Frequently Asked Questions

Which students are seen in the Academic Advising office?

- **Undeclared students**: All students who have not declared a major are assigned to the Coordinator of Academic Advising Services, who assists them in completing General Education requirements, while exploring multiple career and major areas before declaring a major.
- **S.O.S. students**: The S.O.S. (Stay Okra Strong) Early Alert system helps identify and assist at-risk students through organized outreach. Students who have been referred to the Student Success Center through this system are contacted by the Coordinator of Academic Advising Services and connected with campus resources based on their individual needs.

How do I know who my advisor is?

1) Contact the department secretary for your major, or 2) Call Academic Advising Services at 662-846-4577.

When should I see my advisor?

You are required to meet with your advisor before registering for classes, as your advisor is the only person who can give you the alternate PIN. Pre-registration is in November for spring classes and in April for fall classes. Contact your advisor prior to pre-registration week to schedule an appointment. Pre-registration week is hectic, so schedule your appointment early!

How do I make an appointment with my advisor?

Call or e-mail your advisor directly to set an appointment. To find your advisor’s contact information, use the online directory: http://www.deltastate.edu/contacts/. Many advisors have sign-up sheets on their doors to set pre-registration appointments.

Can I be advised if I have a hold on my account?

Yes, you can meet with your advisor to pick out your courses even if you have a hold on your account. However, holds may prevent you from registering, even if you have met with your advisor. To make sure you can register for classes, check your holds in myDSU before registration begins.

How should I prepare prior to meeting with my academic advisor?

To prepare for meeting with your advisor, take initiative before the meeting:

- View your academic plan and course pre-requisites (Academic Catalog).
  - www.deltastate.edu - Academics - Academic Catalogs - Select the appropriate catalog for your year.
- View the Academic Map for your program of study.
  - www.deltastate.edu - Academics - Students - Academic Maps
- Look over curriculum check sheet.
  - www.deltastate.edu - Academics - Offices - Registrar’s Office - Curriculum Check Sheets
- Look over courses to see what fits into your academic plan and schedule.
  - www.deltastate.edu - Academics - Quick Links - Class Schedules
- Bring a list of potential classes with you to the meeting with your advisor.
- Check for holds and take care of them before your advising session.
  - www.deltastate.edu - My DSU - DSU Online Services - Student Services and Financial Aid - Student Records - View Holds
- Clarify personal values, abilities, interests, and goals.
- Become knowledgeable and adhere to institutional policies, procedures and requirements.
- Follow-up on next steps identified during the advising session.
How do I choose a major that is right for me?

- Be aware of the university’s resources including:
  - Your Academic Advisor
  - Career Services, located on the third floor of the Union
  - Academic Advising Services, located on the third floor of the Union
  - DSU Website: list of undergraduate majors, academic catalogs, program plans, etc.
- Match your interests with your talents and skills. A few things to consider:
  - What are your strengths and challenges?
  - What kind of activities do you enjoy most?
  - How would you describe your personality style or your main personality characteristics?
  - What subjects do you enjoy and in which do you earn good grades?
  - Who are the people you have met whose work seemed interesting to you?

How do I declare my major?
If you want to declare or change a major, your advisor can assist you in getting started. He or she will have the appropriate paperwork, and you can also discuss how your classes may change when choosing a new major. If you are Undeclared, you will work with the Coordinator of Academic Advising Services in Union 309. If you have a major, you will work with a faculty advisor in your department. Your academic advisor helps you in all areas of career exploration, including changing your major.

Do I have to declare a major right away?
It is not uncommon for many new college students to be unsure about their major and use their first year to explore options. In fact, it is important to keep an open mind when choosing a major and take advantage of campus resources to help with making this big life decision. DSU requires you to take certain basic courses (General Education) regardless of your major. Your experiences in and outside of the classroom during the first year will help you decide a major.

When should I declare a major?
To ensure that you can graduate within four years, you are expected to choose a major by the end of your freshman year.

Where do I go for more information about my major?
- The Undergraduate Catalog includes course descriptions, 4-year plans and other useful information.
  - www.deltastate.edu - Academics - Academic Catalogs - Select the appropriate catalog for your year.
- Departmental Websites
  - www.deltastate.edu - Academics – Colleges & Schools
- Academic Advisors and other faculty members

What else can my advisor help me with?
Getting to know your advisor means that you have an automatic connection to other campus resources and opportunities when you need help with something. He or she can help you manage stress, make major decisions about your future, help you find jobs and internships, and can be a great reference for future employment.

What if I have a question that wasn’t answered here?
E-mail Darla Sisney, Coordinator of Academic Advising Services, at disney@deltastate.edu, or call at 662-846-4577.

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