

---

# More Than a Number: Efficient & Effective Academic Advising

---

David W.W. Jones  
North Carolina State University

**NC STATE UNIVERSITY**



# *The Students Are...*

*The most important persons on campus. Without them there would be no need for the institution.*

*Not cold enrollment statistics but flesh and blood human beings with feelings and emotions like our own.*

*Not those to be tolerated so that we can do our thing. They are our thing.*

*Not dependent on us; rather, we are dependent on them.*

*Not an interruption of our work, but the purpose of it.*

*We are not doing them a favor by serving them. They are doing us a favor by giving us the opportunity to do so.*



# *Who are our Students???*

93% of college student report being in good or excellent health...yet, 33% say over the past year they have felt so depressed that it was difficult to function.

Suicidal

Rape/Sexual Assault

Panic Attacks

Trauma

Delusional

Eating Disorders



## *Where we are headed...*

- Look at our students developmentally
- Discuss methods to connect you and your students...  
(Best Practices)
- Discuss student emails and our responses
- Get some tools for your toolbox



# *Developmental Advising*

“...is concerned...with facilitating the student’s rational processes, environmental and interpersonal interactions, behavioral awareness, and problem-solving, decision-making, and evaluating skills.”

Crookston 1972/1994



# Developmental Tasks

- First Year
  - Make the transition to the university environment
  - Considering academic abilities in a new light
  - Connecting with peers



# Developmental Tasks

- Second Year
  - Exploring meaning and purpose;  
“how does school connect to my life?”
  - Connecting with faculty to understand major/discipline
  - Connecting with new groups of peers



- Third Year

- Connecting with co-curricular opportunities that build skills
- Developing work-related experiences
- Becoming more confident in the classroom





# Fourth Year / Final Year

- Fourth Year
  - Moving closer to an initial career path
  - Preparing to leave the educational environment
  - Making a plan for the future



# *Developmental Advising & Communication*

## Best Practices

- Think about where they are “year wise”  
Ex: A first year vs. a fourth year student

?? What are some things to discuss with a first  
year student ??

A fourth year ??



# *Developmental Advising & Communication*

## Best Practices

- Consider what might be going on in a student's life.
  - Finances
  - Illness
  - Family
  - Expectations, fear of failure
  - Relationships



# *Developmental Advising & Communication*

## Best Practices - Departmental

- Consider departmental consistency for how, when and why students are advised
  - By appointment
  - Length of Time
  - Outcome, Purpose



# *Developmental Advising & Communication*

## Best Practices – University Advising

- Consider how other resources on campus could benefit students outside your department
  - Health Center
  - Tutoring Center
  - Counseling Center
  - Financial Aid Office
  - Study Abroad Office
  - Student Life & Activities Union



# *Developmental Advising & Communication*

## Best Practices – Thoughts & Suggestions

- Communicate to students the best way to contact you
- Create a cheat sheet of quick references
- Create files for all your advisees (paper or e-files)
- Don't be afraid to ask your colleagues for help
- Avoid giving wrong or inaccurate information
- Dual Role: Advocate for the student and liaison for the university (not adversarial)



# *Developmental Advising & Communication*

## Remember....

- They're afraid
- They're whole future is ahead of them
- This could be the first time they're away from home
- You are now assuming a parental type role
- .....
- You can help them become unafraid
- You can show them how to take charge of their future
- You can help them learn to be independent
- You can help them make decisions on their own



# *Developmental Advising & Communication*

# Thank You

David W.W. Jones, Ph.D

Associate Professor

Undergraduate Coordinator, Agricultural Sciences

[dwjones@ncsu.edu](mailto:dwjones@ncsu.edu)

**NC STATE UNIVERSITY**

