Academic Advising and the MSU Degree
Academic Advising

- What is an academic advisor?
- Importance of regular meetings with an advisor
- Critical connection to resources
- Best source of accurate academic information
- Someone who will listen to student concerns
Academic Advising, Cont.

• Freshman and Sophomore students who have not declared a major (“Exploratory-Preference”) will see an advisor in the Neighborhood Student Success Collaborative (NSSC) – until they declare a major.

• Neighborhood Advising Locations:
  Brody Neighborhood: 160 Brody Hall
  South Neighborhood: Holden Engagement Center
  East Neighborhood: C130 Hubbard Hall
  River Trail Neighborhood: C101 McDonel Hall
  North Neighborhood: 337 Union Building

• Students with a declared major should see an advisor in their major within their department or school, in their college.
Degree Requirements

- All undergraduate degrees at MSU require a minimum of 120 credits
- University Requirements (Common to all academic programs at MSU)
  - Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures (WRA)
  - Integrative Studies in Arts and Humanities (IAH)
  - Integrative Studies in Social Sciences (ISS)
  - Integrative Studies in Biological and Physical Science (ISB & ISP plus Lab)
  - Mathematics (MTH)
- College Requirements
- Major Requirements
- Elective Requirements

Disclaimer: The percentages listed are estimates. You should consult with your advisor to get more specific information.
Degree Requirements, Cont.

• Students at MSU must be admitted to a College when they have earned 56 credits or more. Some Colleges allow for earlier admission.

• Talk with an academic advisor about admission requirements and academic planning in preparation for admission.

• Caution: some programs at MSU are limited enrollment programs (limited space and competitive admission process). Many other programs are “open majors,” which allow any student in good standing to join.
Advising and Enrollment During Orientation

- Step 1: Students attend a large-group presentation about their intended College and major. Degree requirements, College/major admission (if applicable), career opportunities and extra-curricular options are discussed.

- Step 2: Students meet with their academic advisor (one on one or small group) to plan their first year courses.
  - Preenrolled courses will be reviewed, and can be changed if necessary.

- Step 3: Students enroll for classes with assistance from current MSU students and academic advisors.

Class schedules are final once enrollment has ended at NSO until July 23.
After Orientation

- Students must make sure all final transcripts from institutions attended prior to MSU (through dual enrollment or regular admission) be forwarded to MSU.

- Students must make sure all scores from AP, CLEP, IB or International A levels are sent to MSU.
  - Students should make sure that test scores from prior years have been sent to MSU.

- Any changes necessary due to academic information that arrives after NSO can be done by the student beginning July 23, 2019. We strongly recommend that students contact an advisor in their primary major if they have questions about schedule changes.
Communicating with Families: A Paradigm Shift....

- MSU adheres strictly to the Family Educational Rights & Privacy (FERPA) law.

- Access to individual grades during the course of the semester is available only to the student.

- At the end of the semester grades are posted electronically and students can access them through STUINFO. Students can grant access to academic and financial information through STUINFO guest access.
Resources

Academic
- Students are responsible to know and understand the policies related to academic issues (academic standing, repeating courses, grading systems, adding and dropping courses)
- Academic Programs – the place to find information about MSU policies and procedures
- Description of Courses – the place to learn about any course, prerequisites, and restrictions
- Spartan Resource Guide and Planner – includes terrific websites, important dates
- Academic Advisor – the person to help you understand the policies
- STUINFO – this system includes student-specific information related to your academic life at MSU
- Schedule Builder – search for courses, view text information, add courses to your schedule
- Academic Integrity – practicing honest, responsible and ethical scholarship
- Degree Navigator – advising tool that allows a student to view their degree requirements

Social
- Volunteer and Civic Engagement
- Student Organizations
- Nationality Clubs
Thank You

“It is not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves, that will make them successful human beings.”

• (Ann Landers)