

Academic Advising Podcast Script

Hi, my name is Lara Odendaal. Have you ever asked yourself ‘Am I studying the right course?’, ‘What happens if I fail a module?’, ‘Can I still get my degree in the expected number of years?’. If you have answered yes to any of these questions, then you have come to the right place. These are tough questions to answer without knowing all the details and might lead to making uninformed decisions. That is where academic advising comes in. Did you know that academic advising was first started in American universities in the late 1800s? Luckily for us it has stayed around since then because it has been proven to positively impact academic performance and improves the study completion rates of students. The jump from high school to first year, making new friends, the course work, academic choices and for some, being away from home, are all things that make the experience of attending university even more difficult. Luckily, at the UFS, there are support services that are aimed at helping us cope with these difficulties. One of the difficulties that the university can help with is academic decisions. The service that this podcast will focus on is “Academic Advising”. Academic advising is a service provided by the University of the Free State’s Centre for Teaching and Learning and is provided to all the University’s students free of charge! We will be discussing what the service entails, the benefits and how to make use of it, including who you can contact to make an appointment.

We all have dreams, career goals and life goals, but sometimes it can be difficult to devise a plan to reach these goals and dreams. Academic advising helps students to clarify their goals and helps them to develop a clear educational plan to achieve these goals. But that is not all that there is to the service at the UFS. Academic advising also helps with learning strategies, time management, revision planning, exam preparation, university transitions, and goal setting!

Have you ever found yourself standing in a long queue thinking “I really want to leave this queue, but if I leave now, I would have wasted all this time”? This can also happen with your studies! Where you realise, after three years, you are studying the wrong degree. Academic advising is there to prevent that feeling! And if you are currently experiencing that feeling, Academic Advising can assist you to discuss alternatives and the best options going forward.

Hi, my name is Ruben Langenhoven, and as my colleague Lara has just explained, Academic Advising has a service available to help you! When you meet with an academic advisor, you work together to determine the exact steps you will need to take to achieve your career goals and plans and aligns them with your existing skill set and competencies. This collaborative effort is a proven recipe for success and has been shown to lead to an increased number of enrolled students, an increased number of students who graduate, and increased job satisfaction after attending university.

Remember, it is never too late to go for academic advising! The advisors at the UFS have vast amounts of knowledge regarding different qualifications and career paths and will be able to provide you with expert advice on achieving your career goals. So how do you get in touch with academic advising? Simple! You can send an email to request a meeting with an academic advisor! Bloemfontein students can send an email to advising@ufs.ac.za. Qwaqwa students can email advisingQQ@ufs.ac.za. While students studying on south campus can send an email to advisingsc@ufs.ac.za. Please include your name, surname, student number, year of study, and specific inquiry in the email, and a representative will get back to you as soon as possible. Students can also speak to one of the friendly academic advisors by phoning 051 401 2444. All of these contact details are also available on the UFS Academic Advising webpage, where you will also find awesome materials such as The Hello First Year and Hello Senior 2022, available under the AAS>Academic Advising>#UFSMyAdvice tab. These booklets are comprehensive guides which outline all the relevant information that you need to successfully navigate the 2022 academic year.