

Advisor Differentiation

This document is designed for students who have both a Professional and a Faculty advisor assigned. It is intended to help such students understand which of their advisors to approach with particular questions.

In any situation where a student isn't sure which advisor to email with a particular question or concern, they are always encouraged to email both their Professional and their Faculty advisor!

Professional Advisor: Advise on college and university policies that are applicable to all CAS students such as course registration, major selection, degree requirements, withdrawal, academic probation, dismissal, etc. Responsibilities include:

- Answering questions about Catamount Core and CAS Distribution Requirements as well as other degree requirements
- Helping students adjust their degree completion plans if and as events like major changes, personal setbacks, withdrawals, or academic dismissals occur
- Implementing intervention strategies when students are struggling and referring them to the appropriate support services

Example Questions:

- "Shouldn't this course I've taken be satisfying one of the requirements on my degree audit?"
- "I am considering changing my major and/or minor, will I still be able to graduate on time?"
- "How do I get off probation and what happens if I don't?"
- "How do I take a leave of absence or withdraw from the University?"
- "How do I connect with supports like Counseling and Psychiatry Services, Student Accessibility Services, or Student Health Services?"

Faculty Advisor: Specialize in major-specific requirements. Mentor and prepare advisees for success in their chosen field and build intentional relationships that support and challenge. Responsibilities include:

- Preparing students for success in their discipline (including consulting on course options as they pertain to future planning such as grad school, concentrations, or particular focus areas)
- Suggesting relevant co-curricular and extra-curricular learning opportunities such as internships, theses, study abroad, research, and independent studies
- Providing career, graduate, and professional school planning
- Writing letters of recommendation when appropriate

Example Questions:

- "I am interested in grad school, are there particular courses within my major that will set me up for success?"
- "How do I get involved in research within my major?"
- "I have an idea for an independent study—how will that apply towards my major requirements?"
- "Would you have time and be able to write me a strong letter of recommendation for X, which is due [insert date]? Here are my materials [resume, transcript, statement of purpose, key points info on the work that I have done with you with dates/years indicated, etc.]."