

Comprehensive Student Success Program Advising

What's the Purpose?: To improve student success in BIOL1310/1320 General Biology (non-majors) and BIOL1361/1362 Introductory Biology (majors).

Why Advising?: It provides one-to-one contact. It sends the message we are paying attention to your performance. We expect you to succeed. We will help you reach your goal but you, the student, will have to be an active participant in the process and make changes to your time management and study habits. Evidence from the literature suggests advising works!

Who? Students in our grant implementation sections of BIO1310/1320 and BIOL1361/1362 who score below a 70% on the first exam are required to attend one advising session. A student who scores a 69.9% will still be sent to advising.

How will we ensure compliance? Attending an advising meeting will count as one recitation grade.

How will students be notified? The program coordinator and the course instructor will e-mail students that they need to sign-up for an advising session.

How will students sign up? In the notification e-mail will be a link to GenBook. Our dates and hours will be loaded into the system. When a student registers for an appointment, both the student and the advisor will receive an e-mail generated by GenBook. Students must register 8 hours prior to the appointment time. Eight hours before the appointment time, the system will block registration. This will allow you better plan your work day flow.

What do I need to do to advise students?

1. Students should have filled out the Academic Self-Assessment form prior to their appointment time. If they have not, have them fill it out. These forms double as the attendance record. No form, no record. You will turn all forms in to the program coordinator after we have completed advising for the semester. Use the data from the Self-Assessment form to guide your discussion with the student.
2. Refer students to Learning Support Services as appropriate. They have workshops on goal setting, note taking, reading, overcoming procrastination, improving concentration, time management, studying for natural science courses, and reducing test anxiety. Give the student a copy of the schedule, if appropriate. Workshop sign-up is online on the LSS website. Individual learning strategies counseling is available at LSS as well by request.
3. The handout "Preparing for Exams" is particularly useful. Please distribute to the advisees. Go through the points on the sheet. The things we found most useful to stress were the following:
 - a. You need to put in time. 6-9 hours a week. See below for how to fill the time.
 - b. Use the online Mastering Biology!!!!!!!!!! It is a tool to study, not just for the required homework.

- i. Practice tests.
 - ii. Practice cumulative tests.
 - iii. Bioflix videos. Print the worksheet first and then watch the video. Use the slide show if you can't finish the worksheet watching the video the first time through.
 - iv. Do the activities.
- c. Reading the text. Use SQR3 (Survey, Question, Read, Recite, Review).
- i. Don't read from left to right straight through.
 - ii. First look at all the pictures. Look at the figure legends. Skim through nearby text if the picture/figure legend don't clearly explain what is going on in the figure.
 - iii. Skim through the headings.
 - iv. Turn headings into questions. Then read for the answer.
 - v. **Self-test.** Do the questions embedded in the chapter. Do the end-of-chapter questions. No looking at the answers until you've tried it yourself.
 - vi. **Self-test.** Write out important processes in your own words. Sketch a process as a flow chart. Make a diagram. Draw the cell. Explain a process out loud to yourself or a friend. Check your answers. Fill in what you missed. Do it again. And again.
 - vii. Review again a few days later.
- d. Review notes within 24 hours of lecture (preferably immediately after lecture).
- e. Line up your class notes next to the book and add details to your class notes.
- f. All night study sessions don't work. It's simply too much material. Cramming also raises your level of test anxiety. Study regularly. Keep up. Get a decent night's sleep.
- g. Go to class. Talk to your neighbor during Clicker questions. Go to recitations. Engage. Participate. Ask your TA any questions you may have.
- h. Make an appointment with your professor to see your exam results. See what you missed. It will be important on the cumulative final.