



Welcome Back!

*Growing
the
Future.*



MORGAN
STATE UNIVERSITY

The Academic Advisor Newsletter

A little over three weeks ago, we welcomed our students to the start of their spring 2017 semester. For many students, this semester may bring with it some sense of familiarity. But for others, this semester may bring new unfamiliar challenges and expectations. For these students, you may be that one person who provides the support needed for them to overcome adversity and accomplish their goals. Therefore, while you may have grown accustomed to offering academic advice to your students, remember that you can also impact the holistic development of each student you encounter.

Fall 2016 Outstanding FY Academic Advisor

The Fall 2016 Outstanding FY Academic Advisor award was presented to Mr. Derrell Brown on February 2nd 2017 for his contributions, as a freshman academic advisor, to his students and to the advancement of academic advising efforts at Morgan State University.



Mr. Brown began his tenure as an academic advisor with the Center for Academic Success and Achievement (CASA) in 2014.

One of his student nominators wrote:

When I first met Mr. Brown he said, "I'm going to try my best to push you all as students and as people. Even though this is my job, I don't do this for the income - I do it for the outcome." Hearing those words made me think that he actually cares about his

students and wants us to put our best foot forward. Because of Mr. Brown, I always try my best no matter how bad things may seem.

February 2017

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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Student Services Spotlight:

Center for Academic Success and Achievement

The Center for Academic Success and Achievement (CASA) exists primarily to promote and enhance the academic and personal development of Morgan State University students through professional academic advisement and peer tutoring. The Center also provides specialized academic support programs and resources to transitioning high school students through CASA Academy. The three main components of CASA are outlined below.

CASA Academy - CASA Academy is an alternative admissions program that is designed to (1) strengthen students' background in English, mathematics, and reading comprehension/vocabulary development (DVRD) and (2) introduce students to a Strengths based orientation course designed to help them explore and build on their natural gifts and talents. Students who successfully complete CASA Academy gain admission to Morgan State University and are enrolled in credit bearing courses for the fall semester.

Academic Advising - Our five academic advisors assist students in defining and reaching their educational and developmental goals. The advisors advise three specific student populations: CASA Academy participants, undeclared majors, and first year students. Our academic advisors as well as CASA's Coordinator teach freshman orientation for undecided majors during the fall and spring semesters.

Tutoring - The CASA Resource Center provides an intellectual learning environment and is open to all Morgan State University students. In the Resource Center, students can access a wide array of services, including one on one peer tutoring, access to computer printing and academic-related internet research, and study spaces. The Resource Center is opened Mondays-Fridays from 9am - 6pm. To make an appointment students can visit the Resource Center in the Communications Center room 120 or send an email to tutoring@morgan.edu.

Website: www.morgan.edu/casa

Location: Communications Center Suite 107

Phone: 443-885-3380

Email: casa@morgan.edu (CASA Academy)

FY_advising@morgan.edu (First Year Academic Advising)

tutoring@morgan.edu (Resource Center)

(Source: Rhonda Battle, Assistant Director—Center for Academic Success and Achievement)

NACADA:

The Global Community for Academic Advising

NACADA is an association of professional advisors, counselors, faculty, administrators, and students working to enhance the educational development of students.

NACADA VISION

Recognizing that effective academic advising is at the core of student success, NACADA aspires to be the premier global association for the development and dissemination of innovative theory, research, and practice of academic advising in higher education.

NACADA MISSION

NACADA promotes student success by advancing the field of academic advising globally. We provide opportunities for professional development, networking, and leadership for our diverse membership.

For more information
about NACADA
visit
www.nacada.ksu.edu

Advising Approaches for Undecided Students

Many advising strategies and resources can be used with different types of undecided students. A clear example is the general assistance that [undecided] students . . . need in the academic and career exploration process. . . . Although administratively academic and career may be considered separate concerns, many students do not make such fine distinctions. Many see the choice of major and occupation as one. A unified academic-and-career advising approach may be more important to this group of students compared to other groups.

The Exploration Process. The central advising task in working with undecided students is helping them with the exploration process. Gordon (1992) proposed a model for this process that includes four components:

- *Self-knowledge:* Addresses the need for the assessment of personal interests, abilities, and values, as well as goal setting
- *Educational knowledge:* Includes an understanding of the value of different levels of educational programs, academic majors, curricula, academic skill development, and credentialing or licensure
- *Occupational knowledge:* Addresses career development and job-seeking skills such as writing resumes and cover letters and interview techniques; job exploration and preparation activities, such as co-ops and internships; assessing occupational information, such as entry-level expertise, occupational task identification, job marketability, salary ranges, and the physical demands of the job
- *Decision-making knowledge:* Addresses the integration of self-knowledge with educational and occupational information, the influence of decision-making styles, the acquisition of decision-making strategies, and approaches to goal implementation

The goal of this model is to provide a framework to help students gather the kind of information needed to make realistic and satisfying choices.

Source: Steele, G. E. and Mc Donald, M. L. (2000). Advising Students in Transition In V. Gordon, W. R. Habley and Associates (Eds.), *Academic Advising: a comprehensive handbook* (p. 144-161).

Additional Resources on Advising Undecided/Exploratory Majors

Ellis, K. C. (2014). Academic Advising Experiences of First-Year Undecided Students: A Qualitative Study. *NACADA Journal*: Fall, Vol. 34, No. 2, pp. 42-50.

Gordon, V. N. (1992). *Handbook of Academic Advising*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press.

Workman, J. L. (2015). Exploratory Students' Experiences With First-Year Academic Advising. *NACADA Journal*: Spring, Vol. 35, No. 1, pp. 5-12.

Get to Know the Team

Currently 18 staff members (CASA Advisors and Retention Advisors/Coordinators) provide academic advising services to the first year student population at MSU. February's staff highlights are:



Devin Brown

Retention Advisor, College of Liberal Arts

Devin D. Brown, Sr. is an alumnus of Morgan State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science. Currently, he is pursuing the M.Ed. in Community College Administration and Student Services at Morgan. Mr. Brown is dedicated to partnering with administrators, faculty, staff and the external community to provide effective, and efficient support services that promote learning, student development and student success.

This approach enhances his passion of advising and inspiring students to pursue their dreams so that they have successful and rewarding lives.

Mr. Brown began working at Morgan in May 2016, in his current role, as Retention Advisor for the College of Liberal Arts. Previously, Devin taught Transitioning to College courses and served as a Case Manager for the Male Student Success Initiative (MSSI) at the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC). Some of his favorites and interests include politics, research, motivational speaking, wrestling, old school music such as his favorite R&B group The Temptations, and eating good food. Mr. Brown is most proud of being the father of his son DJ.



Alkwanzo Burke

Academic Advisor, Center for Academic Success and Achievement (CASA)

Alkwanzo B. Burke began his tenure with the Center for Academic Success and Achievement (CASA) as an academic advisor in 2008. During his time as an academic advisor with CASA, he also assisted the University's Athletic Department with their academic advising efforts.

Originally from New Rochelle, New York, Mr. Burke earned his B.A. from Virginia State University. He later completed his M.S. in Human Service Administration from the University of Baltimore. He enjoys having the opportunity to work, grow, and build a professional connection with Morgan State University students. When he is not at work he enjoys swimming, baseball, collecting artwork, participating in Kappa Alpha Psi activities, and interacting with family and friends.

GOT IDEAS!

Are there topics you would like to see in the newsletter? Send your ideas to FY_Advising@morgan.edu