



Academic advising should be a transformative experience that empowers students to make choices that lead them to taking ownership of both their academic and career goals and to ignite a passion within them in achieving their goals. Student Advising and Mentoring at Nicholls State University aims to embrace the simple notion that academic advising is coaching. The process is aimed at building relationships. With training and preparation, an enthusiastic faculty member and a receptive student can engage in advising sessions that are frank reflections on academic and career goals, personal strengths and weaknesses, and extracurricular opportunities and support. Faculty members are able to show the passion and dedication for their disciplines, and students can establish positive relationships with engaged mentors.

SAM seeks to exemplify the idea that “academic advising, based in the teaching and learning mission of higher education, is a series of intentional interactions with a curriculum, a pedagogy, and a set of student learning outcomes” (NACADA: The Global Community for Academic Advising, 2006). With this in mind, the student learning outcomes of Nicholls’ QEP are as follows:

- Students will reflect on personal interests, strengths, and challenges to achieve academic, career, and personal goals.
- Students will analyze requirements of their degree programs as a path to academic and career goals.
- Students will connect high impact learning practices with academic and career goals.
- Students will connect extra-curricular opportunities and student services with academic, career, and personal goals.

Research shows that sophomores benefit greatly from focused and interactive advising that helps them to solidify their academic direction and goals. SAM will encourage sophomores to reflect upon their academic and career goals in order to better comprehend how their academic and co-curricular choices address these goals. SAM will also support advisors with training and tools to assist students on their academic journeys and to facilitate advisors’ mentoring capacities.

SAM will significantly impact students' academic performance, sophomore-to-junior year retention, extracurricular engagement, student satisfaction, and the student-faculty relationship. SAM will create a positive and transformative change in the campus culture while instilling a sense of ownership within students, thus fostering success and attainment of both educational and career goals.

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