

Librarians **as** ***Academic Advisors***

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Introductions

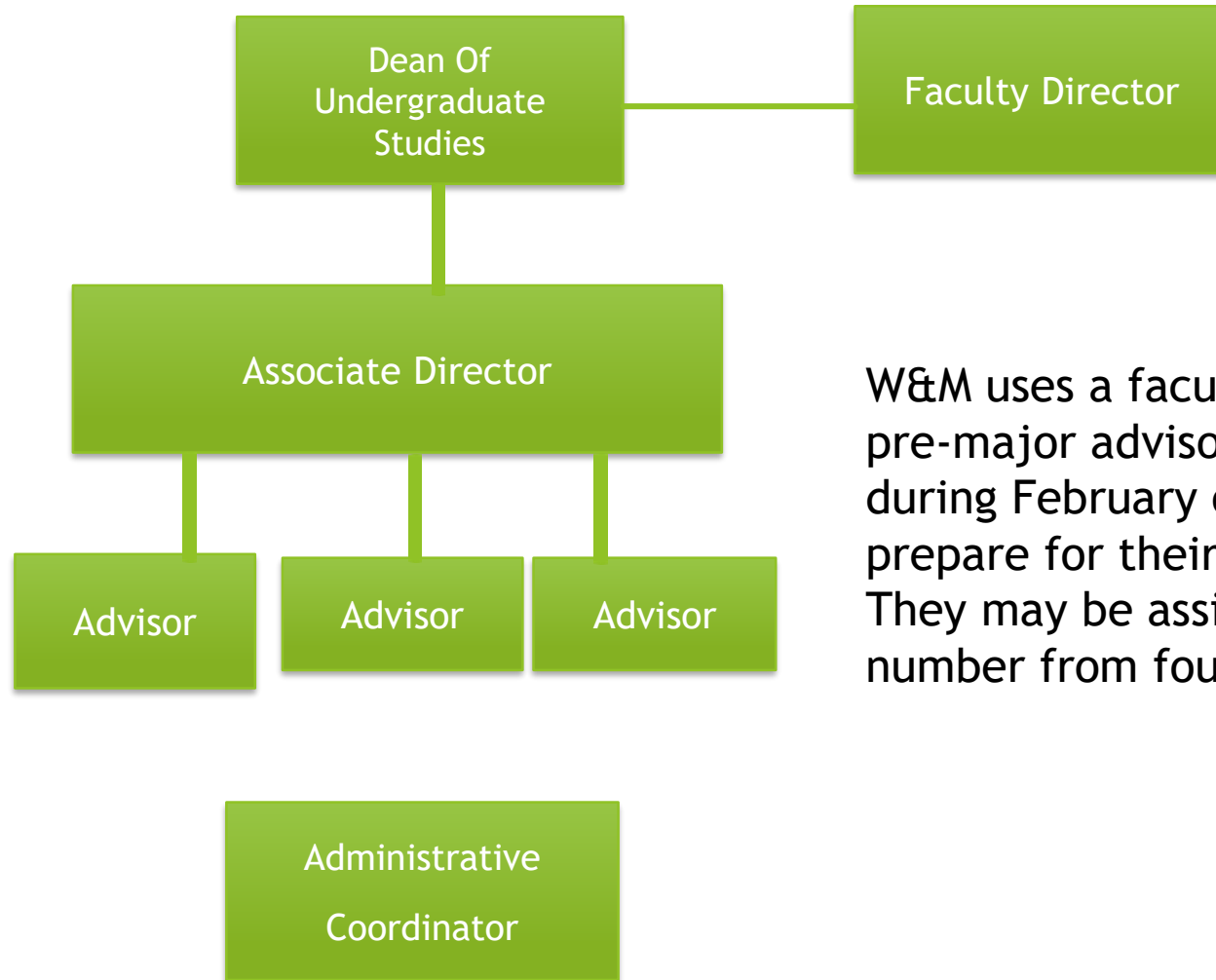
- ▶ Martha Higgins - Research Librarian - College of William & Mary for 9 years.
- ▶ Natasha McFarland- Research Librarian - after years in Bibliographic/Content Services.
- ▶ Gail Williams - Senior Academic Advisor & Peer Advising Program Coordinator.



