Academic Advising Case Studies

The following six case studies are examples of situations that might be covered while academic advising. It is important to remember that as academic advisors we are not here to solve student's problems. As academic advisors we can help students come up a plan and provide colleges resources and alternatives for their specific issue.

Case Study 1

Student sets appointment looking to gather information regarding options for continuing education. This student is really enjoying the program to date but is sure that she wants to continue her education by going to University. Her question is, should she continue this program after 1st year or should she finish this year and apply to University for next year. Will she receive any benefits from her one year in the program to put towards her University? If she completes this 3 year program will she get any compensation and towards her degree. Is it worth her while to finish this program when she knows that she wants to work at a higher level in the profession than this diploma will offer her.

Within this case study what are the identified issues and what resource referral are applicable?

Identified Issues

- Change of program/transfer
- Furthering Education

Is a follow up meeting with Academic Advisor required?

- Upon student request

Applicable Resources

- Academic Advisor
- Career Counselling
- Student Success Specialist

Case Study 2

Mature student 40 years old. Female. English as a second language. This student has been out of school for several years. She has grown children and through receiving support from the community center close to her home, it was recommended that she study this program. The student expresses that she is enjoying the program but is feeling overwhelmed. She is self-conscious speaking in front of the class due to the language barrier and is unsure when she should approach a professor to see if she is on track with her work. She is also dealing with financial stresses at home. Her husband has recently lost his job. The finances are a huge stress factor for this student.

Within this case study what are the identified issues and what resource referral are applicable?

Identified Issues

- Finances
- Mature Student
- English as a Second Language

Is a follow up meeting with Academic Advisor required?

- Yes

Applicable Resources

- Financial Aid
- Academic English Coach
- Program specific Academic Coach if available
- Algonquin College Language Institute
- Student Success Specialist

Case Study 3

Male student, 18 years of age, coming directly from high school. This student is struggling with the academics in the program; he feels that in two of the courses it is the fault of the professor because they are impossible to understand. He is enjoying his other courses but is struggling with them due to a personal situation (was assaulted). This is the second meeting that you have had with this student. In the initial meeting he disclosed that he had an IEP in high school but had not registered with CSD when he started at the college. During this initial meeting it was suggested to this student that he set up a meeting with CSD and register for support. When asked in this meeting if he had followed up with this CSD meeting, he confirmed that he had but that he needed an updated assessment as the assessment that he was using in high school was outdated and that he needed a more recent assessment done. The student expressed that he was overwhelmed by this and that he did not have any money to pay for an assessment. The student is confident that he can be successful in this course and in this line of work.

Within this case study what are the identified issues and what resource referral are applicable?

Identified Issues

- Personal Situation/Health/Stresses
- Academic Performance
- Finances

Is a follow up meeting with Academic Advisor required?

- Yes

Applicable Resources

- Refer student to make appointment with specific professor with whom he is experiencing difficulties
- Counselling Services (at times students benefit from advisors accompanying them to set up the initial appointment in "E" building, third floor)
- Student Success Specialist
- CSD - Contact CSD to advocate for students assessment and to inquire about financial support for assessment completion

Case Study 4

Female 17 years of age. Not sure that this is the program she wants to be in. Has dealt with issues around anxiety throughout high school. She has never been diagnosed with anxiety disorder and does not feel comfortable sharing these concerns with her family doctor or her family. She is in this program because her family told her she had to do something after high school. Her parents are paying for her education and will only continue to do so if she is able to maintain a 75%. She is having a very difficult time connecting with her classmates and is often sitting alone in student commons area when she is not in class. She is having a difficult time focusing during classes as she says she is spending a lot of time worrying about everything. She has come to you because you are the only person she feels comfortable speaking to.

Within this case study what are the identified issues and what resource referral are applicable?

Identified Issues

- Personal Situation/Health/Stresses
- Career Advice/Choice/Goals

Is a follow up meeting with Academic Advisor required?

- Yes

Applicable Resources

- Counselling Services (at times students benefit from advisors accompanying them to set up the initial appointment in "E" building, third floor)
- Career Counselling
- Student Success Specialist

Case Study 5

Student is concerned with program choice. I have some questions that maybe you could help me answer. I am not enjoying my program as much as I thought I would. I go to all my classes by I am having a difficult time staying on top of the work load. I think this is because of two reasons. The first one is like I have already stated, I am not sure this is the program I want to be in and two , I am having trouble with my classes already as I seem to be falling behind because I do not understand what we are learning.

Identified Issues

- Academic Performance
- Career Advice/Choice/Goals
- Study Skills/Time Management

Is a follow up meeting with Academic Advisor required?

- Yes

Applicable Resources

- Program specific Academic Coach - if available
- Career Counselling
- Student Success Specialist

Case Study 6

Mature student, male, married with 3 children. Was unemployed 1 year ago due to injury and has returned to school through Second Career Ontario. He has chosen a career very different from his career of 15 years due to physical limitations. This student expresses that he is having difficulty with the level of maturity and lack of work ethic demonstrated by many of his classmates. He wants to be successful and is not happy with the fact that he has to be involved in group projects as he feels that the work load is not balanced based on his previously mentioned concerns. He wants to know if there is any way he can fast track through the program based on his previous work experience.

Identified Issues

- Mature Student
- Study Skills/Time Management

Is a follow up meeting with Academic Advisor required?

- As requested by student

Applicable Resources

- Program specific Academic Coach - if available
- Student Success Specialist
- Counselling Services