Photo courtesy Watch the Yard

MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

The Academic Advisor Newsletter

What's New at MSU: Schedule Planner

The Office of the Registrar is extremely excited to bring to you the launch of the student **SCHEDULE PLANNER**!

The Schedule Planner is a web-based schedule builder that presents students with all possible schedule options that are currently available for registration. With this tool, during the pre-registration advisement period, you can easily generate a class schedule that fits your students'/advisees' individual needs without having to resort to pen and paper and trial-and-error.

It is highly recommended that Schedule Planner is used in conjunction with Degree Works, as Degree Works will display the requirements your advisee has yet to complete.

For more information and to explore step by step guides on how to use Schedule Planner visit https://www.morgan.edu/enrollment_management_and_student_success/office_of_the_registrar/records_and_registration_services/schedule_planner.html

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Student Services Spotlight: SCMNS Peer BEARS

At the School of Computer, Mathematical and Natural Sciences (SCMNS) a unique peer-mentor program to recruit and nurture science and mathematics students toward success has been developed. The mission of Peer BEARS (Bringing Enrichment and Rearing Success) aims to leverage the diverse experiences of the collective student body and other resources, to support the most ambitious goals of incoming freshman. The program taps the talent and passion of more experienced students to mentor our first-year freshmen through their first two semesters of college.

Thanks to the Department of Education Title III and the Lumina grant funding, Peer BEARS was able to match over 170 first time freshman students with a peer-mentor at the beginning of the fall 2018 academic semester. With a growing demand for strategic support among our freshman, SCMNS intentionally took a more comprehensive approach to student development that fosters what research has identified as five key roles in Peer Mentoring. They include, Peer Mentors adopting the role as a **Connecting Link, Peer Leader, Learning Coach, Student Advocate and Trusted Friend** (Colvin and Ashman, 2010). Mentor interests have since grown from 23 students in the spring to over 80 upperclassmen wanting to lend their experiences and knowledge to help other students. Our mentors are from several majors and have a wide interest in different career goals.

One of the goals of the federal government is to increase the successful completion of a bachelor's degree for underrepresented minority students in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and maintain leadership of the United States in global economy. In Addition, Morgan State University's (MSU) first Strategic Plan goal is to "Enhance Student Success." SCMNS aims to be a strategic partner in cultivating student success and the Peer BEARS mentoring program is just another step toward attaining this goal.

Source: Mr. Claton Lewis
Director, Student Success & Recruitment
School of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences

Important Dates

November 2018

November 1st
Spring 2019 Advance Registration Continues

November 1st
The Achievement Symposium
(BSSC Lecture Hall 11am)

November 2nd
Open House

November 12th
Study Abroad Fair

November 12th - 16th
International Education Week

November 22nd-25th
Thanksgiving Break

November 26th
Final Exams for Graduation Candidates

Featured Academic Advising Excerpt:

Goals for Academic Advising

Four national surveys of advising practices have collected data on the achievement of eight goals for academic advising. The goals were developed by a NACADA [National Academic Advising Association] task force that was charged with providing input to the Council for the Advancement of Standards (CAS) in 1980. These goals formed the basis for the development of the CAS Standards for Academic Advising and the CAS Self-Assessment Guide for Academic Advising:

1. Assisting students in self-understanding and self-acceptance (values clarification; understanding abilities, interests, and limitations)

2. Assisting students in considering their life goals by relating their interests, skills abilities, and values to careers, the world of work, and the nature and purpose of higher education

3. Assisting students in developing an educational plan consistent with their life goals and objectives

4. Assisting students in developing decision-making skills

5. Providing accurate information about institutional policies, procedures, resources, and programs

6. Referring students to other institutional policies, procedures, resources, and programs

7. Assisting students in evaluating or reevaluating progress toward established goals and educational plans

8. Providing information about students to the institution, college, academic departments, or some combination thereof.

Source: Habley, W. R. (2000). Current Practices in Academic Advising. In V. Gordon, W. R. Habley and Associates (Eds.), *Academic Advising: a comprehensive handbook* (p. 35-43).