

The Advisement Process for Biology (STEM) Students

Advising for Biology Students Overview:

Academic advising for Biology students will be a shared structure and utilize a supplementary advising model, with shared responsibilities between Academic Advising and Faculty Advising. Faculty advisors will provide program advising and mentoring for upper classmen. Academic Advising will provide transitional advising, course selection advising, facilitate registration, monitor academic progress, and initiate preparatory "graduation checks" for all upper classmen.

Advising Assignments

Students are assigned both a faculty and a STEM Academic Advisor prior to orientation and based on their major by Academic Advising. The Registrar's Office reassigns faculty and academic advisors when students change their majors. Students are informed of their advising requirements at orientation, can view their advisors on Degree Works, and this message is reinforced by student serving offices throughout campus.

Advising by Population:

Prospective Students – Prospective students will visit with an Academic Advisor for core curriculum course transferability and to provide more general information about the program. Students are referred to faculty advisors for more in depth information regarding the program/classroom expectations, career exploration, and to encourage the student to get to know their faculty.

Freshmen Students – Freshmen biology students will be required to meet with an Academic Advisor at orientation and each semester thereafter during their first year at TAMUT for core curriculum course selection and adjustment to university life. Faculty will have an opportunity to meet with incoming freshmen students at orientation for a group session. After their first year, Biology students will be required to visit with their Faculty Advisor or Academic Advisor at least once a year until graduation.

Transfer Students – Transfer biology students will be required to meet with their Academic Advisor at orientation to discuss how their previous coursework transferability, select their first semester's schedule, and to become oriented with the new applications and policies that our institution implements. Faculty will have an opportunity to meet with incoming transfers at the new student conference for a group session. After their first semester, Biology students will be required to visit with their Faculty Advisor or Academic Advisor at least once a year until graduation.

Developmental Education Students – Dev Ed students are required to meet with an Academic Advisor until they've completed their developmental education coursework. Advisors ensure that students are not enrolled in more than 12sch, taking restricted coursework, are in compliance with THECB guidelines, and completing the program.

Compulsory Academic Advising Component

Academic Advising holds are placed on all new incoming students automatically during the acceptance process. Their holds are pushed up each semester or year, depending on population and classification, and removed once they apply for graduation. Faculty, Academic Advisors, and STEM secretaries have the ability to modify this hold and set the next mandatory meeting in Banner after advisement has occurred.

Academic Recovery Program

Students on academic probation will be monitored by a professional Academic Advisor. At the end of each semester, the Registrar's office will provide the advisors with a list of students entering academic probation. During the probationary semester, Academic Advisors will:

1. Ensure that probationary students are not enrolled in more than 12sch.
2. Meet with probationary students at least once a month.
3. Check mid-term grades to assess recovery progress:
 - a. If a probationary student receives a B or better at midterm, the Academic Advisor will provide positive and reinforcing communication.
 - b. If the probationary student receives a C or lower and is jeopardy of not completing coursework successfully, the Academic Advisor will assess the need for further interventions such as, but not limited to: Increasing frequency of student-advisor visits; connecting this student with campus resources such as tutoring or counseling; initiating and attending student-faculty visits; and adjusting course load.