Preparing for an Advising Meeting

Questions year by year: The following is a list of things to consider before meeting with your advisor each year/semester. Some topics are more appropriate for meetings with faculty advisors or with professional advisors; some topics are appropriate for both. They are organized roughly by year, but it is good to read through the entire list in case some topics are relevant for you at other times. At the end is a list of things to consider every semester.

Freshman Year: Welcome to BU! Take advantage of the many opportunities available to you, at BU and elsewhere. Explore new courses and new activities; you’ll have plenty of time in the coming years to get more focused. Use your time now to experience new things and test your interests.

- Do you think your high school experience prepared you for college? If yes, then great, if no, then how can you help yourself with the transition?
- What activities and subjects did you enjoy most in high school?
- Any thoughts on what major(s) you might choose?
- Any extracurricular activities at BU you’d like to be involved with?
- What goals do you have for your first year of college?
- What has been the hardest thing about adjusting to life at BU? Any thoughts on how to overcome any related difficulties?
- What would you like to do this coming summer?
- Are you planning to go abroad? If so, think about when you might want to do this, particularly if it might be during your sophomore year, and how this might impact your schedule.
- Any thoughts on your long-term goals? If no, that’s OK! But if yes, then keep them in mind during your planning.
- Do you know about the BU bulletin, and how to find information about courses, majors, etc, online?
- Do you know who you can ask for help regarding academic, physical health, mental health, social, and practical issues?

Sophomore Year:

- Are you still interested in the same things as last year?
- Is there anything you would change about last year (academic, social, or environmental)?
- Any thoughts on your major? Do you intend to also pursue a minor or any dual degrees?
- Do you plan to go abroad?
- Have you developed any relationships with any professors that could become future advisors or reference letter writers?
- Which classes last year did you like/dislike the most and why?
• Have you considered getting involved in any campus activities?
• What are your plans for this coming summer? Would you like to try for any internships?
• Do you have any thoughts on your post-graduation plans? (If not, that’s OK!)
• Do you have any thoughts on your long term goals? What classes should you consider taking in order to obtain skills that will be beneficial to you? There is still time to explore new things, but if you can start to get an idea of what areas you might want to focus on, that could be helpful.

**Junior Year:**

• What do you plan to do after graduation?
• Have you considered graduate school?
• Have you considered applying for internships or research programs for this coming summer?
• Is there anything you would like to get out of BU before you graduate?
• Is there anything you wish you had done during your freshman and sophomore years? Can you make up for that now?
• Have you visited the BU Career Center?
• Have you formed relationships with professors who may be willing to write you reference letters in the future?
• What is your dream job? What kind of schedule do you like (9-5, or something flexible)? What type of people would you like to work with?

**Senior Year:**

• What would you like to accomplish before you graduate?
• What have been the best/worst parts of your BU experience so far?
• What do you plan to do after you graduate?
• What do you want out of your career?
• What steps have you taken to ensure that you obtain any desired employment or graduate school acceptances for after graduation?
• Have you been to the BU Career Center?

**All Years:**

• What courses do you plan to take next semester?
• Are you on track for fulfilling your graduation requirements?
• What are your overall goals?
• What have been your most and least favorite classes this past semester, and why?
• Are you aware of any upcoming relevant registration, or other, deadlines?
• Although it is important to keep in mind practical issues, such as fulfilling graduation requirements, try not to lose track of more philosophical issues such as who you are, what you want out of college and life, and what type of life you hope to lead.

Topics students wished they had asked their advisor: The following is a list of things that actual BU students said they had wished they had asked their advisors.

• What classes could I take to fulfill xxxxxx requirements?
• What is your field of interest, and what was your career path?
• I want to do xxxxx after I graduate. What classes do you think I should take to best prepare me for this?
• Do you know of any upcoming events or opportunities that might be useful for me?