

# Pre-Advising Guide

Misconception – Advising is NOT about me telling you what courses to take next term.

Read the following so you have a useful advising session.

## **What is Major Level Advising?**

The faculty will help you select those upper division courses that lead towards your ultimate academic goal (job, concentration, degree). For example, faculty can assist you on when certain courses will be offered during this time of difficult budget restrictions. Faculty can discuss with you any problems or academic progress issues and make recommendations on how to best proceed. Thus, advising is not a passive event by you the student. You need to come prepared to get true value out of advising.

## **Semester by Semester Outline:**

Prepare a semester by semester list of all courses - out to your anticipated graduation. List all completed courses regardless of where the course was taken. When I was an undergraduate student, I prepared a series of tables that listed all my courses by semester and outlined any pre-requisite or co-requisite dependencies. Faculty cannot advise you on future work unless we can readily see your past work and understand your forecast for the future work. Include the CSUS equivalent course if the work was completed elsewhere. Read the University catalog and pay close attention to the pre/co-requisites!

## **Transcript:**

Bring an unofficial transcript (photocopies are great) to all advising sessions. Have the transcript(s) arranged by date and annotate these working copies to indicate the equivalent CSUS course.

## **Other Forms:**

Prior to seeking an advising session, prepare the Advising form and Graduation petition form available from the EEE Department website:

<http://www.ecs.csus.edu/eee/update08/forms.html>

If you show up unprepared, don't be surprised if I decline to advise you and send you away to get prepared.