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“So that students may make informed decisions, the University places great emphasis on academic advising... The University expects that students will take advantage of the assistance which advisors can provide in course planning, interpretation of University policies and requirements, clarification of academic and career goals, understanding and using established processes for exemptions to University policies, and making use of the opportunities provided at Gonzaga for a satisfying and profitable academic experience.”

“Close and long-term relationships with advisors can often be very helpful in the larger educational process of college life... Students are expected to visit their advisors at regular intervals.”

Gonzaga University Undergraduate Catalogue

What is advising?

Academic advising is a key component of your experience here at Gonzaga. It is an opportunity to form a collaborative relationship with an academic advisor, who will help you develop and achieve your educational, professional, and personal goals. Your advisor is granted formal authority to approve your academic program and to assist you in making adequate progress toward your desired degree. But advising is not just telling you what courses you should take and signing the appropriate forms so that you can graduate on time. The purpose of advising is also to help you develop as a person—to find your place in the university community, to think critically about whom you are and the roles you want to play in society, and to build the personal characteristics we seek in our graduates: self-knowledge, self-acceptance, self-reliance, effective communication, curiosity, and confidence.

What can you expect of me as your advisor?

First, you can expect me to ask you a lot of questions. My job is not to tell you things, but to help you take responsibility for planning your own future. Of course, you can also expect me to have some answers, too, or be able to refer you to someone else who will. Specifically, you can expect me to:

- Guide and support your exploration of personal, career, and academic goals; your assessment of your own interests and abilities; and your development of short- and long-term plans.
- Help you develop an understanding of the purpose and goals of higher education, your roles and opportunities in the university community, and the connection between your Gonzaga

experience and your career and personal goals. Guide you as you develop an appropriate program of study that will lead to graduation; communicate effectively the curriculum and graduation requirements for that program; and help you monitor your progress toward completion.

- Explain clearly university, school, and department policies relating to your course of study, as well as larger policies such as the university ethos statement and the policy on academic honesty.
- Provide you with accurate information on the resources available on campus to help you with academic, career, and life planning.
- Refer you to appropriate support services on campus to help you meet academic or non-academic needs that arise.
- Respond to e-mail and phone messages within two days of receiving them.
- Maintain confidentiality of your records and our conversations as required by law.

What do I expect of you as my advisee?

Ultimately, what you do (and how you do) at Gonzaga is up to you. I can't guarantee you'll graduate in four years, or even that you will graduate at all. I can't guarantee you'll enjoy yourself while you're here, or find the perfect job after you leave. It is your responsibility to know what you need to do, and to make sure you are making adequate progress toward your own goals. I am here to help you, but ultimately your success is up to you. Specifically, I expect you to:

- Schedule regular appointments or make regular contact with me each semester, and come prepared to each appointment with questions or materials for discussion.
- Become knowledgeable about college programs, policies, and procedures, and ask questions if you do not understand an issue or have a specific concern.
- Develop an academic plan to graduation, keep track of your progress on that plan, and revise the plan as conditions change.
- Work to clarify your personal values and goals, and discuss openly with me your interests and abilities.
- Seek out and consider all relevant information before making decisions, and accept responsibility for those decisions.
- Take advantage of campus resources that are available to support your needs, including academic issues, mental and physical health, financial aid, housing, co-curricular activities, and career planning.

What if things change?

The relationship we have as advisor and advisee will change over time—it is supposed to. As you get a better understanding of who you are, where you are going, and how your Gonzaga experience plays into that, I will help you transition to a new advisor, whether that be professional or faculty.