

OFFICE OF
STRATEGIC INSIGHTS

DATA SPOTLIGHT

CHARTING STUDENT SUCCESS
THROUGH DATA & RESEARCH

NOVA ADVISING IMPACT ON STUDENT SUCCESS

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NOVA
Northern Virginia
Community College

IMPORTANCE OF NOVA ACADEMIC ADVISING

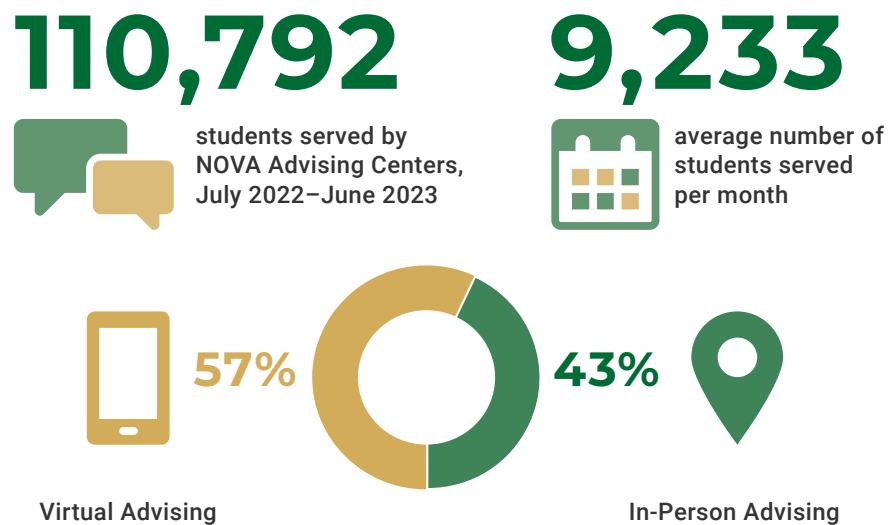
The student experience starts when prospective students first make a connection with the institution, and it continues until the students complete their goal. Academic advising is a critical part of a student's experience.

Throughout the educational journey, students interact with college personnel (e.g., advisors, instructors), college structures and systems (e.g., placement/assessment processes, class scheduling, degree planning) and college policies (e.g., rules regarding their academic progress standards, curriculum, and graduation requirements). Each of these interactions makes an impact on whether students will continue in their studies toward successful completion or whether they will drop out along the way. Advising is an important component in improving student success.¹ The student engagement with the college and its process, policy, and procedures teaches students how to navigate their success.

The importance of advising is even more heightened in a community college context, where career, transfer, and workforce credential options can create multiple paths to one goal. When students participate in academic advising, such as selecting a program of study, developing an academic plan, discussing academic goals or career ambitions, enrolling in classes, and attending classes, they become more engaged in their education and college community.

