Academic Advising in Earth Systems for Undergraduates

This document outlines the expectations for faculty, lecturers and academic staff serving as academic advisors for Earth Systems undergraduate students. Each student is required to have an academic advisor by the winter of their junior year, and students are responsible for finding their own advisors. The time commitment for advising an Earth Systems student is not large (we ask advisors to meet with each advisee minimally once per quarter), and there are no administrative duties associated with advising undergraduates such as releasing registration holds, etc.

Advisors are listed in Axess for each student and will have access to all of their advisees’ transcripts, etc. Academic advisors are extremely important for Earth Systems students to help to foster their intellectual development as future environmental leaders and to connect them to resources and expertise in their fields of interest. We encourage students to discuss their course plans and progress and any other academic interests with advisors in their quarterly meetings.

What you should share with your advisees:

- Your expertise in your field
- Course recommendations for students hoping to be successful in that field
- Relevant resources on campus that students should investigate
- Advice on careers and/or graduate education in your field
- Introductions to other relevant people on campus
- Connections with your professional network, as appropriate
- General life/academic advice

What you don’t need to know to advise an Earth Systems Student:

- Which foundation and breadth courses are required
- Which courses can be taken credit/no credit
- How the Earth Systems internship works
- How to arrange for a student’s leave of absence

Please send students to ES staff with any questions about these or other specific program requirements.

Because Earth Systems is an interdisciplinary program and doesn’t have its own faculty, we rely on faculty and academic staff in related departments to advise our students. We greatly appreciate this advising support, and the Earth Systems staff is available for any questions and to help in whatever way we can.

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