

Improving Advising at Truman: What, Why, How, When, and Who

Board of Governors Meeting

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Goals For This Talk

My goal is to answer the following questions:

- 1 What is advising?
- 2 Why are we focusing on advising?
- 3 How is Truman improving advising?
- 4 When will this work be done?
- 5 How will we know if it worked?
- 6 Who is working on this?

What Is Advising?

- All Truman students are paired with an advisor, who helps them choose classes, pick a major, and set goals.
- Advising is forming a bond with students that enables them to set a course to successfully complete their degree in four years.
- Advising allows Truman to check in on students and promote emotional and academic growth.
- **Truman's official definition:** “Advising empowers the Truman student community . . . to take ownership of their future by setting and achieving holistic, individualized goals both during their time at Truman and after graduation.”

Why Are We Focusing on Advising?

- *Enrollment*: Advising affects student retention.
- *Student Satisfaction*: Slightly declining student satisfaction with advising at Truman (based on NSSE scores).
- *Student Experience*: Advising reflects the quality of the student experience.

How Is Truman Improving Advising?

1. Increasing Importance and Visibility

- 1 Inclusion in 2021-2025 Strategic Plan
- 2 Selection as HLC Quality Initiative
- 3 Creation of Kirk Building Student Success Center
- 4 Addition to Tenure & Promotion

How Is Truman Improving Advising?

2. Implementing Strategies

Through the [HLC Quality Initiative](#), we're accomplishing the following:

- Developing specific outcomes for advising
- Communicating expectations to students and advisors
- Training advisors on best practices
- Compiling resources in an advising handbook

How Is Truman Improving Advising?

3. Ensuring Continuous Improvement

- Annually measuring how students feel about advising
- Truman Advising Survey
- National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)

When Will This Be Done?

- 1 HLC:
 - 1 Much has already been done (see timeline: <https://advising.truman.edu/timeline/>)
 - 2 HLC final report due June 2024
- 2 Strategic plan
 - 1 Concludes in 2025
 - 2 Kirk Building Student Success Center opens January 2025
- 3 *We'll always monitor advising quality.*

How Will We Know If It Worked?

- Annual monitoring of Truman Advising Survey scores, NSSE scores.

Who Is Working on This?

- Since 2019, 51 faculty, staff, administrators, and students from across the university have participated in the HLC Quality Initiative (full list here: <https://advising.truman.edu/people/>)

Conclusion

- These slides are available at vieker.sites.truman.edu/talks
- I'm reachable at vieker@truman.edu
- Thank you for your time!