

First-Year Experience (FYE) Advising at TU

Program overview:

The First Year Experience program is an intensive developmental advising program designed to provide academic support for first-time students as they navigate their first year, with an emphasis on helping students adjust to college life and develop a sense of purpose for their education. TU's unique model for first-year student advising brings together over 100 faculty and staff to give new students robust, proactive support as they transition into TU. Each FYE student is paired with an advisor based on their major or special population.

The FYE advisor's responsibilities include:

- Providing accurate information about university policies, procedures, and academic requirements
- Serving as a link between students and the campus community, including helping with transitional issues and understanding of campus resources
- Assisting students in identifying and assessing goals and objectives as part of developing an academic plan
- Providing registration information & advice on course selection appropriate to the student's academic plan
- Providing support to students identified as academically at risk from faculty reports and first-semester GPA outcomes

The Academic Advising, Retention & Completion Office provides support for FYE advisors, including:

- The FYE Institute (three-day training for new advisors in late May/early June)
- A full day fall-kickoff training for all advisors in August
- In-service meetings for all advisors in October and March
- Advisor liaison support, with each FYE advisor paired with a professional staff advisor from Academic Advising
- An FYE Advisor resource SharePoint site
- A Blackboard course Master Shell

Timeline of advising responsibilities:

The FYE program features a minimum of six intentional touchpoints throughout the year: three group meetings and three individual appointments, with additional meetings for those identified as academically at-risk:

- Group Advising Meetings: August, October, and March
- Individual Advising Appointments: September, November, and April
- Additional outreach to academically at-risk students in October, January, and March

Advisor participation & compensation:

Faculty advisors are compensated through the university's *additional compensation* structure, while staff advisors receive compensation through the *staff award bonus* system. Although the mechanisms differ administratively, the compensation is financially equivalent.

Both faculty and staff advisors may select from different cohort size options when participating in the program. Each group needs approval from their supervisor and must apply for and be selected for the program through a competitive review process.

Because staff compensation is processed through the university's staff award bonus system, advising responsibilities must be a separate function not included in the employee's regular job duties and employment at TU must be active at the time of payment. Additional details about eligibility and criteria for the staff award are outlined in the Advisor Service Overview document.

Contact: Neil Blumberg, FYE Advisor Coordinator / nblumberg@towson.edu / x 2874

Application: Available on the AARC website at towson.edu/advising/faculty-resources



**Academic Advising, Retention
& Completion**

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