

Course Advising for the Electronic Age

Presenter: Jodie Needham, John Marshall Law School, Chicago

Summary Notes

Course Advising for the Electronic Age

History of Academic Advising

- Faculty Advisors
- Know a lot about their own subject area
- Don't know the entire curriculum
- May not have experience in the practice area student has chosen
- Don't have connections to current jobs in area
- Student Advisors
- Have lots of anecdotal information about the professors like the workload, how challenging the class is, the professor's teaching style, etc.
- Don't know the entire curriculum
- Don't have time to meet with students each term
- Don't have connections to current jobs in area
- Career Services Advisors
- Know about the job opportunities available
- Don't know curriculum
- Don't know adjunct faculty who teach in practice areas
- Registrar's Office
- Students then refer to the Registrar's Office!
- They know:

Curriculum

Full-time faculty course specialties

Adjunct faculty practice areas

Career Services team gives advice on job opportunities

Reasons to take a class:

- Required course
- The course covers bar subjects
- The student is interested in the subject area
- The Issue:

Not enough staff in the Registrar's Office

Students want answers 24/7

Critical Steps to Creating Advising Week

- Met with Career Services staff to understand the most common practice areas or career paths for alumni
- Reviewed content that would be tested on the Bar Exam
- Reviewed the entire curriculum and divided courses into these "tracks"
- Sent information to Faculty Committee to review and ensure accuracy
- After approval, separated out courses taught by full-time faculty in each practice area
- Chose 2 full-time faculty to design each practice area in:
- Doctrinal courses to take and in what order
- Experiential learning opportunities are best
- Skills courses are best

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- Created a sheet with all course information that will be available online in the student portal
- Each term, the Registrar's and Career Services Offices determine the practice areas being featured
- Set up panels each term. CSO invites alumni, Registrar's Office invites adjuncts

How to Get Students to Attend

- Faculty must have buy-in and recommend students go
- Posted Advising Week on Academic Calendar
- Hold sessions during the "free" periods (day & evening)
- Post materials after the sessions
- Ask Career Services to promote and recommend attendance
- Have SBA class reps recommend attendance

Added Benefits

- Courses now have session cycles listed on the web to help students plan
- When students use the Academic Planner, know how many sections to offer in a term
- Students like being able to access information at anytime
- Curriculum committee reviewed all courses and found redundancies and holes that needed to be filled

Course Advising for the Electronic Age

Jodie Needham, Assistant Dean for Academic Services
The John Marshall Law School, Chicago



HISTORY OF ACADEMIC ADVISING

HAVE YOU TRIED IT ALL?

- Faculty Advisors
 - Don't know entire curriculum
 - May not have experience in the practice area student has chosen
 - Don't have connections to current jobs in area
- Student Advisors
 - Don't know entire curriculum
 - Don't have time to meet with students each term
 - Don't have connections to current jobs in area
- Career Services Advisors
 - Don't know curriculum
 - Don't know adjunct faculty who teach in practice areas

ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

- Registrar's Office knows:
 - Curriculum (which courses are offered when)
 - Full-time Faculty Course Specialties
 - Adjunct Faculty Practice Areas
 - Career Service team to get advice on job opportunities

The PROBLEM?

- Not enough staff in the Registrar's Office
- Students want answers 24/7

ADVISING WEEK

Critical steps

1. Meet with Career Services to understand Career paths most common for our alums. We narrowed it to 9 Practice areas.
2. Don't forget about the BAR Exam!
3. Review the ENTIRE curriculum and divide courses into these 10 areas.
4. Send to Faculty Committee to review and ensure all is accurate
5. After approved, separate out courses taught by full-time faculty in each practice area.

ADVISING WEEK

Critical steps (cont.)

6. Choose 2 Full-time faculty to spear-head that practice area
 1. What doctrinal courses to take in what order
 2. What experiential learning opportunities are best
 3. What skills courses are best
7. Produce a sheet with all course information that will be available on online in student portal site
8. Each term, the Registrar's Office and Career Services determine which practice areas (6 and the bar are offered each term, 3 rotate)
9. Set up Panel each term: CSO invites alums and the Registrar's Office invites adjuncts.

THE JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL

BUSINESS LAW -Spring 2016 Advising Session Panel

Full Time Faculty or Administrators:

- Arthur Acevedo, 7acevedo@jmls.edu
- Jason Kilborn, 7kilborn@jmls.edu

Part Time Faculty

Kenneth Michael, kmichae@jmls.edu

Alumni/Practitioners:

Brian Roth - Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani LLP, broth@gordonrees.com

Recommended Courses

Second Year

Corporations (JD-130)
Income Tax (JD-135)
Payment Systems (JD-271)
Secured Trans (JD 247)
Accounting for Lawyers (JD-233)

Third Year

Antitrust (JD-252)
Bankruptcy (JD-081)
Business Plng & Drft (JD 205)
Real Estate (JD 243)
Administrative Law (JD 250)

Experiential Learning Courses

Accounting for Lawyers
Counseling & Negotiations (JD-210)
Transactional Law (JD 149)

Other Related Courses

Banking Law
Securities Regulation
Conflicts of Law
Insurance Law
Sales Trans
Tax of Corporations

Other full-time faculty resources that teach courses above:

- Karen Cross, 7cross@jmls.edu
- Ronald Domskey, 7domsky@jmls.edu
- Stuart Ford, sford@jmls.edu
- Ardath Hamann, 7hamann@jmls.edu
- Cecil Hunt, 7hunt@jmls.edu
- Rogelio Lasso, 7lasso@jmls.edu
- Paul Lewis, 7lewis@jmls.edu
- Daryl Lim, daryllim@jmls.edu
- Ann Lousin, 7lousin@jmls.edu
- William Mock, 7mock@jmls.edu
- Mark Wojcik, mwojcik@jmls.edu

HOW TO GET STUDENTS TO ATTEND

- Faculty must have BUY-IN – then they will recommend attending to current students
- Post dates in the Academic Calendar of the School
- Hold Sessions during the 12-1:00 and 5-6:00 free class hours
- Don't post materials until after the Session
- Ask Career Services to recommend attending
- Have SBA class representatives recommend attending

ADDED BENEFITS

- Courses now have Session Cycles listed on the web to help students plan
- When students use the Academic Planner, I know how many sections to offer in a term
- Students like being able to access information at all hours
- Curriculum Committee reviewed all courses and found redundancies and holes needing to be filled

Questions??

**How does your school
handle academic advising?**