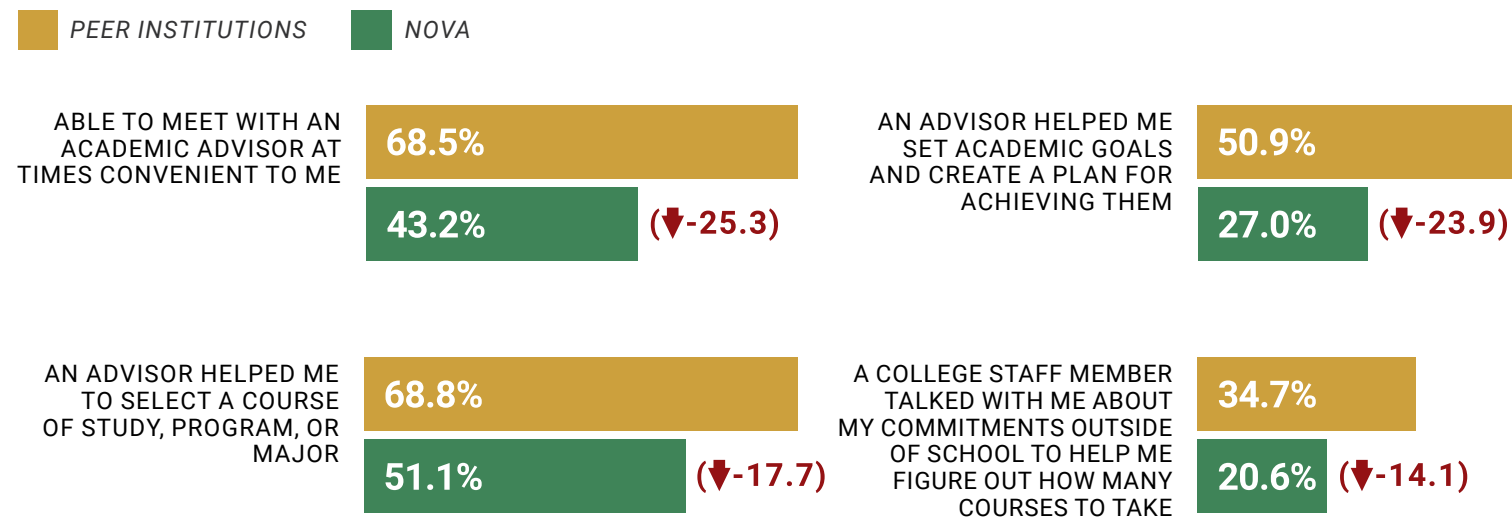
NOVA ACADEMIC ADVISING SERVICES

Advising Centers are physically located on all six NOVA campuses and available virtually via chat, email, and video in the virtual lobby. Each month, the Advising Centers serve an average of over 9,000 students with over 50 different advising service transactions and provide over 6,000 academic advising appointments. There is a high demand for the virtual advising format with the majority (57%) of student visits consisting of chat and video.²

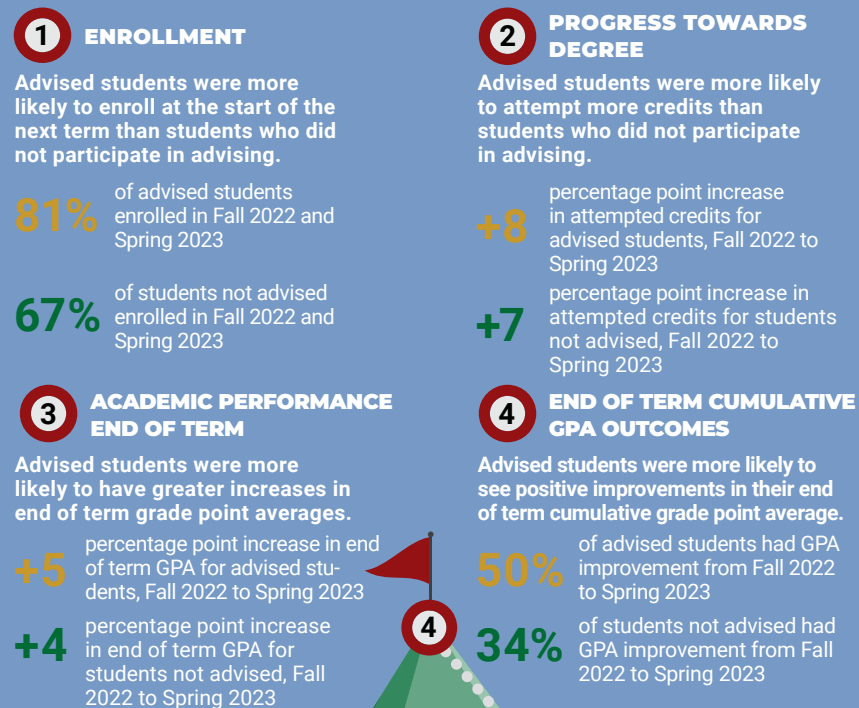


THE ADVISING EXPERIENCE

The Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE) helps community colleges discover why some entering students persist and succeed and others do not. Focused on the college experience, the SENSE data helps colleges understand the students' critical early experiences and identify areas in which colleges can improve institutional practices that affect student success. The NOVA 2021 SENSE Survey benchmark, Clear Academic Plan and Pathway, relates to the advising assistance provided to students on academic planning for staying on track and reaching their end goal. NOVA was compared to its peer institutions.⁵



