Faculty Academic Advising Resource Guide

At WPI, academic advising is considered a key faculty responsibility. While course selection is an important part of academic advising, that is only one aspect of the role. Even more important is the assistance and counsel that you can provide as students select a direction for their lives. The recently released Gallup-Purdue Index report showed the importance of faculty who went beyond just course selection.

College graduates had double the odds of being engaged at work and three times the odds of thriving in Gallup's five elements of well-being if they had had "emotional support"—professors who "made me excited about learning," "cared about me as a person," or "encouraged my hopes and dreams." Chronicle of Higher Education, May 6, 2014.

To assist faculty in their critical role as Academic Advisors, CASL has compiled the following set of resources. As always, the Office of Academic Advising (x5381; academic-advising@wpi.edu) is happy to answer questions and provide additional support.

Faculty Advising Handbook: The handbook discusses the role of an advisor, advising in the context of the Plan, national standards for academic advising, and has a great list of campus resources.

Tracking Sheets: This website contains a set of tracking sheets for each major on campus. Students should use these in planning out their courses – and advisors can find them a great help as well. These are updated every year, so there may be multiple available sheets. The student and faculty member should use the appropriate sheet for when the student entered WPI.

HUA Requirement: The Humanities and Arts department prepared the linked brochure to help students understand the HUA requirement. It has a clear description of the requirement and examples of different ways to fulfill it.

HUA Inquiry Seminars and Practica: This list only shows what is currently offered, but can give students and advisors some idea of available opportunities and how the student might best prepare for a similar inquiry seminar to be taken in the future.

Social Science Requirement: This 2 page document will help students understand and make the most of their social science requirement. It provides information on how to pursue a social science minor.

Career Outlooks: The CDC provides resources and support to students on major selection, resume/CV writing, internship/co-op and job search strategies, interviewing skills/mock interviews, graduate school assistance, career advising, job offer evaluation and negotiation skills, and more!

Project Opportunities: Students frequently need support and advice in identifying both IQP and MQP project opportunities. This website is the repository for both. Note that students wishing to fulfill the IQP at one of WPI’s Global Project Centers must apply by A term of their sophomore year.

I’m Concerned about a Student: In the course of your meeting with advisees, you may hear some things that cause you to worry about a student. You can use this form to put your concerns before a body of professionals who will further explore the situation and develop a plan to help and support the student and our campus.

International Student Support: International House offers a variety of services and advice specific to international students including visas, reduced course loads, work authorization, taxes, etc.

GPS Courses: This link contains a historical record of GPS courses.

WPI Scheduler: A useful guide for your advisees to assist in developing course schedules.