



Top Ten Questions about AOP advising - Parent/Family/Guardian Edition

1. What will the advising portion of AOP be like for my student?
 - a. Students will meet one-on-one with academic advisors from their intended major to discuss requirements for their degree. Please note that advising during AOP is a different experience than during the academic year, due to time constraints within the day. If your student has additional questions about their advising experience or schedule after AOP, your student should contact his or her academic advisor directly.
2. There are courses on my student's schedule that are not listed under their major requirements – why are these courses on their schedule?
 - a. Students are required to complete 120 credits to earn a degree from Michigan State University. This includes university, college, and major requirements. Any credits outside of these requirements are considered electives. Almost all students will need elective credits to reach 120 total credits and complete their degree. Electives can be used to earn a minor, to complement a major, explore new academic areas or enhance their transferable skills.
3. I want my student in 15-credits each semester but they came home with less – why did this happen?
 - a. Academic advisors work with each student to craft the best schedule for his or her individual situation, including but not limited to math placement, transfer credit, AP/IB testing, etc. Based on these factors, students are enrolled in anywhere from 12-16 credits. The overarching goal is for students to earn 30 credits each year, which includes fall, spring, and summer sessions.
4. I'm being told that I can't talk to an advisor about my student's experience at AOP – why is this?
 - a. Academic advisors are happy to answer questions that students and parents have about scheduling, courses and programs at Michigan State University. Advisors can answer any direct question that a student has by email, phone, or by appointment. When it comes to discussing specifics about student records, it's important to remember that student records are federally protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). FERPA prevents academic officials of the University from discussing specific items related to the student and their academic record such as enrolled/completed courses and



conversations between the student and advisor without expressed consent from the student. That being said, advisors are just as much of a resource to parents as they are to students and are able to answer general questions you might have about programs, policies and University-procedures.

5. My student left AOP and their academic advising experience felt rushed or hurried – should I be concerned?
 - a. We recognize that orientation may be a stressful time for both you and your student. For many, this is the first time that you have not had an active role in helping to prepare your student for the upcoming academic year. For many students, this may be the first time they've had to approach this situation alone. While every effort is made to create a personalized and informative session for your student during their one-on-one interaction with the advisor, there are limitations to how much time can be spent with each student to accommodate the number of students who attend each program. The AOP advising meeting is atypical to what an advising appointment would be during the academic year and we encourage students to meet with their academic advisor when they return in August. Before they return in August, any questions they might have regarding their courses and scheduling can be answered via email, telephone, or by appointment. As a reminder, your student can adjust both their Fall and Spring schedule when they return in August with the help of their academic advisor.

6. My student hasn't even come to AOP but they have classes on their schedule – why is this?
 - a. MSU pre-enrolls students as a way to ensure that, regardless of when students attend AOP, they have seats in courses required for their major and general university graduation requirements. Each College/major advising unit designs the pre-enrollment course list for students in their declared major. These courses can be adjusted based on your student's desire to change their major, or to accommodate changes due to incoming AP/IB/transfer credit, or to add courses recommended by the academic advisor.

7. My student is required to take certain courses but when they came home from AOP, those courses weren't on their schedule – why is this?
 - a. While each student will have a set of required courses, the timeline in which students take these courses varies greatly based on several factors, including but not limited to math placement, prerequisites, admission to certain programs, transfer credit, and course availability. If your student has additional questions, he or she student should contact his or her academic advisor directly.



8. My student is coming in as Exploratory/No Preference – what will their experience be like?
 - a. Exploratory/No Preference students have the same experience as students who are coming in with a declared major. They meet one-on-one with advisors to discuss academic interests and major options at MSU. Exploratory/No Preference students will leave AOP with a personalized schedule that meets University requirements and explores major options.

9. Why can't my student make changes to their schedule until they return in August?
 - a. In order to give all incoming students equal access to the course scheduling system, students are able to craft their schedule only during their assigned AOP date. Students have the ability to make schedule changes upon their return to campus (beginning August 27). We recommend that students consult with their academic advisor prior to making substantial changes to their schedule.

10. I still have concerns about my student's experience at AOP – what do I do now?
 - a. We encourage you to contact aop@msu.edu with any questions or concerns that you may have. An academic orientation and transitions office staff member or an advisor will respond within two business days.