

ORIENTATION AND ADVISING PRACTICES FOR THE COE

The College of Education seeks to welcome and inform prospective educators by offering orientation meetings at the beginning of our academic programs. Our graduate students view presentations from various members of the supporting staff at Pacific University. These orientations ordinarily begin with a warm welcome and introductory message from the President and the Dean. Our undergraduate students also attend Pacific University orientation meetings as well as informational meetings with advisors. Representatives from the offices of the Registrar, Business, Financial Aid, Student Life, Information and Technology, Health & Counseling Services, Campus Safety, and the Library share information with the students about their various functions in each of the orientation sessions. Students learn how to obtain an ID card, where to go if they are sick, and much more.

During the orientation process, the students regularly review the mission and standards of the College of Education. Our programs are all united by our mission statement (“Transforming Education Through a Community of Learners”) and the three focal themes of our conceptual framework (1: Promoting cultural competence, 2: Creating student-centered classrooms, 3: Enhancing learning through technology).

The advisors spend time discussing the contents of our Program Handbooks:

- Mission and Standards
- Getting Started at Pacific
- Program Overview
- Student Teaching
- Professional Information

We assign one faculty advisor to each class. This year, Mike Charles advises the freshmen and seniors, Anita Zijdemans-Boudreau has the sophomores, and Richard Paxton has the juniors. If a student decides to become a major in Education and Learning, his or her advisor will serve as their guide through the College of Education admissions process. MAT 5th year students are assigned a Strand Coordinator who acts as their advisor throughout the program. Flex students are advised by the Flex Coordinator.

Several meetings are held during the first semester with the strand coordinator/advisor to familiarize the students with the program, the expectations, and to answer questions students may have. The MAT 5th year Strand Coordinator becomes the Learning Communities seminar instructor for the seminar held during student teaching semester.

In addition to the specific advising assignments, all faculty of the College of Education have advising as a part of their teaching load. Support for students is readily available from instructors. Office hours are listed on each syllabus and on doors outside of offices. Appointments may be made by contacting faculty and drop-in visits are often made by students.