THE BENEFITS OF ADVISING
By Stephanie S. Marshall

When I was a college freshman, one of the first people I met was my academic adviser. I remember how nervous I was, uncertain of what path to take. My adviser not only assisted me with registering for classes, but also helped me decide on a major and create goals for the future. I graduated knowing that I wanted to work in a field where I was helping others achieve similar goals — and so I became an adviser. Advisement is an essential tool for success in college. Having a good understanding of the courses you take is a primary reason to be advised, but not the only one. Did you know an adviser can help with any difficulties you’re having in your classes? Did you know an adviser can create an academic plan from when you start college until you graduate? Did you know an adviser can assist your search for scholarships, internships and volunteer opportunities? An adviser can also help you:

- Select courses or change your schedule
- Choose a major if you are not declared or wish to change your major
- Find options for financing your education
- Identify support services, such as tutoring, study groups or academic skills workshops

Advisement and Registration
A student is usually required to see an adviser prior to registration. If you are a new student, you will be required to complete certain steps before being advised and registered. If you are a continuing student, it is recommended you make an appointment to see your adviser early in the semester. Advisers can be faculty, administrators or other staff who are usually available year round. Students also meet with an adviser to determine when they are eligible to graduate. When you are ready to meet with your adviser, here are some tips:

- Introduce yourself. Let your adviser know who you are and write down the name and contact information of your adviser.
- Be ready to talk and listen. The relationship with your adviser begins with a conversation. You should ask questions about your course requirements, instructors, majors, support services, student activities, financial aid, etc.
- Avoid distractions. Turn off your cell phone or music. Give your adviser your undivided attention and listen.
- Be prepared. Whether you are meeting your adviser for the first time or the last time before you graduate, you should come prepared. Review the steps for advisement and registration. Bring a list of your questions or concerns, and write down what you need to remember.

You should see your adviser every semester, even if you know which classes you want to take, because you want to be certain of the courses you’ll need to graduate in your major. Meeting with your adviser can also help to improve your communication and organizational skills. Check the availability of your adviser when scheduling your appointment and watch your BCC email for important updates regarding advisement and registration. Establishing a relationship with your adviser can help you succeed in college.

“What I know for sure is that transformation happens when you dare to be awakened to greater heights.”

- OPRAH WINFREY, talk show host, actress, producer, and philanthropist (b. 1954)