

Working with Your Advisor

When to see your advisor: Students meet advisors

- On Summer Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR) days for initial registration
- During fall Orientation the day before classes begin
- In November during Registration Verification
- Whenever they have questions, concerns, need information or help

Why to see your advisor: Get to know your advisor. Your relationship with your advisor can be a rewarding one, so begin developing that relationship now.

How to see your advisor: Most advisors prefer you make an appointment or stop by during office hours. During registration time, most advisors post appointment sheets near their offices so you can sign up for an appointment.

What to talk about with your advisor:

- Ask your advisor about your field. The advisor is a professional in the field and can undoubtedly tell you about a number of different emphases available within the discipline.
- Ask about alternative paths available through the department. First review the Wartburg College catalog description of your major and the options within it so you can go in with specific questions.
- Ask about Wartburg Plan of Essential Education and major requirements. Your advisor has a record of the classes you've taken and your academic progress; s/he can tell you exactly what you still need. It's important that you are both fulfilling requirements and choosing among those requirements strategically. *You* should keep a record, too. The advisor only advises; meeting the requirements is *YOUR* responsibility.
- Ask about concerns you have about registering for certain classes—pre-requisites, consent of instructors, 300 level classes, etc.
- Ask for the advisor's opinion on your course load, choosing electives, ways to enhance your educational program through study abroad, cultural immersions in the U.S., certification programs, internship options, etc.
- Ask for input on classes or experiences that will help you with later work. What skills will you need in the work world? Should you take more writing intensive courses, a public speaking course, a stress management class, work with a mentor on study skills?
- Let your advisor know your goals and future career plans. Also, tell him/her of your current classes and how you are doing and what you've become involved with on campus or in the community. (
- You and your advisor should keep a record of co-curricular activities in which you're involved.

Be prepared for your appointment! When you visit with your advisor in the spring, come with several alternative ideas for your next year's schedule. Work with a Pathways consultant before seeing your advisor to draft some schedule possibilities. Your advisor will be impressed as well as relieved that you have taken the initiative!