



MICRO CASE STUDY

The Significance of Academic Advising and Enhancing the Advising Process

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While teaching at the university, I also try to fulfill my role as an academic advisor. Each year, the number of students seeking advice and the diversity of their needs continue to increase. Due to my other academic responsibilities and scientific engagements, I find it challenging to allocate sufficient and high-quality time to effectively mentor my students. As you are **aware, career planning, academic performance monitoring**, etc. are important issues for the futures of our students. So, how can I manage this process more **effectively**?



Approach to Solve the Problem

Academic advising is a crucial component that facilitates students in achieving their educational and career goals, enriches their university-life experience, and enhances the overall success of the academic community. Therefore, it is important to support academic advising with a sustainable and accessible framework. To summarize the importance of sustainable academic advising under some key headings (Malhotra, 2023; Mehta, Kumar & Castano, 2022);

① **Increasing Student Success:** Providing students with a continuous **advising process** enhances their academic achievements, making their university experiences more fulfilling. This improves students' academic success and reduces the rate of academic failure.

② **Personal and Professional Development:** It supports students in taking necessary steps to achieve their career goals and also provides guidance on career planning, internship opportunities, research projects, job applications, and other professional development opportunities. It helps students graduate on time and increases their post-graduation employment rates. **Career guidance** provided during the advising process assists students in succeeding in their professional lives.

3 Early Intervention and Problem Solving: It helps identify and address challenges students face in their academic or personal lives at an **early stage**, facilitating timely solutions. Thus, students can continue their educational journey smoothly.

4 Access to Resources: It enables more efficient utilization of university resources, leading to **time and energy savings** for both students and academicians.

Due to all the reasons mentioned above, it is crucial for universities to take necessary actions to sustain their academic advising process and continually improve it.

Solution Suggestions

It has been suggested that the faculty member **open a course titled "Academic Advising"** on the university's digital platform used within the context of its **informal learning ecosystem (LMS NEXT)**. This initiative is believed to enable the faculty member to save time and conduct a more effective advising process with students.

1 Resource Management

Course selection, graduation requirements, university resources, frequently asked questions, and all other resources that students may need can be prepared in a student-friendly format and shared with all enrolled students in the course. Otherwise, providing separate documents/resources to each advised student and keeping these resources up to date would be quite challenging.

2 Interaction and Communication

- Discussion forums/groups can be created where all advised students can interact with each other and the faculty member. Students can respond to each other's questions more quickly. The question-answer repository emerged can be periodically updated based on these interactions.
- The faculty member can organize live sessions regularly to address students' questions. The non-private parts of these sessions can be recorded and shared in a way that allows students to watch them later.

3 Accessibility and Flexibility

- **24/7 Access:** Students can access the necessary information/documents anytime and anywhere.
- **Flexible Meeting Hours:** Student(s) and the faculty member can schedule online meetings at times that are convenient for them. This eliminates the challenges posed by the need for physical meetings.

4 Monitoring and Evaluation

Student feedback regarding the academic advising process can be collected through this digital course for the purposes of tracking and improvement of the whole process.

Feedback from the Literature

Academicians



*"The online platform enabled me to reach many students simultaneously, allowing me to mentor more students. It provided a significant advantage in **time management**." (Johnson, 2022).*



*"Advising conducted with the support of digital platforms offers a more sustainable model in the long term. It also helps us utilize university resources **more efficiently**." (Martinez, 2022).*



*"Outside of academic terms, my students can reach me **no matter where they are in the world**. This **flexibility** makes the process much more efficient." (Anderson, 2022).*

Students



*"The periodic meetings with my advisor have helped **clarify my academic journey**. I am now much more conscious in selecting courses that align with my own goals. (Johnson, 2022).*



*"I had the opportunity to meet and connect **with students from different disciplines** through online counseling. This has provided me with new perspectives." (Garcia, 2021).*



*"The **resources** shared by my advisor on online platforms have been very useful to me. It's great to be able to access all the information I need instantly." (Davis, 2023).*



*"I have learned to better manage my own learning process with the **guidance of my advisor**. This has increased my academic success" (Lopez, 2022).*

References

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