## Academic Advising

### ACADEMIC ADVISING

Academic advising is an integral part of undergraduate education at the University of Kentucky. The goal of all academic advising is to assist students in taking responsibility for developing meaningful educational plans compatible with their potential and with their career and life goals. Advising is more than the imparting of specialized information; it includes helping students formulate important questions about the nature and direction of their education and helping them find answers to those questions. Advisors will confer with students about course schedules and educational experiences, but students themselves are responsible for their academic program and for making progress toward an academic degree.

As students progress through their academic program, their advising needs change. At the University of Kentucky, academic advisors help students meet these changing needs. Faculty advisors are key to understanding the nature of the academic program and how it can address student interests and goals. Professional advisors maintain up-to-date information on university requirements, academic policies, procedures, and deadlines; they can also provide guidance for the exploring student. Support offices such as the Central Advising Service and Transfer Center, Counseling and Testing, University Career Services, and Minority Learning Services can provide help in refining academic interests and goals. Students should refer to specific college, school, and departmental advising materials for details on specific advising programs.

Some students are undecided about a specific major and choose to be listed in the college of their preference, e.g. Fine Arts or Agriculture. Advising for those students is done by that college. The majority of students who are undecided enter the university as majors in Undergraduate Studies (undeclared) and are advised by Central Advising Service and Transfer Center.

### Academic Advising Mission Statement

The mission of academic advisors, both faculty and professional, is to:

- assist students in taking responsibility for developing meaningful education plans compatible with their potential and with their career and life goals;
- help students formulate important questions about the nature and direction of their education and help them find answers to those questions;
- assist students in acquiring and timely information regarding academic policies, procedures, and requirements;
- facilitate the successful transition of prospective, continuing and nontraditional students to the academic and campus environment.

### Central Advising Service and Transfer Center

The mission of this department is to be a comprehensive resource center which enables students to realize their potential for academic and holistic growth and development. Specifically, the center is responsible for advising all non-degree students and all Undergraduate Studies students who are deciding on a major. Transfer students, prospective students and those who are changing their field of study are encouraged to use this resource during their transition period. The staff of eleven professional advisors provides personal service designed to help students clarify their values and goals, realistically assess their capabilities and limitations, explore majors of interest, and choose courses appropriate to those areas of study. Advisors also make referrals to other student support services on campus for career interest testing, personal counseling, help with study skills, tutoring, etc. The aim is to support students in making informed decisions about careers and choice of major, and to facilitate the process of entering that major. Visit the Central Advising Service and Transfer Center on the web at: [www.uky.edu/UGStudies/centadv/](http://www.uky.edu/UGStudies/centadv/).

### Departmental Advising

Once a student is declared in a major, he/she is advised by someone in that department, either a faculty member or a professional advisor. These advisors, with their in-depth knowledge of the particular field, can provide guidance toward completing degree requirements as well as information regarding careers and/or long-term educational goals. It is important for the student, as soon as he/she declares a major, to contact the department office and request assignment to an advisor.

### Pre-Professional Advising

PRELAW STUDY — There is no specified program required for entry into law school. Students are advised to obtain the bulletins of law schools in which they are interested and to familiarize themselves with the admissions standards. In general, the prelaw student should develop rigorous study habits, skill in clear and logical communication, and a broad general education. Students considering the study of law should contact the prelaw advisor in the Central Advising Service and Transfer Center, 109 Miller Hall. Almost all law schools require students to take the Law School Admission Test. Students should contact the Central Advising Service and Transfer Center and the Dean’s Office in the College of Law for information concerning the test.

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**Within the advising system at the University of Kentucky, both students and advisors have responsibilities.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students are responsible for:</th>
<th>Advisors are responsible for:</th>
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<td>a. knowing the requirements of their particular academic program; selecting courses that meet those requirements in an appropriate time frame; and monitoring their progress toward graduation;</td>
<td>a. helping students clarify their options, goals and potential, and understand themselves better;</td>
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<td>b. consulting with appropriate advisors designated to handle the kind of questions or concerns they have;</td>
<td>b. helping students understand the nature and purpose of a college education;</td>
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<td>c. scheduling and keeping academic advising appointments in a timely manner throughout their academic career, so as to avoid seeking advising only during busy registration periods; and</td>
<td>c. providing accurate information about educational options, requirements, policies and procedures; and</td>
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<td>d. being prepared for advising sessions.</td>
<td>d. helping students plan educational programs and monitor and evaluate their educational progress.</td>
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PREMEDICAL STUDY — The University of Kentucky offers work preparatory to the study of medicine in compliance with the minimum entrance requirements of the American Medical Association and the Association of American Medical Colleges. The minimum requirements for entrance to medical schools and in preparation for taking the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) include:

- 2 semesters of English with emphasis in communication skills
- 2 semesters of biology with labs
- 2 semesters of general chemistry with lab
- 2 semesters of organic chemistry with labs
- 2 semesters of physics with lab
- 2 semesters of English with emphasis in communication skills

Students who complete a four-year course of study and thereby obtain a degree will have time to meet the requirements for entrance to all medical schools. Opportunity is thus afforded for a broader background in the natural sciences, social studies, and humanities, which will be of advantage both in medical school and in later life. Students may choose any major the University offers, provided the minimum requirements listed above are met.

