“Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?”
“That depends a good deal on where you want to get to.”
— Alice in Wonderland

STUDENT SERVICES
ACADEMIC ADVISING SYLLABUS 2018/19

For students who are undeclared and under 60 units, or are in academic difficulty

WHY SEE AN ACADEMIC ADVISOR?
Academic advising is a collaborative, ongoing process. We can assist you with everything from specific questions about enrollment and course selection, to complex questions about your future, career possibilities, and professional schools.

WHEN SHOULD YOU SEE AN ACADEMIC ADVISOR?
- Before you enroll for your first term (after you have started University Prep; an online course to guide your transition into SFU)
- Before you enroll for your second term at SFU
- If you are experiencing academic difficulty
- Anytime you need assistance with your academic journey and you are not sure where to go for help
- When you are ready to explore how to declare within your program

WE CAN HELP YOU:
- Choose courses and build a balanced schedule
- Reflect on your strengths and interests and develop strategies for adjusting to university level course work
- Understand professional and graduate school requirements
- Navigate options if you are experiencing academic difficulty
- Explore your academic and career goals
- And much more!

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HOW YOU CAN CONNECT WITH US
- Book a 30 minute appointment
- Send an email
- LiveHelp (online chat) advising
- Drop-in advising
- More information and hours at www.sfu.ca/students/academicadvising/contact.html

OUR APPROACH
Academic Advisors in Student Services are trained and experienced in helping you navigate your academic journey at SFU. Our goal is to empower you by teaching you about the tools and strategies needed to navigate and transition through every stage of your academic career.

We are committed to providing a supportive atmosphere that prioritizes exploration and your educational, personal, and professional development. While we won’t make decisions for you, we can help you discover and identify your interests, strengths, and goals to make informed decisions. University is where you get to explore yourself and the world and we are here to help you discover your highest potential!
YOUR ACADEMIC JOURNEY

As you try out different courses, investigate your degree options, and discern more about your interests and abilities, you may experience some shifts in your path. This is a very common experience for undergraduate students, and something we are here to support you with.

What you currently envision as your long-term goals and dreams may change and your academic career may not be linear. Know that as Academic Advisors, we are here to help you navigate these twists and turns throughout your time at SFU.

Your journey at SFU could look something like this:

WHAT TO EXPECT

At your appointment, we’ll work together to develop the best plan for your success at SFU and beyond. Here’s what you can expect of us, and what we expect from you.

YOU

BEFORE YOUR APPOINTMENT:
- Explore programs and courses, majors and/or minors that interest you
- Prepare questions
- Get familiar with campus services and supports

DURING YOUR APPOINTMENT:
- Show up on time
- Come prepared and ask questions

REGULARLY:
- Contact us or book an appointment when you need help
- Check your SFU email for communication from SFU and your advisor
- Make note of important dates in the academic year (e.g., course drop deadline)

US

- Provide a safe, respectful, and confidential space to discuss your questions and concerns
- Provide you with accurate and up-to-date information
- Encourage you to become a self-sufficient learner by ‘showing’ rather than ‘doing’
- Help you explore areas of study and choose appropriate courses for your academic plan or interests
- Connect you with appropriate resources and campus supports
- Identify opportunities to help you explore and expand your interests, and get involved within the SFU community
- Help you understand SFU’s policies, procedures and processes
WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Working with an academic advisor can help you make informed choices throughout your academic journey. Through academic advising you can expect to learn the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPLORATION</th>
<th>INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ How to choose courses that reflect your strengths, interests, and future goals</td>
<td>□ How to find and access campus services and supports</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ How to choose a major that suits you</td>
<td>□ The importance of involvement for professional, personal, and academic growth</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ How to explore academic and potential career options</td>
<td>□ How to identify opportunities to get involved that reflect your interests and future goals</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ How to come up with a general plan for your academic, career and professional growth</td>
<td>□ The opportunities available to get involved on campus (e.g., leadership programming, co-op, volunteering)</td>
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<td>□ How to connect with a career educator</td>
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<tr>
<th>ACADEMIC PLANNING</th>
<th>ACADEMIC SUCCESS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ How academic advisors can help you make informed decisions</td>
<td>□ How to research and identify academic strategies that work for you</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ The overall structure of a degree and program options available (majors and minors)</td>
<td>□ How to reflect on your successes and failures and make adjustments in your course selection and academic study skills</td>
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<td>□ How to navigate and use the SFU Academic Calendar</td>
<td>□ How to navigate shifts or changes in circumstances you may encounter</td>
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<td>□ How to declare a major or minor in a program or programs you’re interested in</td>
<td>□ How to use the GPA calculator to calculate your term and cumulative GPA</td>
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<td>□ How to develop a course of action and reflect and revise your ‘plan’</td>
<td>□ How to access academic support, including your professors and the Student Learning Commons</td>
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<td>□ If applicable, how to meet Foundations of Academic Literacy and Numeracy Requirements</td>
<td>□ Understanding Academic Standing, including Good Academic Standing, Academic Probation and being Required to Withdraw</td>
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<td>□ How to check if a course has pre-requisites or co-requisites</td>
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<td>□ How to plan a balanced course schedule and enroll for courses using MySchedule</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ The importance of academic dates and deadlines, and where to find them</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ How to fulfill writing, quantitative, and breadth requirements (WQB)</td>
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SFU is committed to creating an open, respectful, and supportive environment for all people. We serve students of all abilities, sexual orientations, genders, faiths, races, cultures, and socio-economic statuses.