
Student Success Team April Meeting

April 8, 2025

Agenda

- Welcome
- Overview of the Academic Advising Self-Study
- First Generation Student Success
 - First Generation Student Discussion
- Excellence in Student Success Award Brainstorm
- Closing

Overview of the Academic Advising Self-Study

Josh Atcher, College of Engineering

Diane Hauser, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Kate Mersch, Tippie College of Business

Maureen Schafer, Academic Advising Center

Background

- UI Strategic Plan Excellence in Teaching and Learning
 - “Promote a comprehensive academic advising network and campuswide philosophy using approaches based on national best practices.”
- Ongoing recognition of central role of academic advising in student success, retention, and graduation

Fall 2023

- NACADA external review

Summer 2024

- Data analysis
- Draft initial recommendations
- Incorporate stakeholder feedback

Committee Members

Mirra Anson, Office of the Provost
Josh Atcher, College of Engineering
Tamar Bernfeld, Center for Teaching
Allen Bradley, College of Engineering
Tammy Fraser, Health Sciences related advising
Marissa Green-Francescon, Office of Assessment
Diane Hauser, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Shari Piekarski, Tippie College of Business
Maria-Victoria Perez, Office of the Provost
Maureen Schafer, Academic Advising Center

Spring 2024

- Campuswide self-study committee convened
 1. Prioritize external review recommendations
 2. Gather student/advisor feedback
 3. Create recommendations to advance advising
- Data collection
- External information reviewed

Fall 2024

- Finalize recommendations and implementation plans
- Develop and submit self-study to university and college leadership

Self-Study Timeline/Process

External Information Reviewed

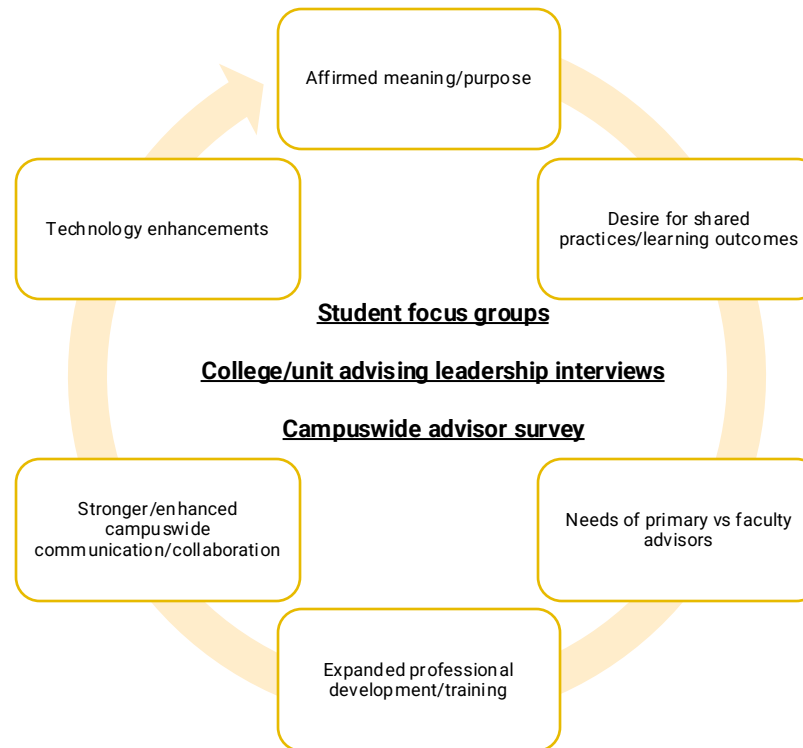
External sources

- NACADA external review in the fall 2023 semester
- NACADA Pillars of Academic Advising
 - Concept of Advising
 - Core Values
 - Core Competencies
 - CAS standards for academic advising
- The Equity-Excellence Imperative – Boyer 2030 Commission Report
- The Future of Advising Report from The Chronicle of Higher Education

Summary of Findings

*"Every time I walk in, my advisor asks me how I am and how my classes are going. The first 15 minutes we chat, and that is really nice, forming an **authentic relationship**."*

*"It **doesn't feel like there is much continuity** between professional advisors and faculty advisors, you have to start completely over."*



*"Developing a **consensus on what advising should look like across campus**. From entry to graduation from one college to the next - what does the advising path at Iowa look like and what are the minimum expectations. Right now the advising experience varies from College to College and between departments. **What can we promise to all students about their advising experience?**"*

