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# **NSSE 2017 Topical Module Report**

## **Academic Advising**

The University of Texas at Arlington

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## About This Topical Module

This module examines students' experiences with academic advising, including frequency, accessibility, and types of information provided. It also asks students to identify their primary source of advice. The module complements a question on the core survey about the quality of students' interactions with academic advisors. Complementary FSSE set available.

### Comparison Group

This section summarizes how this module's comparison group was identified, including selection criteria and whether the default option was taken. This is followed by the resulting list of institutions represented in the 'Academic Advising' column of this report.

Group label	Academic Advising
Date submitted	5/10/17
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution customized this group by selecting institutional characteristics as follows: Basic Classification (Doc/Highest)
Group description	All other current- and prior-year NSSE institutions who administered module "Academic Advising" and share Carnegie Classification (Doc/Highest)

### Academic Advising (N=17)

Boston University (Boston, MA)\*  
 Clemson University (Clemson, SC)\*  
 Colorado State University (Fort Collins, CO)\*  
 Florida International University (Miami, FL)\*  
 Michigan State University (East Lansing, MI)\*  
 Ohio State University, The (Columbus, OH)\*  
 University at Albany, SUNY, The (Albany, NY)  
 University of Alabama at Birmingham (Birmingham, AL)\*  
 University of Arkansas (Fayetteville, AR)\*  
 University of Central Florida (Orlando, FL)  
 University of Houston (Houston, TX)  
 University of Illinois at Chicago (Chicago, IL)  
 University of Massachusetts Amherst (Amherst, MA)  
 University of Oregon (Eugene, OR)  
 University of Texas at Dallas, The (Richardson, TX)  
 University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (Milwaukee, WI)  
 Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond, VA)

## First-Year Students

1. During the current school year, about how many times have you and an academic advisor discussed your academic interests, course selections, or academic performance?

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>	
				UTA		Academic Advising		UTA	Academic Advising
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean
	ADV01	0	0	8	11	1,298	8	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.2 **</b> ▼
		1	1	31	38	4,016	24		
		2	2	24	30	5,377	33		
		3	3	12	12	3,118	20		
		4	4	4	5	1,263	8		
		5	5	1	2	415	3		
		6	6 or more	2	2	596	4		
			Total	82	100	16,083	100		

2. During the current school year, to what extent have your academic advisors done the following?

Item wording or description	name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>	
				UTA		Academic Advising		UTA	Academic
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean
a. Been available when needed	ADV02a	1	Very little	9	10	1,135	7	<b>2.8</b>	3.0
		2	Some	23	28	3,361	20		
		3	Quite a bit	24	29	5,841	36		
		4	Very much	22	28	4,836	31		
		—	Not applicable	4	6	933	6		
			Total	82	100	16,106	100		
b. Listened closely to your concerns and questions	ADV02b	1	Very little	9	9	1,132	7	<b>2.8</b>	3.0
		2	Some	21	26	3,254	19		
		3	Quite a bit	27	34	5,494	35		
		4	Very much	20	24	5,091	32		
		—	Not applicable	4	7	1,109	7		
			Total	81	100	16,080	100		
c. Informed you of important deadlines	ADV02c	1	Very little	16	17	1,885	12	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.8 *</b> ▼
		2	Some	22	29	3,629	22		
		3	Quite a bit	28	33	5,109	32		
		4	Very much	14	17	4,484	28		
		—	Not applicable	2	4	972	6		
			Total	82	100	16,079	100		
d. Helped you understand academic rules and policies	ADV02d	1	Very little	13	14	1,783	11	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.8 **</b> ▼
		2	Some	29	39	3,781	23		
		3	Quite a bit	23	26	5,126	32		
		4	Very much	15	17	4,129	26		
		—	Not applicable	2	4	1,250	8		
			Total	82	100	16,069	100		
e. Informed you of academic support options (tutoring, study groups, help with writing, etc.)	ADV02e	1	Very little	21	22	2,121	13	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.7 **</b> ▼
		2	Some	23	30	3,806	23		
		3	Quite a bit	17	20	4,877	31		
		4	Very much	15	19	3,971	25		
		—	Not applicable	6	9	1,307	8		
			Total	82	100	16,082	100		
f. Provided useful information about	ADV02f	1	Very little	13	15	1,668	10		

## First-Year Students

1. During the current school year, about how many times have you and an academic advisor discussed your academic interests, course selections, or academic performance?

