

UW PHARM D STUDENT ADVISING

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What are the defining qualities of the new UW PharmD advising model?

UW PharmD Student Advising provides support to PharmD students across all dimensions of their experience, including academic success, professional growth, and personal well-being. The system takes a coordinated, team-based approach. Under the direction of the Director of Advising and Student Success, staff advisors and faculty support members provide holistic, personalized guidance to students, referring to UW and community resources as needed. An “early detection” approach will be taken to address challenges before they escalate (see “early detection” below).

What’s the primary role of the Director of Advising and Student Success?

The Director of Advising and Student Success oversees the ongoing development and implementation of the advising system, coordinates and facilitates regular advisor trainings, interfaces with UW and community resources, develops and implements programs and processes supporting student success, provides direct advising to PharmD students, and collaborates closely with the Chair of the Progress Committee. The Director will also be responsible for a number of “specialty” topics such as conflict-of-interest mitigation plans, student crisis management, and international student advising.

What does “early detection” look like?

A proactive advisor check-in system allows for early detection of student difficulties, ranging from personal issues to academic struggles. Identifying an issue early provides the opportunity to develop solutions and strategies before the issues become more serious or consequential. This proactive approach signals our commitment to student success and well-being. Moreover, the advisor check-in system complements the Student Progress policy, in which instructional faculty are asked to inform the Director of Advising when they first identify problems in academic performance. We will ask that faculty also inform the Director of Advising when they observe signs of student physical or behavioral health issues.

How are advisor assignments made?

When students join the program, they are assigned an Advisor who serves as the “point person” for any question pertaining to their experience as a student. This Advisor is a staff member whose position includes a dedicated focus on direct student advising. Students know they can contact their assigned Advisor regarding any school-related topic, from the most straightforward to the most complex (see Student Triage in Fig. 1 and Advising Topics below).

The Director of Advising and Student Success will provide direct advising to approximately 200 students, while staff Advisors will be matched with a subgroup of 10-15 students from each class year. Assignments will be made randomly. Student requests to change Advisor assignments will be considered.