Recommendations



Create a shared foundation and culture of academic advising across all colleges

- Create shared learning outcomes and assessment strategies for advising that span all colleges/units
- Establish common expectations, training requirements, etc. that address collegiate support/needs, and faculty and primary role advisors
- Develop and implement evidence-based advising practices/approaches for faculty and primary role advisors to follow, which also addresses collegiate needs
- Address inequities in student access to advising services
- Improve equity in advising caseloads and responsibilities in the context of advising structure and services

Address critical advising technology needs

- Expand the role of academic advisors in campuswide discussions and decision-making on the application of technological innovations
- Expand MAUI Advising Functional Lead role to a full-time position and expand responsibilities to include data analytics in advising and assessment of advising
- Add collegiate representation in MAUI project governance structure
- Explore advances in technology to improve advising and support student success
- Develop and implement a new degree audit tool/system

Expand training and professional development resource, advance career pathways, & promote equitable pay structures

- Create centralized tools for training and professional development that can be used across colleges/units
- Identify personnel and resources for development and expansion of training and professional development
- Create expectations for ongoing professional development that are relative to primary role and faculty advisors
- Establish career pathways within colleges/units to improve retention of primary role advisors
- Increase base salaries for advisors that are equitable across campus

Facilitate stronger communication across the advising community, campus partners, and students

- Create formal systems and processes to facilitate consistent, timely, bi-directional communication between advising units and faculty advisors, campus partners, and campus administration
- Leverage upcoming advising page in MyUI and Advising at Iowa website to communicate information about advising to students and their families; include concept of the advising “team” to support students throughout their time at UI

Address unique needs of faculty advising

- Elevate role of advising in faculty reward structure across rank and track
- Implement standards and required training (modules and in-person) for faculty advisors
- Explore faculty learning groups that engage faculty in understanding the role of academic advising as a function of teaching and learning
- Create more collaboration and opportunities for relationship building between faculty and departmental/collegiate advisors
- Designate personnel to coordinate faculty advising at the collegiate level supplemented by centralized support
- Include faculty representation on the Advising Council

NACADA Administrators' Institute

- Took place in Kansas City, February 3-5
- A small subset of the Implementation Team attended:
 - Mirra Anson
 - Mo Schafer
 - Josh Atcher
 - Diane Hauser
 - Kate Mersch

Implementation Next Steps

- Implementation Team has started meeting
- "What is the ideal student experience?"
 - Definition of academic advising and outcomes
 - Subcommittees and other ways to involve campus partners
- ETL/Student Success SPARC P3 Proposal,
"Supporting Implementation of the Academic Advising
Self-Study Recommendations"

