Greetings Firebirds!

My name is Sharleeta Dunlap and I am the Administrative Assistant to the Director, Office of Academic Advising and Retention. I enjoy working in higher education because it gives me an opportunity to help students. Welcome!

IMPORTANT DATES

Continuing Student Advisement & Registration for Spring 2015  Nov. 3-Dec. 10

Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty  Nov. 7

Last Day of Classes  Dec. 10

Fall Semester Ends  Dec. 19

My Fellow UDC Firebirds,

On behalf of the Academic Advising & Academic Support Centers, I am delighted to welcome you to the University of the District of Columbia. According to Greek mythology, people sought the aid of the oracle for advice and support. This newsletter will serve as your oracle and resource guide offering you advice, support and information. Our goal is to ensure the academic success of freshmen, sophomores, and transitioning transfer students by assisting with educational planning and decision-making consistent with your personal interests, values, and goals. We understand that college is a time of tremendous growth and adjustment, and we encourage you to take advantage of the many programs and opportunities offered by the University.

Through individual and group meetings with your assigned academic advisor, you will receive assistance in doing the following:

- Learning curriculum requirements for your degree;
- Mastering UDC’s student information systems (myUDC and Blackboard);
- Becoming familiar with academic policies and procedures;
- Participating in academic support services and campus activities; and,
- Understanding that challenging academic work is a means of achieving personal and professional goals as well as impacting the community.

The University considers the partnership between you and your academic advisor to be a primary means for your academic success. Therefore, UDC expects you to interact regularly with your academic advisor regarding your progress. At UDC, we take student success seriously!

If you have questions, please visit the Academic Advising Center in Building 39, Room 109, or call 202-274-6899. Please visit the Academic Support Center Building 32, Room B01-03, or call 202-274-5938. We are always happy to address your concerns.

Timothy L. Hatchett, MPA

Director, Office of Academic Advising & Retention
202-274-5102; Timothy.hatchett@udc.edu
Erin Wilkerson, Academic Advisor

Majors/Athletics

- Education
- English
- Graphic Design
- Human Development
- Mass Media
- Social Work
- Studio Art
- UDC-CC Transition
- Non-Degree A-H
- Track & Field/Cross Country/Women’s Lacrosse/Women’s Basketball

Tesfaye Yehualashet, Academic Advisor

Majors/Athletics

- Architecture
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Science
- Electrical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Psychology
- Men’s Soccer
- Information Technology
- *International Students

Christopher Daniels, Academic Advisor

Majors/Athletics

- Administration of Justice
- Biology
- Chemistry & Physics
- Environmental Science
- Health Education
- Mathematics
- Nutrition
- Political Science & History
- Sociology/Anthropology
- Non-Degree 1-Z
- Men’s Lacrosse/Men’s Basketball
Hello fellow FIREBIRDS! My name is Kimberly Crews and I am the Coordinator of the Academic Support Center and an adjunct professor. I was born in Seattle, Washington but, I have lived in Maryland for most of my life. I received my bachelor’s degree in Secondary Education from the University of New Mexico and my masters in Demography from Georgetown University. I am completing my doctorate in Higher Education and Adult Learning from Walden University. I have worked in the non-profit sector and for the federal government on programs designed to help teachers and students understand how to use population data and statistics in their classrooms. Teaching at UDC helps me better understand the other supports that students need to be successful. It is thrilling for me to help students clarify their academic and personal goals, learn the skills needed to improve their academic performance, and help them design an academic plan to help them achieve their goals.

Greetings, Firebirds! My name is Deborah A. Dessaso, and I co-manage the Academic Support Center in the Office of Academic Advising. I am a native Washingtonian and a UDC alumnus, having received my Master’s Degree in English Composition and Rhetoric in 1997. I began working at UDC in 2003 as an adjunct English Professor and became a full-time staff member in 2004 where, in addition to my primary work in what was then the Writing Center, I also taught developmental English and composition courses. Today, on occasion, I teach Foundation Writing and Discovery Writing courses. I look forward each day to the challenge of tutoring UDC students through their rigorous writing assignments.
What is Academic Advising

Benefits of Academic Advising

⇒ Get assistance in selecting courses to meet your academic career goals
⇒ Learn about various majors and minors
⇒ Get assistance in goal setting and exploration
⇒ Make sure you are on track to graduate
⇒ Receive help with developing strategies to improve academic performance
⇒ Get questions answered about polices and procedures
⇒ Obtain referrals and advice about campus resources

How often to see an Academic Advisor

⇒ You should see an academic advisor at UDC 3 times a semester. There may be times when you are feeling confused or overwhelmed or generally unclear about what you are supposed to be doing.

WE ARE HAPPY TO HELP!

What to do when you meet with your advisor

Preparing for an appointment

⇒ Bring your list of questions
⇒ Notify us by email or phone call at least 24 hours in advance if you can no attend a scheduled appointment– we want to be able to help as many students as possible.
⇒ BE ON TIME!

During the appointment

⇒ Share your goals and educational priorities
⇒ Provide your advisor with accurate information about your interest and abilities
⇒ Ask questions if you don’t understand something or need clarification

After the appointment

⇒ Follow up on recommendations
⇒ Organize and retain all records and documents

Sample Questions to ask an Academic Advisor

• Can you help me plan possible majors or minors that will complete my interest?
• Where do I stand in meeting my degree requirements?
• What do you think about this tentative course schedule?
Do you need $100.00?

The Office of Academic Advising is giving away four $100.00 book vouchers. All you have to do is meet with your advisor three times during the semester, visit the academic support center, and stop by to meet the new Director of Academic Advising and Retention all by November 30, 2014.

· Have you met your advisor three times?
· Have you completed your Academic Plan?
· Do you need Academic Assistance?
· Are you a Firebird on the RISE?

Visit the Academic Advising Center, Building 39, Room 109
Email Us: aac@udc.edu, Office Phone: 202-274-6899

A Firebird on the RISE!

1. __________________________Advisor Date: __________
2. __________________________Advisor Date: __________
3. __________________________Advisor Date: __________
4. __________________________Support Ctr. Date: __________
5. __________________________Director Date: __________

Form Due 11/30/2014