



DRAFT

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Plan for College-Driven Academic Advising

BACKGROUND:

The Year of the Student Survey revealed several points that point out the shortcomings of our advising system. First, only about 1/2 of respondents on average appeared to be pleased with various student services such as general education advising, help with classes, etc. A consistent 20% or so indicated they are *not happy* with these services. Second, students did not agree with the statement that “Accurate advising on requirements in my major or graduate-study focal area is readily available.” Finally, the 3rd most significant response on how to improve the student experience was “A single location where I can get accurate advising on graduation requirements.”

Our current model where advising has been under-resourced and general education advising is bifurcated from major advising has not served the University well, and the students have indicated that they crave a single place to deliver accurate advice on how to meet both sets of requirements. National studies indicate that student success is greatly improved when students have an “academic home” in a department, which becomes this “single location” for both general education and major advising.

VISION:

An advising system that finds an academic home for students among our Colleges and Departments early in their time with us, that delivers accurate advice on both general education and major advising requirements.

PLAN:

To respond to the opinions of our students and come into line with national best practices, we wish to develop a system where comprehensive academic advising occurs within our Colleges and Departments. To do this we must reallocate existing resources into the Colleges, and minimize the amount of advising that takes place in a central campus unit.

We envision achieving a system of academic advising that is College-Driven by:

- Expanding the First Year Center to handle the central responsibility of advising first year and undeclared students.
- Establishing the objective of academic advising in the First Year Center to triage students into an academic major and department as soon as possible in their academic career.
- Decentralize advisors currently organized under the Colleges of Arts and Sciences into the individual Arts and Sciences Colleges themselves or Departments, as the units see fit, and consider proper levels of staffing and resources. From those locations these advisors can advise students on General Education as well as major requirements.
- Providing resources for a temporary APT position for every major with 500 or more students majoring in that degree (or some other appropriate threshold), to allow for professional advising that is closely linked to the academic department.
- Providing assistance to Professional Schools to ensure that Pre-majors receive the assistance they require to gain admittance.