

**Academic Advising Report 2009  
(Reported February 2009)  
Kansas State University**

The following comes directly from the Kansas Board of Regents Policy Manual - **D. Academic Affairs, 11. Academic Advising**. Please refer to the policy for complete description of each item. Total report should not exceed three pages.

**a.** Effective academic advising is central to the educational mission of the Board of Regents. To ensure that all students have access to high quality advising, each Regents university shall establish an Academic Advising System which shall provide the following:

**(1) Goal Setting**

Prior to selecting their courses for the spring semester, undergraduate students are asked to evaluate the academic advising they have received. The "Academic Advising Survey" is presented on-line as a part of the enrollment procedure. Once the students complete the survey, they proceed to their course selection. In the Fall of 2007, the most recent year for which analysis is complete, 17,346 undergraduates were surveyed. A total of 15,315 students completed the survey for a completion rate of 88.3%. Students are asked to rate each of 10 statements on a 1 - 4 scale indicating the statement is 1 - Definitely False, 2 - More False than True, 3 - More True than False, and 4 - Definitely True. Summary reports are then provided at the individual department/unit level, for each college and for the total university.

The statement dealing with goal setting is "My advisor discusses my long-term academic and career plans." The mean response for the total university to this item was 3.68 (on the 1 - 4 scale). When the 67 departmental/advising unit means are ranked from highest to lowest, the range was 3.75 for the highest to 3.03 for the lowest with 3.57 being the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile.

**(2) Information**

Two of the survey items deal with how knowledgeable the students perceive their advisors to be in the areas of degree requirements and university policies and procedures. The mean university response to the item "My advisor has a good knowledge of my academic degree or program requirements." was 3.71. Departmental/advising unit means ranged from a high of 3.89 to a low of 3.25. The mean at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile was 3.72.

In responding to the item "My advisor has a good knowledge of university/college policies and procedures or knows where to find them.", the mean for the total university was 3.70. Departmental/advising unit means ranged from a high of 3.89 to a low of 3.07 with 3.71 falling at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile.

<p><b>(3) Transitions</b></p>	<p>Assisting students through various transitions certainly calls upon both the goal setting and informational items already presented. Two additional survey items pertain to assisting students through various transitions: "My advisor helps me include educational experiences which develop the skills necessary to live and work in a diverse world.", received a total university mean of 3.58 on the four-point scale. The departmental/advising unit means ranged from a high of 3.85 to a low of 3.06 with 3.60 falling at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile. Also, when assisting a student in selecting or changing majors, the advisor should consider student performance in courses already completed. The survey item "When helping me select courses, my advisor considers past courses in which I have done well or poorly.", is intended to assess this. The overall university mean was 3.54 with departmental/advising units means ranging from a high of 3.81 to a low of 3.00. The mean falling at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile was 3.55.</p>
<p><b>(4) Accessibility</b></p>	<p>Two survey items are designed to assess students' opinions regarding the accessibility of their academic advisor. The first, "I can contact my advisor when I need to.", received a university-wide rating of 3.73 on the four-point scale. Departmental/advising unit means ranged from a high of 3.90 to a low of 3.40. The 50<sup>th</sup> percentile was 3.75.</p> <p>The second item, "My advisor takes enough time to answer all of my questions.", received a university-wide rating of 3.75. The range for departments/advising units was from a high of 3.93 to a low of 3.21. The mean falling at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile was 3.78.</p>
<p><b>(5) Referral to Campus Resources</b></p>	<p>The item which deals with referral to campus resources states "If I have a problem (financial aid, study skills, emotional/physical health, etc.), my advisor helps me or knows where to send me." This item received a university-wide mean rating of 3.58 with the departmental/advising unit range being from a high of 3.80 to a low of 2.00. The mean falling at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile was 3.61.</p>
<p><b>b. Each Academic Advising System shall provide information to students to inform them of their responsibilities in the Academic Advising process.</b></p>	<p>Students are informed that they are ultimately responsible for fulfilling the requirements of the curriculum in which they are enrolled. The student's general obligations and responsibilities in the advising process are listed on page 12 of the "University Undergraduate Catalog" and on the "University's Academic Advising Website." Additional responsibilities unique to the student's college, academic department and/or academic</p>

advising unit are posted on that unit's website. How well prepared students are for their advising appointment is assessed with an item on the "Annual Advising Survey." Students are asked to rate the following item on the same four-point scale: "I go to my advising sessions well prepared. I arrive on time, have my questions in mind, have identified courses I would like to take plus alternative courses, etc." The mean-item rating was 3.70 for the 13,699 undergraduates who rated this item in the Fall of 2007. When asked to rate their overall satisfaction with their advisor and the advising they received, the mean rating was 3.68.

**c.** Each Academic Advising System shall be responsible for the necessary training of academic advisors to assist them in meeting the responsibilities of this policy.

The primary responsibility for advisor training belongs to the college, department or advising unit. Relevant advising information which is unique to the college, department or advising unit is communicated by the department or unit. Advising topics of a more general nature are covered by advisor training meetings, or, if merely informational, are sent over the AcademicAdvisor Listserv. Periodically a workshop on "Using the ACT in Academic Advising" is conducted by Michael Lynch, Associate Vice President for Student Life. The Associate Vice President's Office also serves as host to the NACADA Academic Advising Webinar series which includes a monthly webinar covering a current issue/topic in academic advising.

**d.** Each Academic Advising System shall have a mechanism to assess academic advising at the department level, relative to this policy, on a yearly basis and shall report the results of said assessment as part of Program Review to the Board of Regents.

An "Academic Advising Survey" is administered electronically each fall during pre-enrollment for the upcoming spring semester. The survey collects information pertaining to whether or not the students have conferred with their academic advisors, if not why not, and whether or not they consulted with their advisor on planning their upcoming schedule. For students who have conferred with their academic advisor, they are requested to respond to ten statements pertaining to the quality of the advising they received. Student responses to these items provide the basis for responses to Section A of this report.

Summary reports of the responses are prepared for the total university, each of the eight undergraduate colleges and for the 67 academic departments or advising units. A report will also be prepared for an individual academic advisor at his or her request if five or more advisees responded to the survey. In the Fall of 2007, a total of 17,346 undergraduates were surveyed. A total of 15,315 responded for a completion rate of 88.3%.

