Pharmacy
  - PTCAS- applying to physical therapy school

Courses offered through the AAC

- CSI:1020  Academic Seminar I – 3 sections
- CSI:1021  Academic Seminar II – 3 sections
- CSI:1100  College Transition Seminar – 22 sections
- CSI:1150  College Transition Workshop – 44 sections
- CSI:1500  College Success Seminar – 11 sections
- CSI:1550  Strategies for Academic Success – 2 sections
- CSI:2100  Transfer Transition – 1 section
Campus Collaborations

- Advising Council
- Autism Spectrum Disorder Committee
- Basic Needs Committee
- Early Intervention Team
- CLAS Course Planning & Monthly Meetings
- Excelling@Iowa Leadership Committee
- First-Generation Task Force
- Functional Lead of MAUI Advising
- General Education Curriculum Committee
- International Student Advisory Committee
- International Student Recruitment Committee
- Liaisons to Offices, Departments and Colleges
- Orientation Advising Planning
- Path Forward Student Success Committee
- Provost’s Enrollment Management Committee
- Student Success Team
- Success@Iowa Steering Committee
- UI Advise
**Who We Serve**

Every first-year student with a declared major in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS)

Every CLAS student with the goal of earning undergraduate admission into Education, Engineering, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health, Tippie College of Business

Every Open major

Every Pre-professional student (e.g. Pre-Med, Pre-Law)

Every Economics, Enterprise Leadership and Interdepartmental Studies major through graduation

Every MAUI Advising user

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**2020-2021 Staffing**

1 Director

3 Senior Associate Directors

1 Associate Director

38 Academic Advisors/Senior Advisors

3 Administrative Staff

8 Work-Study students

All advising staff members have a Master’s Degree or PhD.

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**Academic Advising Center**

100 Pomerantz Center, Room C210

Iowa City, Iowa 52242

319-353-5700

advisingcenter.uiowa.edu