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>	
				UTA		Academic Advising		UTA	Academic Advising
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean
courses		2	Some	29	38	3,537	22	<b>2.5</b>	2.9 ** ▼
		3	Quite a bit	19	22	5,274	33		
		4	Very much	17	20	4,698	30		
		—	Not applicable	4	6	884	6		
		Total		82	100	16,061	100		
g. Helped you when you had academic difficulties	ADV02g	1	Very little	19	20	2,344	14	<b>2.2</b>	2.6 ** ▼
		2	Some	26	32	3,463	21		
		3	Quite a bit	10	11	3,695	23		
		4	Very much	9	12	3,402	21		
		—	Not applicable	18	24	3,152	20		
Total		82	100	16,056	100				
h. Helped you get information on special opportunities (study abroad, internships, research projects, etc.)	ADV02h	1	Very little	29	34	2,711	17	<b>2.2</b>	2.6 ** ▼
		2	Some	16	19	3,704	23		
		3	Quite a bit	12	13	3,873	24		
		4	Very much	12	17	3,205	20		
		—	Not applicable	13	17	2,554	17		
Total		82	100	16,047	100				
i. Discussed your career interests and post-graduation plans	ADV02i	1	Very little	33	40	3,198	19	<b>1.9</b>	2.5 *** ▼
		2	Some	17	18	3,900	24		
		3	Quite a bit	16	19	3,633	23		
		4	Very much	6	8	3,270	21		
		—	Not applicable	10	15	2,016	13		
Total		82	100	16,017	100				

3. During the current school year, how often have your academic advisors reached out to you about your academic progress or performance?

				Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>	
				UTA		Academic Advising		UTA	Academic
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean
ADV04_15		1	Never	51	61	6,095	38	<b>1.4</b>	1.9 *** ▼
		2	Sometimes	27	35	6,125	38		
		3	Often	4	5	2,746	17		
		4	Very often	0	0	1,068	7		
		Total		82	100	16,034	100		

4. During the current school year, which of the following has been your primary source of advice regarding your academic plans? (Select one.)

ADV03	—	Academic advisor(s) assigned to you	26	31	6,081	38	
		Academic advisor(s) available to faculty or staff not formally	9	10	1,577	11	
		Online advising system (e.g., Canvas LMS)	2	2	943	6	
		Website, catalog, or other published sources	8	11	631	4	
		Friends or other students	5	7	880	6	
		Friends or other students	14	17	2,549	15	

## First-Year Students

1. During the current school year, about how many times have you and an academic advisor discussed your academic interests, course selections, or academic performance?

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>	
				UTA		Academic Advising		UTA	Academic Advising
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean
		—	Family members	14	17	2,431	15		
		—	Other, please specify:	3	4	334	2		
		—	I did not seek academic advice this year	1	2	636	4		
			Total	82	100	16,062	100		

## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>	
				UTA		Academic Advising		UTA	Academic Advising
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean
<b>1. During the current school year, about how many times have you and an academic advisor discussed your academic interests, course selections, or academic performance?</b>									
	ADV01	0	0	94	24	3,063	14	<b>1.8</b>	2.1 *** ▼
		1	1	106	27	5,939	27		
		2	2	97	25	6,023	28		
		3	3	43	11	3,114	14		
		4	4	19	5	1,579	8		
		5	5	6	2	657	3		
		6	6 or more	25	6	1,499	7		
			Total	390	100	21,874	100		
<b>2. During the current school year, to what extent have your academic advisors done the following?</b>									
a. Been available when needed	ADV02a	1	Very little	40	10	2,310	11	<b>2.9</b>	2.9
		2	Some	77	20	4,835	21		
		3	Quite a bit	112	28	6,819	31		
		4	Very much	126	32	6,483	31		
		—	Not applicable	38	10	1,456	6		
			Total	393	100	21,903	100		
b. Listened closely to your concerns and questions	ADV02b	1	Very little	44	12	2,300	10	<b>2.9</b>	2.9
		2	Some	75	20	4,646	20		
		3	Quite a bit	96	24	6,494	30		
		4	Very much	120	31	6,636	32		
		—	Not applicable	57	14	1,814	8		
			Total	392	100	21,890	100		
c. Informed you of important deadlines	ADV02c	1	Very little	60	16	3,677	16	<b>2.8</b>	2.7
		2	Some	70	19	4,844	21		
		3	Quite a bit	102	26	5,818	27		
		4	Very much	120	30	5,927	29		
		—	Not applicable	38	10	1,618	7		
			Total	390	100	21,884	100		
d. Helped you understand academic rules and policies	ADV02d	1	Very little	67	17	3,726	17	<b>2.7</b>	2.6
		2	Some	75	20	5,088	23		
		3	Quite a bit	81	20	5,351	25		
		4	Very much	111	28	5,143	24		
		—	Not applicable	57	14	2,544	11		
			Total	391	100	21,852	100		
e. Informed you of academic support options (tutoring, study groups, help with writing, etc.)	ADV02e	1	Very little	104	26	5,378	25	<b>2.4</b>	2.3
		2	Some	70	18	5,093	23		
		3	Quite a bit	68	17	4,192	19		
		4	Very much	78	20	3,899	18		
		—	Not applicable	74	18	3,296	15		
			Total	394	100	21,858	100		
f. Provided useful information about courses	ADV02f	1	Very little	74	19	3,934	18	<b>2.6</b>	2.6
		2	Some	86	23	5,055	23		
		3	Quite a bit	90	22	5,701	26		
		4	Very much	101	26	5,316	25		
		—	Not applicable	41	10	1,851	8		
			Total	392	100	21,857	100		
g. Helped you when you had academic difficulties	ADV02g	1	Very little	96	25	4,517	21	<b>2.3</b>	2.5
		2	Some	59	15	4,124	18		
		3	Quite a bit	57	14	3,927	18		
		4	Very much	69	18	4,172	19		
			Total	281	72	14,740	72		

## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>	
				UTA		Academic Advising		UTA	Academic Advising
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean
		—	Not applicable	110	28	5,111	24		
			Total	391	100	21,851	100		
h. Helped you get information on special opportunities (study abroad, internships, research projects, etc.)	ADV02h	1	Very little	107	27	5,234	25	<b>2.1</b>	2.4 *** ▼
		2	Some	45	12	4,356	19		
		3	Quite a bit	42	11	4,083	18		
		4	Very much	49	13	4,130	19		
		—	Not applicable	147	37	4,038	19		
			Total	390	100	21,841	100		
i. Discussed your career interests and post-graduation plans	ADV02i	1	Very little	138	36	5,653	27	<b>2.0</b>	2.4 *** ▼
		2	Some	53	13	4,917	22		
		3	Quite a bit	47	12	4,172	19		
		4	Very much	45	12	4,487	20		
		—	Not applicable	107	27	2,571	12		
			Total	390	100	21,800	100		
<b>3. During the current school year, how often have your academic advisors reached out to you about your academic progress or performance?</b>									
	ADV04	1	Never	183	47	11,092	51	<b>1.8</b>	1.7
	_15	2	Sometimes	131	34	6,870	32		
		3	Often	43	11	2,748	12		
		4	Very often	29	7	1,115	5		
			Total	386	100	21,825	100		
<b>4. During the current school year, which of the following has been your primary source of advice regarding your academic plans? (Select one.)</b>									
	ADV03	—	Academic advisor(s) assigned to you	124	31	6,306	30		
		—	Academic advisor(s) available to any student	48	13	2,339	10		
		—	Faculty or staff not formally assigned as an advisor	36	9	3,116	14		
		—	Online advising system (degree progress report, etc.)	52	13	1,885	9		
		—	Website, catalog, or other published sources	27	7	1,379	6		
		—	Friends or other students	37	9	3,117	14		
		—	Family members	18	5	1,866	8		
		—	Other, please specify:	10	3	587	3		
		—	I did not seek academic advice this year	36	10	1,241	6		
			Total	388	100	21,836	100		



