

Advising Tips

Preparing for an Advising Appointment

Advisors want to make the most of the time they spend with students during an individual advising appointment. Here are some tips to help you make the most of your advising experience:

- When possible, anticipate your advising needs by scheduling an appointment early. This will allow you the opportunity to get your questions answered prior to peak advising times, reducing your wait time for an appointment.
- Bring a list of your questions or topics you wish to discuss with you to your advising appointment.
- Academic advising is more than preparing a schedule for the upcoming semester. Feel free to discuss your academic goals/plans with your advisor. To get the most of the advising relationship, get to know your advisor and let them get to know you.
- Expect referrals to other campus resources from their advisor. Valparaiso University is a fairly large campus and your assigned advisor may not be an expert in all campus matters. Advisors spend a considerable amount of time understanding the services on-campus so they can make suitable referrals. Because advisors try to discuss more than course schedules with you, your assigned advisor can be also be a great resource as far as navigating the campus.
- Review your Program Evaluation report (Degree Audit) on DataVU and research degree and course requirements before your individual appointment. In general, advisors do not tell you which courses to take. Instead, they provide you with options and/or listen to choices you have made and provide feedback.
 - For general information on using DataVU, please visit: <http://www.valpo.edu/it/services/datavu/>
- Be sure to print and bring your own Degree Audit report to your advising appointment.