

The Role of Student Leaders in Academic Advising



Rachel Moody & Michael Geroux
Advisement Services Center

About UAlbany

❖ Over 13,000 Undergraduate Students

Nonresident aliens	735
Hispanic	2,096
Black or African American, non-Hispanic	2,235
White, non-Hispanic	6,134
American Indian or Alaska Native, non-Hispanic	22
Asian, non-Hispanic	1,116
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic	14
Two or more races, non-Hispanic	396
Race and/or ethnicity unknown	391
TOTAL	13,139

❖ Over 4,000 Graduate Students



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Advising at UAlbany

- ❖ Shared/Split Advising Model
- ❖ Advisement Services Center
- ❖ Departmental Advisement
- ❖ Plans for a 4-Year Shared Model

“What I love most about being a Peer Advisor, is that I get to work with students and help them develop their academic path. Advisors are so great and to be an extension of that has been a great experience! I value being able to give my input, especially because I’ve changed my major three times and I am still able to graduate a semester early. I have the opportunity to encourage others to commit to their academics and do what they really want to do. That’s what my advisors did for me.” - Alexa, Peer Advisor



Advisement Services Center

...By The Numbers

- ❖ Full Time Advisors: 16
 - ❖ Advisor Caseloads Range from 300 - 350 students
 - ❖ UAlbany has *mandatory advisement for all four years*
- ❖ Number of Students Advised:
 - ❖ Fall Semester ~5600
 - ❖ Spring Semester ~4800
 - ❖ *Fall 2016 - Largest Freshman Class (~2750)*



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Student Workers in Advisement Services

❖ Five Different Groups:

- ❖ Work Study
- ❖ Peer Mentors
- ❖ Advising PLUS Peer Tutors
- ❖ Peer Advisors
- ❖ Project MyStory

“Being a Peer Advisor, I am able to help students with things that make their life easier. We create a safe environment for students to come and ask questions.” - Erica, Peer Advisor



Work Study

- ❖ 10 students currently (paid positions)
 - ❖ Assist with filing
 - ❖ Help individual advisors with filing
 - ❖ Archive Filing System:
 - ❖ Students who have either declared or withdrawn are archived
 - ❖ Support of Administrative Assistants...
 - ❖ Covering the front desk
 - ❖ Relaying messages to advisors
 - ❖ Directing student traffic in front lobby
 - ❖ Assisting students with use of check-in system



Peer Mentors

- ❖ Academic Skills Development Course
(SP16)

- ❖ Peer Mentors assisted with the following:

- ❖ Review of assignments submitted via Blackboard
 - ❖ Lesson plan design and implementation
 - ❖ Taught one class session on their own
 - ❖ Held office hours in Advisement Services

Krystal says... “By being a Peer Mentor, I strongly valued sharing useful information and personal experiences with my students. Participating at this level of engagement with students led me to know that I was demonstrating positive actions and skills that would guide them throughout their future academic endeavors.”



Peer Tutors

- ❖ Advising PLUS
- ❖ Tutoring
- ❖ Review Sessions
- ❖ Study Skills
- ❖ Time Management



Student Success Center

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p>Just drop in! Most sessions do not require any pre-registration.</p> <p>*BIO sessions require registration. To register for Bio sessions, please contact: advisingplus@albany.edu</p>	<p>11:30 am-12:30 pm Open Tutoring Psychology</p>	<p>11:45 am-12:45 pm BIO 217*</p>	<p>11:30 am-12:25 pm MAT 108 </p>	<p>12:00 pm-1:00 pm CHM 121 </p>
	<p>1:00 pm-2:00 pm Open Tutoring Psychology</p>	<p>2:00 pm-4:00 pm Pre-Health Walk-In Hours </p>	<p>12:35 pm-1:30 pm BIO 120*</p>	<p>12:00 pm-1:00 pm Open Tutoring Calculus</p>
	<p>3:00 pm-4:00 pm UNI 110 International</p>		<p>1:40 pm-2:35 pm BIO 120*</p>	<p>3:00 pm-4:00 pm MAT 108 </p>
	<p>4:00 pm-7:00 pm Open Tutoring Computer Science </p>	<p>4:15 pm-5:15 pm BIO 212*</p>	<p>4:00 pm-5:00 pm BIO 365* </p>	<p>4:30 pm-5:30 pm PSY 211 </p>
	<p>5:00 pm-7:00 pm Open Tutoring Biology </p>	<p>6:00 pm-7:00 pm MAT 101 </p>	<p>6:00 pm-7:00 pm MAT 101 </p>	<p>5:30 pm-6:30 pm Open Tutoring CSI 201</p>
		<p>7:00 pm-8:00 pm Open Tutoring Spanish (101-206)</p>	<p>7:00 pm-8:00 pm Open Tutoring Calculus</p>	<p>7:00 pm-8:00 pm PSY 210 </p>
			<p>7:45 pm-8:45 pm BIO 120*</p>	<p>8:00 pm-9:00 pm BIO 120* </p>

