

Tips for Advisors

WCU offers many ways to learn the responsibilities and resources for your advising duties. Your department should provide you with initial support during your first year of advising - this can come in the form of one-on-one mentoring, attending others' advising appointments, departmental meetings about advising, etc. Please familiarize yourselves with the structure of your degree programs as well as general education via the catalogs and some of the resources listed below.

Main Reasons Students Don't Graduate When They Hope to and How to Help

- 1. They don't achieve 120 credits (# is state-mandated) by their intended graduation date.**
Show them how MyWCU counts their credits for them, so that they can keep track.
- 2. They take interdisciplinary classes because they think those classes will count as discipline-specific general education classes.**
Show them the list of approved courses; point out to them that the DPR tracks this accurately, and they should check where their classes are categorized as soon as they register for those classes.
- 3. They do not take the proper culture cluster classes.**
Explain this policy to them and help them plan their culture cluster choices; urge them not to put off this requirement.
- 4. They do not take courses in the proper sequence.**
Use your program's four-year plan to identify the correct sequences; know the common bottlenecks or high-demand classes; show them where they can see a class's pre-reqs; help them prepare to take needed classes so that they don't need a class last-minute; explain to them their options if they are unable to schedule a needed class.