

Job Description

Job Title:	Academic Advisor
Department:	Arts Undergraduate Office
Reports To:	Manager, Academic Advising
Jobs Reporting:	None
Salary Grade:	USG 8
Effective Date:	July 2023

Primary Purpose

The position is responsible for academic advisement of on-campus and online students in the Faculty of Arts, with a particular focus on programs that are the responsibility of the Arts Undergraduate Office. This position serves as a resource for and supports officers and members of the Faculty of Arts in areas of policy and practice.

Key Accountabilities

Student Advising:

- Maintains in-depth and current knowledge of:
 - Arts' undergraduate curriculum and academic requirements for all programs;
 - Arts' admissions regulations and practices, including transfer credit regulations pertaining to a wide variety of academic institutions;
 - the areas of expertise that are of particular relevance to their position;
 - the University policies and Faculty regulations of particular relevance to student issues; and
 - the sources of support and help that are available to students, both within and outside the University.
- Provides academic advising on course/program selection and changes, degree requirements, preregistration, and all academic issues for a designated group of students.
 - Student groups may include: Regular and co-op stream students in Honours Arts, Honours Arts and Business, Liberal Studies; Faculty Transfers, Inbound and Outbound International Exchange, Bridge to Academic Success in English (BASE), Non-degree, Post-degree.
- Advisors are normally assigned to one or more primary student groups, with cross-training to enable shifting of portfolios to balance volume across the advising team. Monitors the academic progress of their group of students through the use of data extracts and provides outreach/academic counselling to students in academic trouble.
- Assists the Academic Officer with academic progression for their group of students, including assessing academic standing in borderline cases, and communicating with students.
- Co-ordinates the academic progression and advisement for their group of students. This responsibility includes assessing students' academic standing and completion of course requirements; communicating with the Manager, Academic Advising regarding problem cases; and generating appropriate comments for the Office of the Registrar.
- Retains signing authority for the approval of academic program changes, course changes, marks processing, Petitions for Exception to Academic Regulations, and Recommendations to Graduate.
- Provides assistance to students with Letter of Permission requests including the assessment of course equivalency and overall approval of such requests.
- Provides assistance to students in the preparation of petitions.
- Determines if interested students are eligible to participate in international exchange programs.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Inbound and Outbound International Exchange advising portfolio includes: working with Waterloo International, Records Supervisor for Arts, and other Faculty Exchange Coordinators to offer information and guidance to student participants on Exchange opportunities as well as to ensure appropriate course selection (incoming exchange students) and transfer credit application (outgoing exchange students).● Maintains appropriate contact and communication with those offices and entities elsewhere in the Faculty, in the University, and in the outer community that are particularly relevant to the areas of their own responsibilities.● Applies a continually evolving understanding of both the breadth and boundaries of their authority in relation to their duties.
<p>Admissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Start Holds voting membership on and provides support to the Arts Faculty Admissions Committee.● Provides advice and information to the Faculty and its Admissions Committee on associated matters.● Provides support in applicant assessment, both on-campus and online, as directed by the Manager, Academic Advising.
<p>Support to the Manager, Academic Advising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Informs the Manager regularly and frequently of activities and developments within their jurisdiction.● Consults regularly and frequently with the Manager on matters pertaining to the curricular, engagement, and retention functions of the AUO and on matters of a sensitive nature.● Participates in regular meetings of the AUO's Arts Academic Advisors to discuss consistent application of regulations and procedures and advance seamless support to students in the Faculty of Arts.● Prepares written reports on a variety of matters within their jurisdiction either on their own initiative or at the request of the Manager or Associate Dean: Undergraduate Students.● Provides administrative or other support for AUO initiatives as defined by the Associate Dean: Undergraduate Students.● Advises and responds to inquiries of students interested in enrolling in the program/major that they are responsible for.
<p>Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Attends meeting of the Arts Undergraduate Affairs Group (UGAG) as a non-voting member.● Attends meetings of appropriate committees and/or workgroups, and participates in events, in the Faculty, University, and outer community that are particularly relevant to the areas of their own responsibilities.●
<p>Recruitment, Engagement, and Student Life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● In conjunction with the Manager, Academic Advising, participates in the course selection process for newly admitted students.● Participates in the Faculty's transition and retention programs for undergraduate students.● Attends Universities Fair, March Break Open House, and other venues/events when necessary, acting as part of the Arts recruitment team.

*See addendum in department for responsibilities tied to a particular group of students.

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**All employees of the University are expected to follow University and departmental health and safety policy, procedures and work practices at all times. Employees are also responsible for the completion of all health and safety training, as assigned. Employees with staff supervision and/or management responsibilities will ensure that assigned staff abide by the above, and actively identify, assess and correct health and safety hazards, as required.*

Required Qualifications

Education <ul style="list-style-type: none">• University degree, a Bachelor of Arts degree preferred; equivalent combination of education and experience will be considered.
Experience <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum of three years of in area(s) of undergraduate student activity in an academic advising setting.• Experience in providing sound academic advice and interpreting academic policy.
Knowledge/Skills/Abilities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of Arts Faculty undergraduate curriculum, academic requirements, and admission regulations.• Competencies include communication (oral and written), interpersonal, report-writing, organizational, research, and analytical skills.• Familiarity with the needs and concerns of students and commitment to student engagement and success.• Proven ability to manage a large volume of work, conflicting priorities, and deadlines.• Uses diplomacy, tact, good judgment when interacting with students, staff, and faculty.• Proficient with MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint; Quest, Waterloo Inquiry; WCMS, ASIS/OAT, DMS, SharePoint.

Nature and Scope

- **Contacts:** This position requires communication with internal contacts to obtain, clarify, and discuss information. Contact groups and individuals include but are not limited to: Arts Undergraduate Office personnel, Office of the Registrar, Undergraduate Officers and staff in the Faculty of Arts, Office of the Dean of Arts, Office of the Associate Dean of Arts-Co-op and Special Programs, Student Awards and Financial Aid, Other UWaterloo Faculty Undergraduate Offices and advisors, Student Success Office, Students advised by the Arts Undergraduate Office
- **Level of Responsibility:** The position has defined duties and responsibilities and is expected to work with minimal supervision and provide guidance to others, including academic advice to students.
- **Decision-Making Authority:** Makes independent decisions regarding student advice, academic progression, admissions. Has signing authority for approval of academic program changes, course changes, petitions, and recommendations to graduate.
- **Physical and Sensory Demands:** Demands are typical of an administrative position that functions within office and meeting environments. Exposure to a fast-paced service oriented environment with deadlines, changing priorities, and large volumes at various times throughout the year.
- **Working Environment:** Travel: None. Working Hours: Regular working hours, some evening/weekend work required. Risks (Physical): No significant risks. Risks (Psychological): Interactions with people who are upset or angry, with people who have mental health concerns.