Plenty of Questions that need Answers



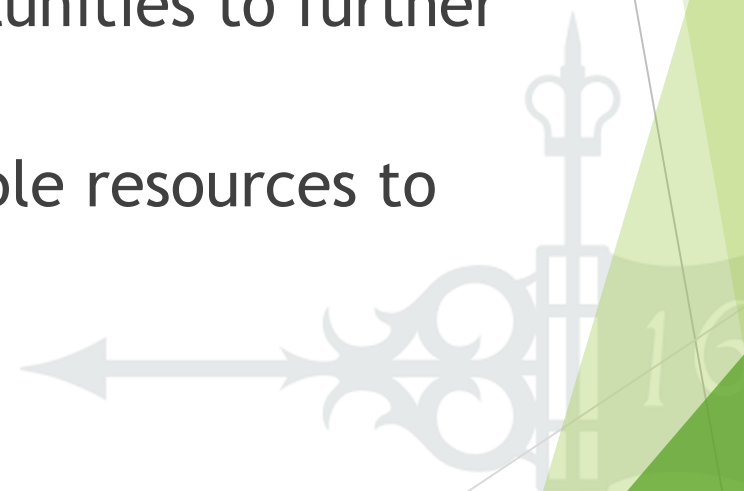
The Office of Academic Advising



W&M uses a faculty advising model; pre-major advisors are recruited during February of each year to prepare for their incoming advisees. They may be assigned a varying number from four up to 12 students.

What We Do

- ▶ Train Pre-Major Advisors for their role.
- ▶ Identify the tools at W&M to help Pre-Majors advisor's guide their advisee as they navigate their journey as undeclared students.
- ▶ Identify curricular and co-curricular opportunities to further students academic goals.
- ▶ Identify and connect students to all available resources to enhance their educational experience.



What makes for a good advisor?

Listener
Attentive
Professional
Realistic
Good
Approachable
Compassionate
Knowledgeable
Resourceful
Oriented
Encourager
Mentoring
Holistic
Positive
Friendly
Trustful
Involved

Advising Relationship With the Library

- ▶ The OAA office moved to Swem Library in 2013; a partnership was developed with the Library staff.
- ▶ Public Service Librarians were invited to join the ranks of Pre-Major Advisors.
- ▶ Five Research Librarians accepted the invitation.



Why Librarians as Pre-Major Advisors?

Librarians - Embedded

- ▶ All students who enter W&M must complete a set of Digital Information Literacy Modules that is part of a mandatory online course prior to orientation. Librarians played a major role in developing the content.
- ▶ Beginning with the social class of 2019, students are also required to complete the [College \(COLL\) Curriculum](#) that includes two courses that require students to do research.
- ▶ Librarians currently advise on literature and provide students with the tools needed to complete research assignments and projects.
- ▶ Means to develop early relationships with mutual respect and trust.

Digital Information Literacy Modules - Snap Shot

About College Studies

Getting Started

How to Use Blackboard

Syllabus

Part 1: Academic Planning & Advising

Course Content

Lesson 1: Welcome to a Liberal Arts Education

Lesson 2: Academic Advising at W&M

Lesson 3: Academic Planning

Lesson 4: Create Your Plan

Lesson 5: Test Drive Registration

Lesson 6: Resource Partners for Your Success

Part 2: The World of Information

Start Here

1. Welcome to the World of Information

2. The Nature of Information & Research

3. Some Ways of Thinking about Information

4. The Search for Information

5. The Evaluation of Information

6. The Ethical Use of Information

7. Assistance & More Resources

Information literacy: the ways in which ideas and information sources are located, evaluated, and cited. In teaching about information literacy it is appropriate to partner with Swem Library, so that students learn how best to use the library's resources to support their work in class, and to prepare them for future academic research in subsequent courses.

College (COLL 100) Curriculum

- ▶ COLL 100 courses are organized around “big ideas,” the significant questions and concepts, beliefs and creative visions, theories and discoveries that have shaped our understanding of the world. Students will gain a greater understanding of the discoveries, texts, and fundamental concepts of one or more academic disciplines. Interdisciplinary approaches are welcome in these courses.
- ▶ COLL 100 assignments encourage students to develop skills along a range of visual and aural forms of communication, which may include performative, visual, quantitative, oral, digital, and/or multi-media expression. **At least one major communication assignment should require a form of communication that does not rely primarily on writing (although writing might be involved in an early stage, such as developing a podcast script or a storyboard).**
- ▶ Construct and support an argument based on a variety of sources
- ▶ Communicate information effectively using media beyond the written word and into the realms of visual, quantitative, oral, digital, and/or multi-media expression
- ▶ Demonstrate Digital Literacy (these 4-credit courses fulfill the state-mandated digital information literacy requirement).

College (COLL 150) Curriculum

- ▶ COLL 150 courses delve into a focused subject, giving students an opportunity for in-depth analysis and interpretation.

COLL 150 assignments consist primarily of writing, with students producing a total of at least 6,000 words (24 pages). At least one major writing assignment should follow the conventions of scholarly writing in the discipline.

