

**ACADEMIC ADVISING**  
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Advising students is a critical responsibility of CNU faculty and staff and is highly valued by the academy. Advisors work with students in their transition from high school to college, throughout their college career, and as they plan post-graduate lives.

Faculty and students work closely together in the advising process, and share the common goal of fostering student success within our university environment.

### **Responsibilities of Academic Advisors**

Academic advising is critical to a liberal arts education at CNU. The academic advising system must:

1. Encourage students to take responsibility for their own education planning.
2. Recognize the unique nature and interests of each student.
3. Provide timely, accurate advising that serves all constituents.
4. Offer resources for students, including what they need to meet major and graduation requirements and advice regarding internships, service learning, study abroad, and research that will enhance their liberal arts education.
5. Foster professional relationships among students and faculty beyond the classroom.
6. Help students explore and serve within and beyond the University through study abroad, civic engagement, postgraduate education, and career planning.

### **Responsibilities of Students**

Students at CNU shall recognize the advising process as an essential aspect of their liberal arts education. During the advising process students must:

1. Take responsibility for their own educational planning by actively engaging in the advising process.
2. Maintain an open line of communication with their advisor.
3. Be knowledgeable about Christopher Newport University's academic policies, procedures, and requirements.
4. Arrive at each advising appointment promptly and prepared with questions and thoughts about what is to be discussed during the appointment.
5. Recognize that advisors provide guidance and support throughout the advising process, however, the final decisions ultimately belong to the student.

6. Engage in the contemplation and clarification of honor, personal values, and goals; this includes reflecting on what they aspire to accomplish with their liberal arts education within and beyond the University.

### **Faculty Core Advisor**

First-year freshmen at Christopher Newport University work with a Faculty Core Advisor (FCA) who will remain the student's advisor for the first two years (while the student pursues the University Core Requirements and major prerequisites) even if the student changes his/her area of academic interest. This means that all students will have a stable faculty advisor to support them during the first two years of study. FCAs will assist students in their transition from high school to college, facilitate and encourage students' intellectual exploration, assist students in curricular decisions, and encourage students to become active members of the University community.

### **Major Advisor**

In the second semester of their sophomore year, students will declare their major at Sophomore Signing Day, and at that time, a major advisor from the department will be assigned to the student. Major advisors engage students in the selection of courses, long range academic planning, potential graduate study and career opportunities, research experiences, summer institutes and study abroad possibilities. Major advisors assist students in achieving successful completion of their CNU experience and transitioning into their post-graduate endeavors, including graduate school and/or career opportunities.

### **Pre-Law or Pre-Health Advising**

Like most colleges and universities, CNU does not offer a pre-law or pre-med major, but specialized advising is in place that can help students plan their curricular and co-curricular experiences in preparation for a competitive application to law school, medical school or other health professional programs. Please consult the following websites for additional information:

- Pre-Law at [prelaw.cnu.edu](http://prelaw.cnu.edu)
- Pre-Health at [prehealth.cnu.edu](http://prehealth.cnu.edu)