Located on State Quad, Whitman Hall

Peer Advisors



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Peer Advisors

Advisors on the Front Line

- ❖ Assist with the “*nuts & bolts*” piece of advisement
 - ❖ Course registration process
 - ❖ Understanding the Degree Audit
 - ❖ Navigating the MyUAlbany portal
 - ❖ Help with appointment check-in and preparation

Use of peer advisors to assist in academic, personal, and career advising of new freshman students has produced positive results and helped freshman in their transition to the academic community (Barman & Benson, 1981)



Peer Advisors

Advisors on the Front Line

- ❖ Peer-to-Peer resource to UAlbany students...
 - ❖ Recommend appropriate Campus Resources based on conversations with peers
 - ❖ Offer insight regarding various policies & procedures on campus that help with becoming a successful student
- ❖ Campus Outreach
 - ❖ Tabling Events
 - ❖ Workshop Presentations
 - ❖ Weekly blog entries providing students with helpful tips based on the time of the semester
 - ❖ Twitter (@ASCPeerAdvisors)



Project MyStory



PROJECT *MyStory*

UAlbany upperclassmen share their university experiences in an effort to help new students acclimate to the campus community

[EXPLORE THEIR STORIES](#)

- ❖ Around the World and into Myself
- ❖ Fransexual
- ❖ Be Brave. Be Bold. Be You.
- ❖ Perseverance
- ❖ Pulled Back to Move Forward
- ❖ Still Fierce
- ❖ Trials and Triumphs of a Non-Traditional Student
- ❖ Homebody for Everybody
- ❖ Embracing the Uncomfortable
- ❖ Through the Looking Glass: A Look at the Past and Present...
- ❖ Fierce & Freaked
- ❖ Writing My Own Chapter
- ❖ Patience, Love & Acceptance
- ❖ Metamorphosis
- ❖ Women A Loud
- ❖ The Out of State Student Experience: Studying Abroad in NYC
- ❖ Where I'm Coming From
- ❖ Struggling on the Pathway to Success - Thoughts of C Average Student
- ❖ Because I Need You
- ❖ Dreams Deferred



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Student Leaders in Advising

TABLE TALK No. 1

**How can student leaders
improve our advising practice?**



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Student Leaders in Advising

Why are we talking about this?

- ❖ Applied-Learning | Service-Leadership
 - ❖ Greenleaf (1977), McClellan (2007), NACADA (2006),
- ❖ Empathy | Narrative | The Power of Stories
 - ❖ Grites (2013)
- ❖ Role-Models of Success & Engagement
 - ❖ Krause (2005)

“My friend Brandon, told me he read my blog posts. He stated, “Thank you also for being there and deciding to be brave and start a blog that really touches a lot of people, including myself.” Seeing those words across my phone when he texted me really helped me see the impact this blog is making.” - Kerry, Project MyStory Volunteer



Student Leaders in Advising

TABLE TALK No 2.

How are you currently utilizing student leaders in your advising practice?

How would you like to use students in the future?

"I am also excited to be a part of the MyStory project. FINALLY! There is a place where I don't have to be invisible! I can share my triumphs and my woes with anyone else out there who is over thirty and invisible!"
- Phoebe, Project MyStory Volunteer



Student Leaders in Advising

So...What's the Problem?

TABLE TALK No 3.

**List known and potential
hurdles to including student
leaders in your advising
practice.**

**Help one another
to develop solutions.**



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Student Leaders in Advising

Making it Happen:
The Doing is in the Details!



If you build it,
they will come!



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Student Leaders in Advising

Thank you for participating!

Rachel Moody
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Project MyStory
Thursday at 2pm, Poster Presentation

Michael Geroux
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“Peer Advisors on the Front Line”
Thursday at 10:30am, Session 5.5



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