Theories supporting academic advising

Academic advising is key in fulfilling the teaching and learning mission of higher education. Through academic advising, students learn to become members of their higher education community, to think critically about their roles and responsibilities as students, and to prepare to be educated citizens of a global community. Academic advising engages students beyond their own world views, while acknowledging their individual characteristics, values, and motivations as they enter, move through, and graduate from the institution.

ACADEMIC ADVISING AS TEACHING

Academic advising, as a teaching and learning process, requires teaching methods that incorporate the facilitation, documentation, and assessment of the advising relationship. Although the specific methods, strategies, and techniques may vary, the relationship between advisors and students is fundamental and is characterized by mutual respect and trust.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES OF ACADEMIC ADVISING

The student learning outcomes describe what students will demonstrate, know, value, and do as a result of participating in academic advising. Students will craft a realistic educational plan based on their abilities, aspirations, interests, and values, use complex information from various sources to set and achieve goals, meet academic program requirements, and cultivate habits that lead to a lifetime of learning.

SUMMARY

Academic advising, based in the teaching and learning mission of higher education, is a series of intentional interactions that contain a learning plan, a method of teaching, and a set of student learning outcomes. Academic advising joins students’ educational experiences to their aspirations, abilities and lives to extend learning throughout life.