

Advising Student Organizations

What is an Advisor?

An advisor works with a student organization taking on roles and responsibilities including, role model, guide, resource, counselor, and more. Each advisor has his or her own style of advising. Styles develop through relationships built as advisors work with students individually, as executive boards, and as a group. The advisor role helps with the growth and development of students as they work through organizational purpose, structure, and programming. In this process advisors share insight, provide ideas, offer an objective perspective, and counsel students. They also are knowledgeable of the institutions policies and procedures, looking out for how they may impact the organization. As students graduate, advisors provide continuity as they are able to provide organization history, legacy, and goals to newer and future members.

Why Organizations need an Advisor:

Advisors help provide guidance, insight, and perspective to students as they develop and see through projects. While advisors should not be doing the work for their students, they should facilitate learning through student engagement.

Benefits of Advising

There are many benefits associated with advising a student organization. Some include:

- Satisfaction of seeing and helping students learn and develop new skills
- Watching a group come together to share common interests, work toward common goals, and develop an understanding of differences
- Developing a personal relationship with students
- Becoming more aware of the services that UWM provides students and organizations
- Furthering personal goals or interests by working with an organization that reflects or shares your personal interests
- Sharing one's knowledge with others