



Virginia Highlands Community College

Academic Advising Mission Statement

At VHCC, we are committed to providing our students with an advising experience that will strengthen the relationship between the student and the VHCC community. Effective advising will enable students to achieve their educational and career goals. To assist students in meeting their goals, VHCC counselors and academic advisors have adopted the developmental model of advising. This model of advising seeks to integrate the student's personal needs, academic requirements, and career goals.

Goal: VHCC counselors and academic advisors want to empower students so they can understand and take control of their education and career goals. We will encourage our students to become involved with campus life to enhance their collegiate experience.

To achieve this goal, counselors and advisors will:

- Provide a mentoring role in the advisee's transition from college entry to the declaration of a chosen academic program to graduation
- Guide the student in choosing classes that will meet the academic requirements of his/her degree
- Provide accurate and timely information tailored to the needs of the individual student's academic and career goals
- Teach the student the most effective way of reading the college catalog
- Provide information about all academic deadlines
- Advise students on the importance of placement testing and encourage them to prepare for these tests prior to taking them

Expectations for advisors:

- Be friendly, caring, engaged, and sensitive to the needs of each individual advisee
- Have a thorough understanding of course offerings and degree requirements in their advising field
- Know when and where to send a student for additional support
- Provide undivided attention during each advising appointment
- Be aware of the diversity that exists among advisees
- Provide office hours for advising

Expectations for advisees:

- Review the college catalog
- Schedule and attend meetings with their academic advisor each semester
- Ask their advisor questions about curricula of interest
- Be aware of all academic deadlines
- Understand that the advisee's future is ultimately in his/her own hands

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Advisor Signature _____ Date _____