

CONTEXTUALISING ACADEMIC ADVISING

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CONTEXTUALIZATION PROCESS



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CONTEXTUALISATION PROCESS?

ACTION RESEARCH APPROACH

1. Professional practice
2. Critical reflection
(identify problem, or
evaluate changes)
3. Research
(systematic and rigorous
enquiry)
4. Strategic planning
(translate findings into
action plan)
5. Action
(instigate change)



Denscombe, 1998



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CORE QUESTIONS

Core question that informed the discussion document

- The establishment of a national understanding of **what is academic advising**;
- **What are practices informing academic advising** in the South African context; and
- What **training and development opportunities** exist to advance the field of academic advising?



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DEFINING ACADEMIC ADVISING

DEFINING ACADEMIC ADVISING – GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

- Academic advising synthesizes and contextualizes students educational experiences within the frameworks of their aspirations, abilities and lives to extend learning beyond campus boundaries and timeframes. (NACADA, 2006)



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WHAT IS ACADEMIC ADVISING?

TOWARDS A NATIONAL WORKING DEFINITION

Academic advising is an ongoing and intentional teaching and learning practice that empowers the student in their learning and development process to explore and align their personal, academic and career goals. As a shared responsibility between the advisor and advisee, advising aims to maximise student potential by facilitating conceptual understanding, sharing relevant information and developing a relationship focused on promoting academic success. The envisaged result is that students have a meaningful academic experience while in higher education and feel a sense of belonging to the institution.

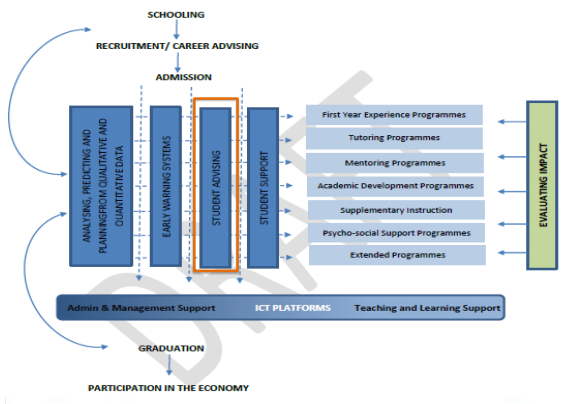
Siyaphumelela, 2017

POSITIONING AA IN RELATION TO OTHER STUDENT SUPPORT

The important factor for the success of an academic advising system is to establish a strong rapport between students and advisors, which facilitates an open discussion that is productive for identifying and solving problems.



Habley (1992) refers to academic advising as the 'hub of the wheel' and not just one of the various isolated services provided for students. Academic advisors provide students with the needed connection to the various campus services and supply the essential academic connection between these services and the students



THE WORK STREAM IN ACTION

Common Practices:

- Registration – curriculum conversation
- Orientation
- Peer advising (i.e. tutors/mentors)
- Results (monitoring/tracking academic progress)
- Advising network and collaboration (i.e. referral)

As institutions we need to:

- Channel students effectively to increase effectiveness.
- Refine the definition and role.
- Professionalization of academic advisors.



COMMON PRACTICES: “ACADEMIC ADVISING”

Recent collaboration:



Next steps:

- Expand the link between IR and AA
- Professionalisation of academic advising training

THANK YOU



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