

The O'Banion Model

A Conceptual Model of Academic Advising

The O'Banion Model of Academic Advising places emphasis on the sequential development of an academic program. A team approach is used which may include professional counselors or academic advisors, peer advisors and faculty advisors. Emphasis is placed on individual student responsibility for decision-making.

Steps to be Undertaken in Sequence in the O'Banion Model

1) Exploration of Life Goals

Advisor needs some knowledge of student characteristics, understanding of the nature of the decision-making process, knowledge of student/adult development, skill in counseling techniques, appreciation of individual differences.

2) Exploration of Vocational Goals

Advisor needs some knowledge of vocational fields, particularly in his/her discipline, some knowledge and skill in the interpretation of test results and acceptance of all fields of work as worthy and dignified.

3) Program Choice

Advisor must know what programs are available in the institution, what are their requirements, what have been the outcomes for other students who have undertaken those programs.

4) Course Choice

Advisor must know what courses are available and any special information pertaining to courses such as workshops, computer center usage, or community-based assignments.

5) Scheduling Courses

Advisor should be knowledgeable about the class schedule, about the system of the College and its policies and procedures and should also know about the work and commuting requirements of the student.

Experts at the ACT conference maintain that:

Academic advising often fails because advisors begin at step 3 rather than at steps 1 and 2.