Departmental Advising: Biological Science

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Faculty Involvement in Advising

• All faculty are advisors
• Faculty advisors complete first grad check
• Undergraduate Advancement Committee (5 faculty members and a staff member)
  – Freshmen group advising sessions
  – Advising handbook and website
  – Final grad checks
  – Coordinate all advising and orientations

Advising is Mandatory

• Students have registration holds placed early in the semester
• These are cleared once students attend advising
• If they do not attend advising ...

Biology Major at A Glance

Lower Division Core 20 Units
Biology 171, 172, 273, 274

Supporting Courses
Calculus and Statistics
General Chemistry
Organic Chemistry
Physics

Upper Division Electives 23 Units Inside a Concentration
1. Cellular and Developmental Biology
2. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
3. Marine Biology
4. Molecular Biology and Biotechnology

University and General Education Requirements

Advising Objectives

1. Understand CSUF & Biology Major degree requirements
2. Facilitate graduation in a timely fashion
3. Develop an appreciation for the diversity of careers available to biology majors
4. Inform students of research/special opportunities available at CSUF and in the department
5. Develop an ongoing relationship with a faculty mentor

Research Opportunities and Careers
How do we Meet these Objectives?

- Incoming Freshman
  - NSO
- Incoming Transfer Students
  - Mandatory NSM Advising
  - TSO
- Year 1
  - Group Advising in Fall and Spring
- Faculty Advising
  - Students meet individually with faculty

Challenges for Advising

- Diversity of Student Goals/Problems
  - For example, varying course requirements for students wishing to enter “health professions”
- Transfer Problems
  - TDA Exceptions
- Repetition of Course Policy
- Managing an Increasing Number of Students with the Same Number of Faculty
- Assessment - How successful are we?

Distribution

Enrollment Challenges

- Number of Students
- Number of Faculty
- Total Enrollment
- Number of Faculty Advising

Students/Faculty Member

Advising Assessment

- My advisor spent enough time discussing career goals and...
- I learned about new career opportunities for Biology
- NSO provided a good overview of the Biology Major
- I know where to find information about the Biology Requirements
- Understanding Biology Requirements
- Planning my classes for next semester

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- Strongly Disagree
- Neither Agree or Disagree
- Agree or Disagree
- Strongly Agree
What do students want us to cover?