Advising at Iowa Website

<https://advising.uiowa.edu/>

IOWA



First-Generation Student Success

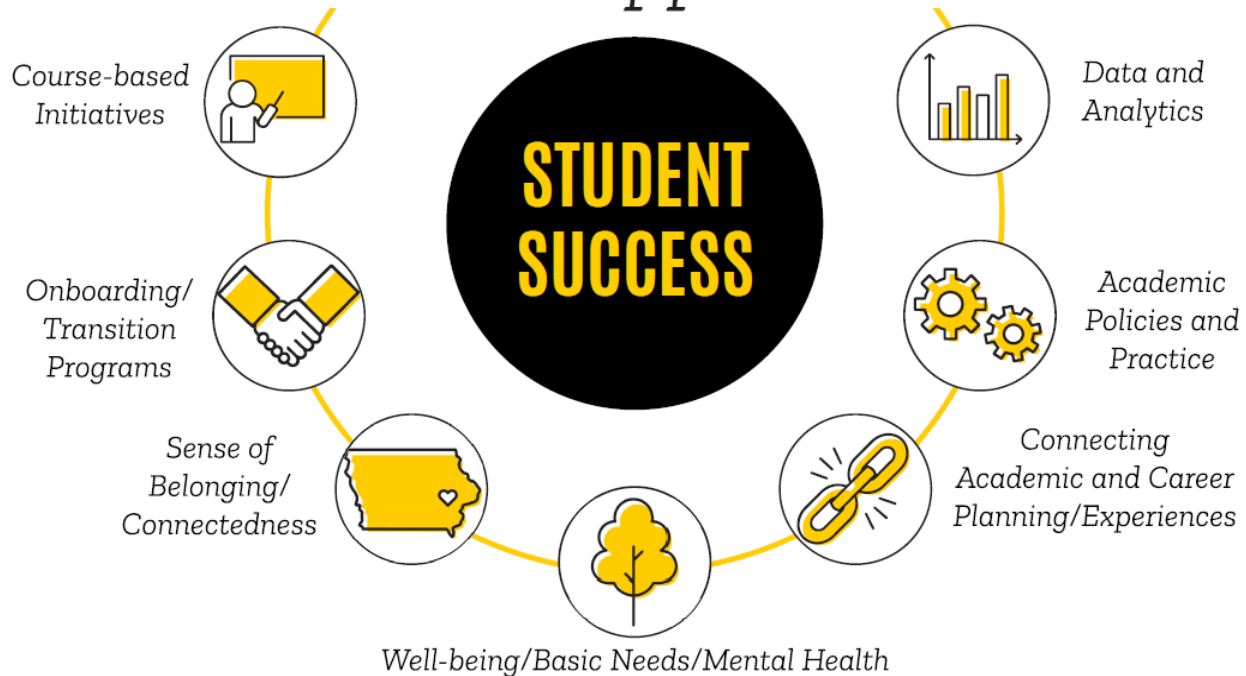
Current Iowa Landscape

- 1 in 5 undergraduate students are first-generation
- Celebrates & uplifts the grass roots of efforts of many students, staff, and faculty
- Our goal is to establish clearer processes and better alignment with existing student success initiatives, while also honoring and celebrating the work that individuals did to establish these programs.



INSTITUTIONAL-LEVEL EFFORTS

to support



INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIES

to support

**FIRST-GEN
SUCCESS**

*Awards &
Recognition*



*Student, Staff, and
Faculty Voices*



*Education &
Training*



*Mentorship &
Student
support*



First-Generation Student Success



Awards & Recognition

Graduation Cords

1st Gen@Iowa Award Ceremony



Education & Training

'Putting our Firsts First' Online Module – *Coming Soon!*

Departmental Trainings



Mentorship & Student support

First-Gen Hawks

TRIO Programs

1st Gen@Iowa Mentor Network

Alpha Alpha Alpha Honor Society

Student Organizations



Student, Staff, & Faculty Voices

1st Gen@Iowa Faculty and Staff Collaborative

1st Gen@Iowa Student Advisory Board

Data Collection & Reporting

Engagement Spotlight



*Mentorship &
Student Support*

1st Gen@Iowa Mentor Network

1st Gen@Iowa Mentor Network serves as an informal way to connect First-Gen students who have questions with faculty and staff.

Ways to Engage:

- Become a Mentor – new mentor call out in Fall 2026
- Publicize or refer students to the network!

Engagement Spotlight



*Mentorship &
Student Support*

First Gen Hawks: Mentored Campus Employment

- Students are paired with on-campus jobs that align with their interests and academic pursuits. These positions offer mentorship and essential skills such as time management, communication, and teamwork, which are crucial for future career success.
- First Gen Hawks staff regularly check-in with supervisors and academic coaches to ensure students are balancing work and studies effectively.

Ways to Engage:

- Become a Campus Employment Site!

INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIES

to support

**FIRST-GEN
SUCCESS**

*Awards &
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*Student, Staff, and
Faculty Voices*



*Education &
Training*



*Mentorship &
Student
support*



Discussion

- How can our community support first-generation students in achieving their academic and personal goals through this framework?
- What additional ideas can be developed to better align existing programs or enhance each area: awards & recognition, education & training, mentorship & student support, student, staff, & faculty voices?
- How can we create a more welcoming campus environment for first-generation students?
- What resources can we provide to staff and faculty to better understand and support first-generation students?
- How can we refer students to and gather feedback from first-generation students to continuously improve our support services?

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Excellence in Student Success Award

Teri Schnelle, Division of Student Life

Excellence in Student Success Award

- The Excellence in Student Success Award celebrates institutions that demonstrate a holistic and systemic commitment to advancing student success. This award provides an opportunity for colleges and universities to showcase innovative and sustainable strategies that support degree completion, career readiness, and improved student outcomes. Winning or being recognized as a finalist offers national recognition, opportunities to share strategies, and inclusion in APLU's communications and events.

Discussion Questions

- Which student success initiatives at Iowa have shown the most significant impact on student outcomes?
- What innovative strategies have we implemented to support student success that set us apart from other institutions?
- How have our student success projects fostered collaboration within our community and with external partners?
- Which of our student success initiatives are sustainable and have the potential to be scaled up or replicated?

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TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Take the UI Student Experience Survey



UI STUDENT EXPERIENCE SURVEY

A confidential 10-15 minute survey
focused on student satisfaction, sense of
belonging, and financial concerns.

[PROVOST.UIOWA.EDU/STUDENT-EXPERIENCE](https://provost.uiowa.edu/student-experience)

Complete the survey to earn 20% off an
item at the Iowa Hawk Shop!