ACADEMIC ADVISING IMPACT ON STUDENT SUCCESS OUTCOMES



According to the national report from the Center for Community College Student Engagement (CCCSE), advising is the most important student service that colleges offer; and students who receive advising are more likely to enroll, attempt and earn more credits, make greater progress towards degree, show improvement in their term and cumulative grade point averages, and demonstrate greater overall outcomes at the end of term.³

To demonstrate the impact of Academic Advising on student success at NOVA, data on the students who started in Fall 2022 and participated in Advising Services were analyzed to determine their likelihood to enroll, attempt and earn more credits, make academic progress, improve their academic performance, and demonstrate greater overall outcomes at the end of term.

Specifically, the student population that started in Fall 2022 and participated in an advising appointment or campaign was compared to students who did not participate in advising to determine the impact academic advising services had on their success at NOVA. To assess the impact of advising, the EAB Navigate Intervention Effectiveness Tool was utilized to compare the student success outcomes of students who participated in advising versus the students who did not participate in an advising appointment or campaign.⁴

TOP REASONS FOR ADVISING SERVICES

During the 2022–23 academic year, each month, academic advisors spend an average of 5,000 hours assisting students with the following services.⁶



¹ Oriano, A. (2013). *Academic advising: The key to student success* (T. O'Banion, Ed.). Community College Press.

² QLESS Reports—Service Transactions by Queue.

³ Center for Community College Student Engagement. (2018). *Show me the way: The power of advising in community colleges*. Austin, TX: The University of Texas at Austin, College of Education, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy, Program in Higher Education Leadership. https://www.ccsse.org/nr2018/Show_Me_The_Way.pdf.

⁴ CCSSE: Results of Spring 2017 Survey, Research Report No. 65-18, December 2018, Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Student Success, Northern Virginia Community College.

⁵ Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE) 2021: Benchmark Scores and Aspects of Student Engagement, No. 16-22, April 2022 <https://www.nvcc.edu/osi/oir/report/Home/Report?id=1141>.

⁶ EAB Navigate Reports—Appointments.

LEARN MORE

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF



MEET WITH AN ADVISOR

Advisors are available on all campuses and virtually to assist students with their academic goals. By exploring academic programs, choosing a major early, and meeting regularly with an advisor, students can stay on track toward graduation and/or transfer. By meeting regularly with an advisor, students are more likely to improve their success outcomes.

To meet with an advisor or set-up an advising appointment, visit: <http://www.nvcc.edu/advising/index.html>.



CAREER SERVICES

Career Services offers a variety of resources to help students explore career paths and reach their academic and career goals. Students can participate in career assessments, receive feedback on resumes and cover letters, practice interview techniques, and attend on-campus job fairs and career events.

Learn more about Career Services upcoming events at: <https://www.nvcc.edu/student-resources/career-services/index.html>.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

NOVA Workforce offers continuing education and professional development training for today's workforce. Learn new, in-demand skills, or prepare for industry credentials, and advance your career. No matter your learning goals, we're here to help you succeed.

Learn more about Workforce Development at <https://www.nvcc.edu/workforce/index.html>.



TRANSFER SERVICES

Transfer Services offers Associate of Arts (A.A.) and Associate of Science (A.S.) degrees to students who plan to complete their freshman and sophomore years of college work at NOVA and then transfer to a four-year college or university to complete their junior and senior years of a bachelor's degree.

Learn more about Transfer Services at <https://www.nvcc.edu/transfer/>.

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