### First-Year Students

Variable name	N		Mean		Standard error <sup>f</sup>		Standard deviation <sup>e</sup>		DF <sup>h</sup>	Sig. <sup>i</sup>
	UTA	Academic Advising	UTA	Academic Advising	UTA	Academic Advising	Academic Advising			
	<i>Comparisons with:</i>									
ADV01	78	2.22	1.75	.14	.02	1.25	1.40	3,609	.004	
ADV02a	74	2.96	2.80	.11	.02	0.99	0.92	3,403	.133	
ADV02b	72	3.00	2.79	.11	.02	0.94	0.92	3,352	.057	
ADV02c	75	2.82	2.53	.11	.02	0.98	1.00	3,382	.014	
ADV02d	75	2.81	2.48	.11	.02	0.95	0.98	3,319	.004	
ADV02e	71	2.75	2.39	.13	.02	1.08	1.01	3,312	.004	
ADV02f	74	2.87	2.50	.12	.02	1.00	0.98	3,397	.002	
ADV02g	60	2.65	2.21	.13	.02	1.02	1.06	2,862	.002	
ADV02h	65	2.57	2.17	.15	.02	1.18	1.06	3,007	.003	
ADV02i	67	2.51	1.93	.13	.02	1.03	1.08	3,129	.000	
ADV04_15	78	1.94	1.44	.07	.02	0.59	0.91	86	.000	

## Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error <sup>f</sup>		Standard deviation <sup>g</sup>		DF <sup>h</sup>	Sig. <sup>i</sup>
		UTA	Academic Advising	UTA	Academic Advising	UTA	Academic Advising		
ADV01	390	1.76	2.11	.08	.01	1.63	1.61	12,010	.000
ADV02a	354	2.90	2.87	.05	.01	1.02	1.00	11,268	.560
ADV02b	336	2.86	2.90	.06	.01	1.05	1.00	354	.513
ADV02c	351	2.78	2.73	.06	.01	1.09	1.08	11,185	.386
ADV02d	335	2.69	2.64	.06	.01	1.13	1.08	354	.410
ADV02e	321	2.38	2.35	.07	.01	1.17	1.11	339	.683
ADV02f	351	2.61	2.62	.06	.01	1.11	1.09	11,020	.792
ADV02g	281	2.34	2.46	.07	.01	1.18	1.14	9,080	.105
ADV02h	245	2.14	2.39	.08	.01	1.18	1.14	9,665	.001
ADV02i	284	2.00	2.37	.07	.01	1.14	1.14	10,505	.000
ADV04_15	386	1.79	1.71	.05	.01	0.91	0.87	11,980	.107

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## Endnotes

- a. Column percentages are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. Counts are unweighted; column percentages cannot be replicated from counts.
- b. All statistics are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Unless otherwise noted, statistical comparisons are two-tailed independent *t*-tests. Items with categorical response sets are left blank.
- c. These are the values used to calculate means. For the majority of items, these values match the codes in the data file and codebook.
- d. Effect size for independent *t*-tests uses Cohen's *d*; *z*-tests use Cohen's *h*.
- e. Statistics are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Categorical items are not listed.
- f. The 95% confidence interval for the population mean is equal to the sample mean plus or minus 1.96 times the standard error of the mean.
- g. A measure of the amount individual scores deviate from the mean of all the scores in the distribution.
- h. Degrees of freedom used to compute the *t*-tests. Values differ from *N*s due to weighting and whether equal variances were assumed.
- i. Statistical comparisons are two-tailed independent *t*-tests or *z*-tests. Statistical significance represents the probability that the difference between your students' mean and that of the students in the comparison group is due to chance.
- j. Statistical comparison uses *z*-test to compare the proportion who responded (depending on the item) "Done or in progress" or "Yes" with all who responded otherwise.
- k. Mean represents the proportion who responded (depending on the item) "Done or in progress" or "Yes."

### **Key to symbols:**

- ▲ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.
- ▲ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- ▼ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- ▼ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.

Note: It is important to interpret the direction of differences relative to item wording and your institutional context.