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The Academic Advisor Newsletter

MSU Academic Advisor Manual



Morgan State University Academic Advising Manual

Undergraduate Students



Dr. Rhonda Battle, Assistant Director, Center for Academic Success & Achievement

This handbook is designed to provide Morgan State University academic advisors, faculty, and staff with the tools needed to be successful in their role as advisors. It includes both general academic advising resources as well as information specific to academic advising at Morgan State University.

A Morgan State University Academic Advisor Manual has been recently developed and is available online at www.morgan.edu/advisormanual.

This manual is a resource to provide Morgan State University's professional and faculty academic advisors with the tools needed to be successful in their role as advisors of undergraduate students.

The manual includes both general academic advising resources and tips as well as information specific to

academic advising at Morgan State University such as the use of Degree Works, Starfish, and EAB in the academic advising process; Morgan's academic policies pertinent to academic advising; and general education requirements.

February 2018

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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Student Services Spotlight:

Morgan MILE and Morgan EVOLVE



The Morgan MILE and Morgan EVOLVE are student-focused leadership development programs offered by the Office of Residence Life & Housing. While each program is distinct, their common goal is to empower the men and women of Morgan State University to develop a strong sense of self-efficacy and transform that belief into personal, professional and academic success.

We do this by providing a wide variety of programs, excursions, and service activities focused on the core values of each organization. EVOLVE's core values, referred to as the Four Pillars, are Womanhood, Professionalism, Civility, and Service. The MILE focuses on fostering a sense of brotherhood while exploring a diversity of perspectives through experiences that broaden participants' perceptions of themselves and the world.

Students who consistently participate in MILE and EVOLVE programs will demonstrate a commitment to the organization's values, be able to communicate and resolve conflicts effectively, behave in ways that are civil, professional and ethical, and finally, be able to serve and lead with integrity.

Websites: Morgan MILE - <http://www.morgan.edu/aepmile>

Morgan EVOLVE - <http://www.morgan.edu/evolve>

*Source: Dr. Krystal Lee - Director, Academic Enrichment Program
Assistant Director, Office of Residence Life & Housing*

IMPORTANT DATES

February 2018

February 1st , 6th,
8th, 15th, 20th

Study Abroad
Information Sessions

February 3rd

3rd Annual Black
History Month
Festival

February 6th

Connections 2018 &
2nd Year Experience
Open House

February 8th

Frederick-Douglass
Convocation

February 15th

Martin Luther King/
Malcolm X
Convocation

Featured Academic Advising Excerpt:

Meet Me Halfway: Advising as a Part of the Whole Student Experience.

Just another day at the office. Does it always have to be that way?

Students obviously appreciate when they are given course suggestions or directed to resources available on campus. How often do they see their advisor on campus outside of the office? Does that make a difference in how they view advising in general? There are many different ways to reach students outside of traditional in office advising. Advising, as “the only structured activity on the campus in which all students have the opportunity for one-to-one interaction with a concerned representative of the institution” (Habley, 1994, p. 10) seems like a natural way to try and meet students where they are. It is important to be a part of their whole experience as a student and be accessible to them outside of traditional advising offices and timeframes to help meet them where they are at in terms of their educational journey. The entire experience a student has while in college is important, and it is beneficial to the relationship between the student and advisor to show interest in them outside of that traditional advising setting they may be used to or expect.

Initial Contact with Students

Orientation and outreach. This is the first contact with students and parents and a chance to show the parents that advisors are a resource for the students. It is also a chance to let students know that advisors are there for them during their whole journey as a student and get them excited about being a new college student.

In the Classroom. Many universities have an introductory class that first-time freshmen are either required to take or at least highly recommended to take. The classroom is [a] great place to reach students and answer questions that will benefit more than one student.

Advising Outside the Office

Advising out on campus. Is there a place on campus where students congregate? Is there a particular major that is housed in one building? Use that space as a way to be accessible to those students. If possible, have office hours in that building weekly and let students know when those office hours are. Seeing a student briefly in a setting like this may help with a “quick question” that would have turned into an emergency without contact with an advisor.

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Meet Me Halfway: Advising as a Part of the Whole Student Experience.

Academic and social events. Events on campus that promote both academics and social interaction are great to attend. Advisor interest shows students that advisors are human and that they care about multiple aspects of the student's education experience.

Interaction through Additional Involvement

Virtual Interaction. Using platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram is a quick and easy way to get information to students via whatever device they are already looking at (phone, laptop, tablet).

Volunteering on campus. There are always opportunities to volunteer on campus for events during move in or at graduation. Seeing advisors helping on campus may also make students feel more comfortable approaching them if they see them in a different setting than an advising office.

Source: Gaeraths, J. (2017, March). Meet me halfway: Advising as part of the whole student experience. *Academic Advising Today*, 40(1). Retrieved from <http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Resources/Academic-Advising-Today/View-Articles/Meet-Me-Halfway-Advising-as-a-Part-of-the-Whole-Student-Experience.aspx>

Get to Know the Team

Currently 20 staff members (CASA Advisors and Retention Advisors/Coordinators) provide academic advising services to the first year student population at MSU. February's staff highlight is:



Michelle Gross

Retention Coordinator, School of Community Health and Policy

Michelle Gross, graduate of Western High School, earned her Bachelor's degree in Communication from Howard University and Master's degree in Adult Education while working at Coppin State University. Her career has been primarily dedicated to providing enrichment services to high school and college students; establishing academic partnerships; and collaborating with military, international and other agencies.

Coordinating faith based scholarship initiatives, a collaborative nursing student abroad experience, media workshops, and mentoring students through college and career pursuits continue to provide her self-gratification on many levels. This native Baltimorean and Morgan State University 2017 addition to the Office of Student Success and Retention enjoys swimming, music, and providing community service via Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. Changing the trajectory of student lives epitomizes her passion to serve educational organizations.

GOT IDEAS!

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