Freshman Adviser Orientation for New and Returning Advisers

Are you serving as a freshman adviser for the first time, has it been several years since you last served, or are you a regular freshman adviser but would like to learn more? If so, please attend one of two one-hour orientation meetings with Dean Mia Reinoso Genoni of Berkeley College and me:

- Wednesday, August 26, 2:00-3:00 p.m., SSS 410
- Thursday, August 27, 10:00-11:00 a.m., SSS 410

Each meeting will focus on what is and isn’t expected of freshman advisers, important information about Yale academics and the freshman year, and advising resources at Yale. Light refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP to risa.sodi@yale.edu

Your First Meeting with Your Freshman Advisees

Your first meeting with your advisees will take place in your residential college on Monday, August 31, 2015. Your dean will contact you separately to explain the schedule and location of your advising meetings. Generally speaking, they begin with an advising briefing by the dean and master for all the freshman advisers in your college — often between 1:00-2:00 p.m. — but the timing may vary from college to college. This is usually immediately followed by a group meeting with your freshman advisees, between 2:00-2:45 p.m.

What Should I Do If I Cannot Attend the August 31 Meeting?

Attending this first meeting with your advisees is very important. They are looking forward to it with some trepidation but also with much enthusiasm. It sets the tone for the meetings to come. However, unforeseen conflicts may arise. If you are unable to attend, please contact your residential college dean as soon as possible so that he or she may make alternative arrangements.

Who Are My Freshman Advisees and Where Do I Find Their Names?

Click here to login to your personal advising page with a list of your advisees

What Other Information Appears on My Personal Advising Page?

- Advising Q&A: survey responses collected from incoming freshmen
- High School Transcript
- Link for sending email to your advisees
- Link for sending email to your residential college dean
- Link that will give you access to your advisees’ freshman-year grades, when posted
- MDER (Matriculation Data and Entrance Record): family and academic information*
- Photos of your advisees

*While the name of the dean of your residential may appear on the "adviser" line of your advisees' MDERs, please rest assured that you are indeed the adviser, and that said name is just a placeholder

You are especially encouraged to read the “Advising Q & A” before you meet with your
advisees one-on-one. It includes responses to a survey that we asked all incoming freshmen to complete, and often provides good insight into each student’s likes, goals and preparation.

**Shopping Period Advising Timeline**

1. August 31: meet with all your advisees as a group; tell them about you, your field of study, and why you volunteer to be a freshman adviser; ask them about their academic and extracurricular interests. Establish a baseline rapport. Schedule one-on-one follow-up meetings. For tips, click [here](#) (“Goals of the First Freshman Advising Meeting”)

2. Between September 4-15, meet a second time, one-on-one with each advisee. For tips, click [here](#) (“Follow-up Meeting”)

3. By September 16 at 5:00 p.m., meet a third time with each advisee and sign a completed course schedule. For tips, click [here](#) (“Schedule Signing”)

**General Goals of Advising**

- To give students an understanding of what constitutes a liberal arts education at Yale.
- To convey to incoming students an immediate sense that Yale faculty members are accessible and take a personal interest in them.
- To help students appreciate the need to strike a balance between academic commitments and extra-curricular activities.

**Resources for You on the Yale College Resources for Academic Advisers website:**

- Academic Calendar
- Advice to Students: How to Prepare for Meetings with Your Freshman Adviser
- Advising Resources Card (PDF)
- Calendar for the Opening Days of College
- Center for International & Professional Experience (PDF)
- Directors of Undergraduate Studies
- Distributional Requirements
- DUS Handbook
- Foreign Language Requirement
- **Guidelines for Freshman Academic Advising**, including:
  - A Constellation of Advisers
  - General Goals of Advising
  - Goals of the First Freshman Advising Meeting
  - Follow-up Meeting
  - Schedule Signing
  - Check List for Reviewing Course Programs
  - Some Suggestions for Ongoing Advising
  - Helpful Details for Advisers to Remember throughout the Term
    - Distributional Requirements for the Freshman Year
    - Credit/D/Fail Option
    - Deadlines and Academic Options to Keep in Mind
    - Science, Engineering, and Premedical Students
Guidelines for Sophomore Academic Advising, including
  • General Goals of Sophomore Advising
  • What Sophomores Expect from Their Advisers, including
    ▪ Thinking about the Term at Hand, Thinking about the Next Three Years
    ▪ Drawing Up Tentative Schedules
    ▪ Mid-term and End-of-term Meetings
    ▪ Extracurricular Activities
    ▪ Summer Plans
  • Helpful Details to Remember throughout the Year
    ▪ Distributional Requirements for the Freshman Year
    ▪ Credit/D/Fail Option
    ▪ Deadlines and Academic Options to Keep in Mind
    ▪ Science, Engineering, and Premedical Students
    ▪ International Experience Options
  • Useful links, including the Sophomore Website and its “For Advisers” Section
    ▪ Sources of Information
    ▪ Thoughts from Sophomores

Online Course Information
Quantitative Reasoning Courses without Prerequisites
Sophomore Website (see especially the “For Advisers” section)
Tutoring and Academic Support
The Writing Center

Additional Links

• Advising Resources in Yale College (chart)
• Distributional Requirements (chart)
• The Foreign Language Requirement (chart)
• The Freshman Handbook, an explanation of practical matters and with a useful summary of the academic information most pertinent to freshmen. The pages dealing with “Course Selection in Freshman Year” and “General Academic Information” will be particularly helpful to you
• The Calendar for the Opening Days of College lists the main academic and student life events of freshman orientation
• Toward Academic Success: A Guide to Advising at Yale.

Whew! If you have any questions, feel free contact me by email, at risa.sodi@yale.edu, or by phone, at 432-8427, or you may wish to contact the dean of your residential college. Again, thank you for your service and best wishes for a rewarding year of academic advising!

Sincerely,
Risa