

# Academic Advising

**Academic advisors** are assigned during Destination Graduation class to help guide students during their time at LBCC. Students are advised to contact their advisor each term to ensure they are on track to successfully complete their goals. The college uses AdvisorTrac to help with assigning advisors, scheduling, and tracking visits to advisors.

**Why does advising matter?** Study after study show that personalized academic advising is a key component in student success, engagement and completion. As noted in the 2010 report “After Admission: From College Access to College Success,” students in advising programs are significantly more confident about their ability to complete their degree.

**Why is LBCC focusing on advising?** The college is aiming to help students:

- Build positive relationships and get more engaged at the college.
- Make stronger progress toward earning their degrees.
- Prevent spending money on classes that don't count toward their degrees.
- Give career advice and guide students in the next step of their education.

**Why should students see an academic advisor?**

Advising is a big part of student success, and part of LBCC's goal to help student complete. Meeting with their advisor ensures that students are on the right track, and stay on track, to complete classes, certificates, or degrees.

Advisors help with:

- Course planning and resources
- Long-term academic planning

- Declaring a degree at LBCC or another college or university
- Interpretation of College Placement Test (CPT) and transcripts from other colleges
- Transfer requirements, registration procedures, and class scheduling
- Petitioning for financial aid or graduation
- Academic concerns or special needs
- Referrals to another college, university, or community resources
- CWE referral and information
- Giving accurate information on certificate or degree area

### **When should students see their advisor?**

**New students** are scheduled to see their Academic Advisor as soon as they have completed the enrollment process, which includes applying for admissions and finishing the placement test and new student orientation.

**Continuing students** are encouraged to check-in with their advisor at least once each term to ensure they stay on track.

**Transferring students** should see an advisor to assist them with the planning process.

**Graduating students** should meet with their advisor as they approach their graduation date. Graduation applications need to be signed by advisors.

**How many students at LBCC have been assigned an advisor?** About 1,500 students have taken Destination Graduation this year and have been assigned a faculty adviser. About 65 percent of those students have met with their adviser.

**How many faculty are advising students?** More than 100 of LBCC's full-time faculty are advising students. The goal is for faculty to have a pool of 30-40 students who they advise from DG to graduation.

**Where do we stand compared to other colleges?** LBCC is using *SENSE* (Survey of Entering Student Engagement) to compare our efforts with other colleges, including rating our effectiveness in providing a "clear academic plan and pathway." At those colleges, advisers helped new students select a course of study or a major 61.4% of the time; and 71.5% of students agreed that an adviser helped them in their first term. Before LBCC launched DG and our advising initiative, only 35.5% of our students said an advisor helped them select a course of study or a major; and only 39.1% said an adviser helped them in their first term.

**What is the role of an advising mentor?** Mentors in each division have been assigned to be a resource for faculty whenever they have questions about advising (e.g. accessing AdvisorTrac or using DegreeRunner). If you don't know your mentor, contact a member of the Advising Committee or see the mentor list in the Advising Resources section of Moodle.

**Who is on the Advising Committee?** The Advising Committee is comprised of faculty representing different divisions of the college. They are: **Kathy Chafin, Jenny Strooband, Rod Carter, Linda Carroll, Rob Priewe, Warren Coffeen, Darci Dance and Bruce Clemetsen.**

**What is the role of the Advising Committee?** The Committee provides advising resources and training for other faculty. The Committee also works with the college to guide advising and its connection to other initiatives, such as Destination Graduation.

**How can faculty get more involved?** The Advising Committee is seeking more mentors who can assist fellow faculty with advising.