

UTCVM FACULTY - STUDENT ADVISING PROGRAM

An active relationship between student advisee and faculty advisor can help in many aspects of your veterinary school experience. Your faculty advisor is a contact person who may relate to the challenges of a professional degree, may offer advice as you are comfortable, and most importantly guide you to the appropriate people/resources when necessary. The advice you receive from your faculty advisor can support you as you determine, to help achieve your goals in your education and your professional aspirations.

As a reminder, this is not a mentorship program; therefore, the field of specialty of your advisor does not matter for a successful relationship. Mentorship is a relationship that naturally develops over time between people with agreeing interests and personalities (not a relationship we can assign). If your assigned advisor is outside your area of interest, this is not a disadvantage. Your advisor can help you find the appropriate people/resources if needed. We appreciate that some advisors develop into mentors, but this happens more commonly outside our program.

The faculty and students of the UTCVM can both benefit from an active advising process. By working together, with common goals and expectations, we can all help ensure that our Advising Program is a continuing success.

As such, it is important that students and faculty share responsibilities for the Advising Program to be successful.

Student Advisee Role:

- Take initiative in contacting your advisor. In your first year, you and your advisor are required to meet at least once a semester. You are encouraged to continue meeting at least once a semester after your first year as well.
- Thoughtfully consider your academic and professional goals and discuss these with your advisor. Share your interests and career plans with your advisor.
- Reflect on and discuss your experience at the UTCVM with your advisor.
- Be willing to ask questions whenever you need information. Be willing to seek advice regarding concerns you may have or difficulties you may encounter.
- Consider the resources your advisor provides.
- Take pride in and accept responsibility for your academic progress. Prepare to discuss your progress and study habits with your advisor. Your advisor will receive a performance letter for you after each semester. If there are concerns for academic performance, your advisor would be part of an academic progress review if one is necessary.
- Inform your advisor or the Dean's Office immediately whenever a serious problem (medical, financial, personal) disrupts your ability to attend classes or interferes with your ability to focus on your education.

Faculty Advisor Role:

- Take initiative in contacting your advisee. In your advisee's first year, you and your advisee are required to meet at least once a semester. You are encouraged to continue meeting at least once a semester after the first year as well.
- Get to know your advisee as an individual while respecting their right to privacy. Understand your advisee's interests, goals and career plans.
- Be willing to answer questions and serve as a guide. You are a resource for academic and professional advice. Offer assistance if there are difficulties in these areas.
- Guide your advisee to resources, tools, people and other sources of assistance. Suggest opportunities that may be of interest. Introduce your advisee to other people who may also help guide them.
- Refer your advisee to the appropriate support services if needed. Contact Dr. Kirk if you need assistance locating the appropriate resource.
- Be familiar with your advisee's academic progress and be prepared to discuss this with your advisee. You will receive a performance letter for your advisee after each semester. If there are concerns for academic performance, you would be part of the academic progress review if one is necessary.