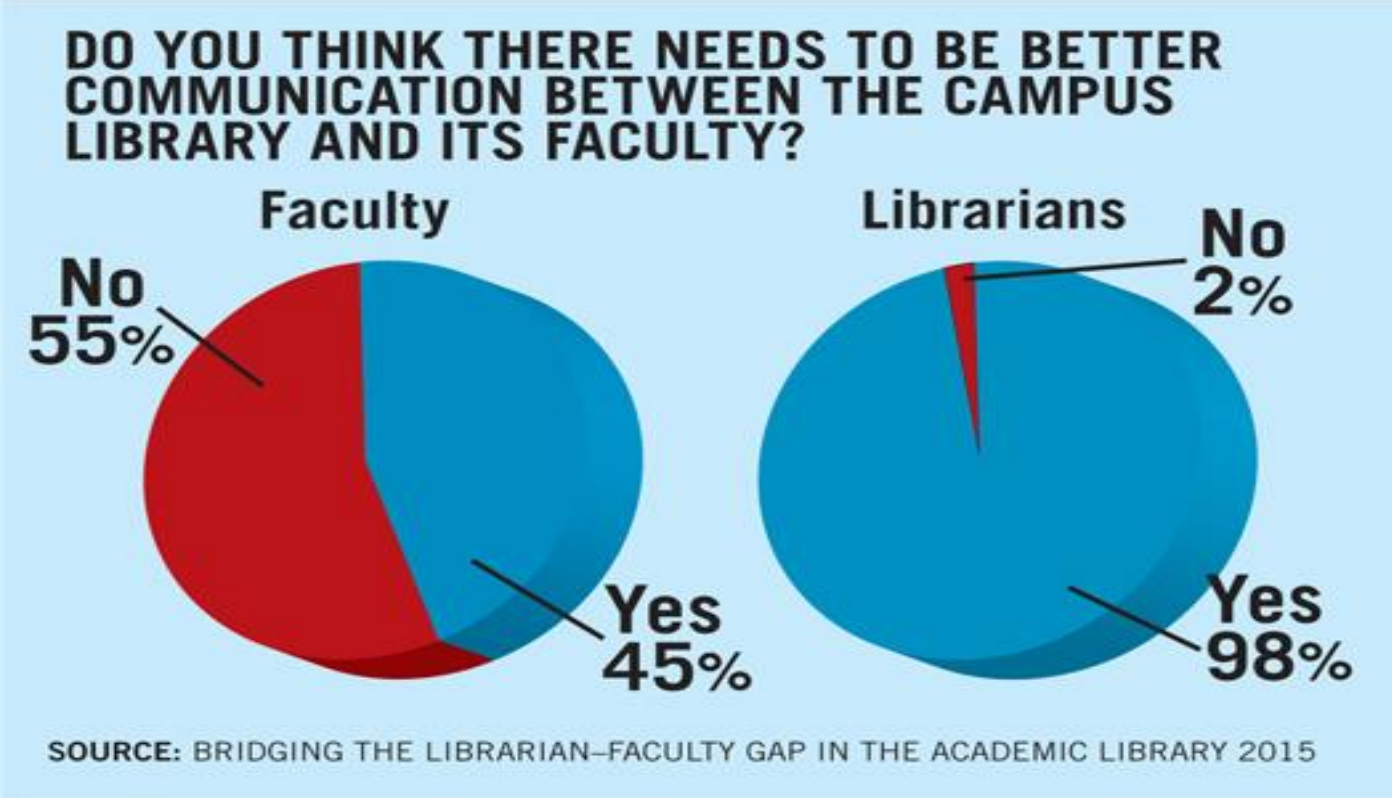
- ▶ For all types of writing assignments, it might be appropriate to consult with the Writing Resources Center to consider the assignment's design, evaluation, and available student support.

Librarians as Advisors

- **Librarians worked closely with faculty to ensure that both the student and faculty requirements are met for both the COLL 100 and COLL 150 Courses.**
- **Librarians became mentors to students they advised and students returned for the research assistance that they needed for coursework.**
- **Advising assists with Collection Development.**
- **Educational Policy Committee.**
- **Library Advisors get to know curriculum outside of their “subject areas”**
- **Outreach**

*Wiley (2015) wrote----
undeclared students and research novice have one thing in common.
They are both seeking answers.*

Librarians serving as advisors strengthens the relationships with teaching faculty.



Success of the Partnership

Quotes from advisees

“Thank you so much for everything you did for me during my first semester here at the college. I will definitely be in contact if I need help for research on a paper or if I just need some advice.”

“Thank you so much for the help on the paper! I ended up getting a 95 on it! I was able to turn my grades around this semester, ending up with a 3.76 for the semester. Thank you so much for all your support!”

“Thank you for helping me find a job in the library! As a freshman going into college, I would have nothing to put on my resume for the summer if it weren't for you. Thank you so much for everything you've done for me, so if you ever have time for a cup of coffee or try a new restaurant, please let me know!”

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Thanks!

QUESTIONS

COMMENTS

Evaluate this session



tinyurl.com/th2017vla