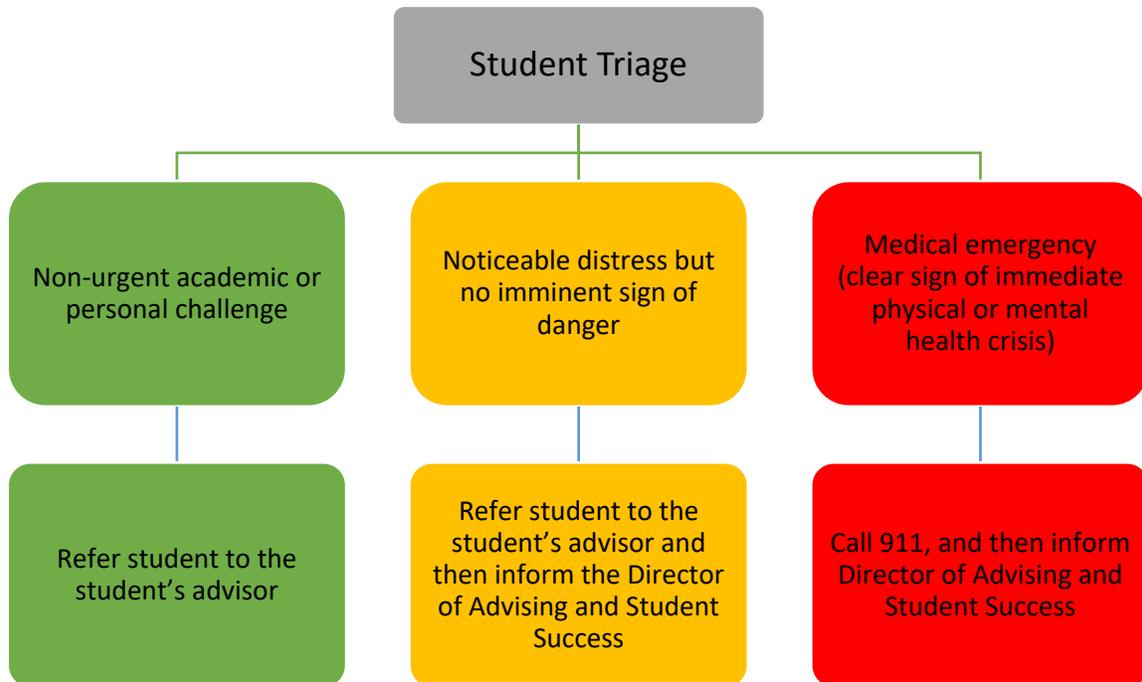


Figure 1 - Student Triage

How do PharmD faculty and preceptors refer students to an advisor?

We ask that PharmD faculty and preceptors encourage students who appear to be struggling – academically or personally – to meet with their advisor. Students will know who their assigned advisor is. Rotation-related concerns and questions – such as requests for accommodations due to illness or absence – will continue to be the responsibility of the preceptor(s).

What should PharmD faculty and preceptors do if a student is in distress but not in immediate danger?

If a student is in distress but not immediate danger, PharmD faculty and preceptors are asked to refer the student to the student’s advisor and then inform the Director of Advising and Student Success, who will then manage the necessary communications and protocols and let the faculty member know what steps were taken. The Director of Advising and Student Success will be able to make direct contact with a licensed mental health care provider, who will assist in assessing the situation and suggest a course of action.

What should PharmD faculty and preceptors do in case of a medical emergency?

If a student is experiencing a medical emergency (be it physical or mental health-related), PharmD faculty or preceptors who are present during a medical emergency (be it physical or mental health-related) are asked to call 911 immediately. Escorting a student personally to the UW Medical Center Emergency Department or other locations is not recommended. After calling 911, the PharmD faculty member or preceptor should inform the Director of Advising and Student Success, who will then manage the subsequent communications and protocols.

What resources are available to support students who are experiencing mental health challenges?

As an organization, the School of Pharmacy relies on a number of UW and community resources designed to support students who are experiencing mental health challenges. Examples include the Counseling Center, Hall Health, SafeCampus, and Crisis Connections. The advising system has been developed to ensure we refer students to the most appropriate resource as quickly as possible. The scope of the Advisor role does not include any form of direct mental health counseling, which needs to be done by professionals who have the appropriate qualifications, training, and licensing. The Advisors' role in providing guidance and support is to assess the nature and severity of the problem(s), engage others across the relevant staff and faculty groups, and make referrals to UW or community resources mentioned above. The advising staff and PharmD faculty will receive training on how best to read the behavioral signs that inform an accurate assessment of the situation.

What advising topics will be addressed?

Academic Advising

- Registration
- Elective options
- Certificates and Curricular Enhancements
- Academic Progress – in collaboration with faculty and Progress Committee
- Concurrent degree programs
- Study resources
- Grading – refer to individual course instructors
- Dean's List and APPE Dean's List
- Letters of recommendation – refer to faculty
- Wednesdays in Practice (WIP)
- Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPE)
- Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE)
- Professional Development
- Graduation awards
- Graduation applications
- Grievances
- Misconduct issues

General Advising

- On-boarding
- Student Financial Assistance

- Washington State Residency
- GI Bill benefits
- International Students
- Enrollment verification
- Intern Pharmacist Registration
- Intern positions
- Notary Services
- Career development support

Career and Professional Development

- Career pathway discernment
- Interview preparation
- CV/Resume preparation
- Professional networking

Health and Well-being

- Emergency Triage
- Health Insurance
- UW Health and Behavioral Health resources
- Referral to Counseling
- Washington Recovery Assistance Program for Pharmacy - WRAPP (substance use and/or behavioral health recovery assistance program approved by PQAC)
- Disability Resources for Students
- Student in need of legal counsel

Who can I contact if I have additional questions about UW PharmD Advising?

Please contact Andrew Brusletten, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, at 206 543 5818 or abruslet@uw.edu.