The number of students applying annually for admission to medical colleges exceeds the number which can be admitted. Boards of admission consequently fill their quotas from those who are best prepared, as indicated by grade-point averages, MCAT scores, and other criteria.

There is no premedical major as such at UK. Students who are interested in premedical study should contact a premedical advisor in Central Advising Service and Transfer Center, (859) 257-3383, 109 Miller Hall.

PREDENTAL STUDY — In 1970 the American Dental Association abolished its traditional prerequisites for admission to dental school and left it to each school to establish for itself those prerequisites which it deems necessary. The following courses are required to enter dental school in the state of Kentucky:

- 2 semesters of biology with labs
- 2 semesters of general chemistry with labs
- 2 semesters of organic chemistry with labs
- 1 semester of physics with lab
- 2 semesters of English with emphasis in communication skills

In addition, students are encouraged to take upper division courses in areas such as cell biology, microbiology, immunology, histology, biochemistry, genetics and/or comparative anatomy. Students should have a well-rounded curriculum.

Other dental schools in the country may have different required prerequisite courses. Specific information should be requested from each dental school in which the student has an interest.

Students who are interested in predental study should contact a predental advisor in Central Advising Service and Transfer Center, (859) 257-3383, 109 Miller Hall, for further information and guidance.

PRE-OPTOMETRY STUDY — By means of contract through the Southern Regional Education Board, the Commonwealth of Kentucky will pay to the University of Indiana, the University of Alabama, or Southern College of Optometry the nonresidential differential for each academic year for those students who qualify under this program and demonstrate approved progress in the four-year curriculum which leads to the Doctor of Optometry degree. To be eligible for this financial assistance, a student must be a legal resident of the Commonwealth of Kentucky as defined by the Council on Higher Education and must be admitted to one of the above-mentioned colleges of optometry.

Pre-optometry requirements include:

- 2 semesters of general chemistry (with laboratory)
- 2 semesters of English
- 1 or 2 semesters of mathematics
- 1 or 2 semesters of general biology or zoology (with laboratory)
- 2 semesters of general physics (with laboratory)

Science courses taken should be those designed for preprofessional students. Brief survey courses in the sciences will not prepare students for optometry school.

Additional course requirements vary among schools. All students interested in optometry should obtain college catalogs from the institutions they are considering.

Students who are interested in pre-optometry study should contact a pre-optometry advisor in Central Advising Service and Transfer Center, (859) 257-3383, 109 Miller Hall.

PREPHARMACY STUDY — The equivalent of two years (70 hours) of college-level liberal arts and basic sciences is the minimum requirement for admission to the professional program. The minimum course requirements for admission to UK’s College of Pharmacy are:

- 1 year of English (composition)
- 1 semester of animal biology (with laboratory) or the second semester of principles of biology with lab
- 1 semester of microbiology (with laboratory)
- 1 semester of mathematics (Calculus I) or the combination of 1 semester of college algebra and 1 semester of elementary calculus
- 1 semester of principles of microeconomics
- 1 year of algebra-based physics
- 1 semester of anatomy
- 1 year of general chemistry (with laboratory) including qualitative analysis
- 1 year of organic chemistry (with laboratory)
- 1 semester of statistics

sufficient electives to raise the total hours of credit to at least 70

Prepharmacy courses should be completed by the end of the spring semester prior to the desired fall enrollment, with one semester completed in a lecture and lab in organic chemistry, physics and either anatomy or microbiology by the end of the fall semester prior to the February 1 application deadline.

Students are encouraged to take elective courses that satisfy the UK University Studies Program requirements. Practical elective courses to consider include general psychology, interpersonal communications, basic public speaking and medical terminology.

Admission to the college is competitive, based on grade-point average in prepharmacy course work, PCAT scores, and an interview. All applicants must have taken the PCAT during the fall semester prior to application, at the latest.

For more information, contact the College of Pharmacy at:

Academic Affairs
College of Pharmacy
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40536-0082
(859) 323-6163
http://www.mc.uky.edu/Pharmacy/