

University of Tennessee-Knoxville
College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
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Mission and Purpose:

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, places academic advising within the teaching/learning mission of the institution and recognizes it to be a critical component of students' educational experience and undergraduate success. Faculty, administrators, and professional staff promote academic advising as a shared responsibility with students. Academic advising serves to develop and enrich students' educational plans in ways that are consistent with their personal values, goals, and career plans, preparing them for a life of learning in a global society.

College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) Advising

Academic Advising in CASNR takes a holistic and student centered approach by highlighting the importance of the advising relationship through and beyond graduation. In this approach, advising extends beyond class scheduling and registration and into undergraduate research opportunities, exploring career related goals, and seeking practical and internship experience. Advising as an extension of teaching is especially understood in CASNR because the teaching faculty serve as undergraduate advisors and foster a strong sense of student empowerment, and shared responsibility in the advising relationship. Advisors in CASNR are committed to preparing students to be self-directed critical thinkers and leaders in their professional fields who understand and value the importance of collaboration, initiative, persistence, and integrity.

CASNR's Academic Advising System

Undergraduate Academic Advising in CASNR is built on a faculty advising model. Within that model, the director of advising working out of the Dean's Office directs all advising efforts. CASNR does not have an advising center because advising occurs within each academic department. Each academic department has a faculty member that serves as the Undergraduate Coordinator and works (along with the department head) closely with director of advising. Student's change their major and are assigned an advisor within each individual academic department.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will demonstrate they know:

- Curricular requirements, milestone courses, uTrack requirements, and course sequencing related to a chosen/ intended academic program in order to graduate in a timely fashion
- The career and professional development opportunities available as well as on-campus support for identification and exploration of career paths
- Academic policies and procedures
- Campus resources and support systems that promote academic success

Students will demonstrate they can:

- Develop an academic plan and assess degree progress through graduation
- Critically reflect upon academic and career goals
- Develop skills and strategies for academic success that include accessing and using institutional resources, policies, and procedures
- Take responsibility for making decisions regarding their academic success

Students will demonstrate they value/appreciate:

- The importance of academic planning and their role in the process
- The importance of enhancing their degree with co-curricular/extracurricular and inter/intracultural experiences
- Their responsibilities as educated citizens of UT and of a democratic, diverse, and global society
- The educational process and life long learning

Advising Policy

Students who fall under any one of the following categories are required to meet with an advisor during each tracking semester (fall and spring semester): 1) students who have earned fewer than 30 hours at UT-Knoxville; 2) students who are following exploratory tracks; 3) students who are identified as “off track” by uTrack; 4) students on Academic Probation. All other students are required to meet with an advisor during a designated term each year. Students are encouraged to meet with an advisor at any point during a term or academic year.

All students should review carefully the curriculum for their major and should choose courses in accordance with the requirements for the major. The student, not the advisor, bears the ultimate responsibility for educational planning, selecting courses, meeting course prerequisites, and adhering to policies and procedures.

CASNR Exploratory Track

The CASNR Exploratory track is designed for students who have not chosen a specific major within CASNR. Selecting an academic major is one of the most important decisions a student will make in college. CASNR’s director of advising advises all exploratory students and assists them in deciding on which major best matches their unique interest areas and academic talents. Exploratory students will schedule and attend two advising sessions each semester.

Exploratory students will engage in a pro-active advising program. Exploratory students must transition into a major no later than the end of their third tracking semester.

Student Expectations

- Schedule and attend an advising appointment early each semester. If more than 10 minutes late to your appointment, you will be required to reschedule.
- Cancel any advising appointment you are unable to attend by calling (865) 974-3603
- Review curriculum and milestone requirements prior to meeting with an advisor
- Complete milestone courses for each tracking semester
- If off track in your major, develop an advisor-approved plan aimed at getting back on track
- Review your tracking audit, academic history and/or degree audit report (DARS)
- Write down a tentative plan for next semester
- Come prepared to ask questions and participate in your advising
- Consult with your advisor about your academic progress, changes in your academic, educational, or career goals, plans for study abroad, academic policies and procedures (i.e., course withdrawal, repeating a course, grade replacement, transferring credits from another institution, residency requirements)
- Discuss with your advisor any specific concerns about your program and current classes
- Consult with your advisor before making changes to your academic plan
- Read e-mails and follow up on information from your advisor or Advising Center personnel
- Make decisions and be responsible for your academic career

Advisor Expectations

- Be accessible during the advisor's office hours
- Provide accurate information
- Assist in planning an academic program that is consistent with your academic and educational goals and your abilities
- Understand milestone, curriculum, and graduation requirements for your major
- Monitor your progress in your program and keep accurate records
- Discuss university and college requirements, academic policies and procedures
- Acquaint you with services and programs provided by the college and the university
- Provide referrals when, and if, special needs are identified
- Respect your right to privacy of educational records and confidential information

Advising Steps for Success

- Attend all class meetings and get to know your professors
- Read your UT e-mail regularly
- Develop good study habits

- Seek academic assistance early, if needed
- Review your grades and academic history on MyUTK at the end of each semester
- Contact your advisor if needing assistance or having questions about your program

Advising Resources and Academic Services

- Timetable/Financial Calendar – Dates and Deadlines - http://registrar.tennessee.edu/academic_calendar/201340_time-finan_cal.pdf
- Career Services - <http://career.utk.edu/>
- Counseling Center - <http://counselingcenter.utk.edu/>
- MyUTK – <https://myutk.utk.edu/>
- Office of Disability Services - <http://ods.utk.edu/>
- Programs Abroad Office - <http://studyabroad.utk.edu/>
- Student Success Center - <http://studentsuccess.utk.edu/>

Advising Appointments

Students are strongly encouraged to schedule an appointment with an advisor early in the semester. Appointments may be made with an advisor by way of Grades First, by telephone, or by emailing the appropriate advisor.

Important Advising Contacts in CASNR

Dr. Brent Lamons, Director of Advising blamons1@utk.edu

Dr. Bill Park, Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, wpark@utk.edu

Dr. Joanne Logan, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator, Environmental Soil Science, loganj@utk.edu

Dr. Daniel Yoder, Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator, Biosystems Engineering, dyoder@utk.edu

Dr. Jennifer Franklin, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator, Forestry, jafranklin@utk.edu

Dr. Donald Hodges, Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator, Wildlife and Fisheries Science, dhodges2@utk.edu

Dr. Cheryl Kojima, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator, Animal Science, ckojima@utk.edu

Dr. Christopher Stripling, Assistant Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator, Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communication, cstripling@utk.edu

Andy Pulte, Lecturer and Undergraduate Coordinator, Plant Sciences, apulte@utk.edu



Academic Advising

Dr. Jennifer Richards, Research Assistant Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator, Jennifer.richards@utk.edu