

Judith C. Brewer

460 Main St.

Stasio Hall

Saco, ME 04072

judibrewer8@gmail.com

207.590.0690 (Cell)



Objective:

Advising is a way to help students reach their academic potential. Each student has a different journey, and there is no right or wrong path to take. Similarly, each encounter with a student is different and building a trusting relationship is vital to the advising process. Students must feel comfortable coming to their advisor with any issue, concern or celebration they may be experiencing.

There are multiple ways to utilize my advising approach to build a trusting relationship. For one, I have set up my office to be warm and inviting - instead of using overhead lights, I use lamps and twinkle lights to bring warmth into the space. I have pictures of things I like and of my family and friends. When I talk with students I face them instead of sitting sideways or with them to my back. I share my own experiences when appropriate so they know that they are not alone. I create an atmosphere where students feel at ease coming to me to ask questions and know that I will be open and honest with them in return.

So often students are influenced by society and or family members on what they should select for a major. Another way I build trust is that I work with students to find out what their interests are and what they want to do for a career, often suggesting courses in another degree program to see if there is an interest for them and letting them know that it is ok to take a different path.

I may give suggestions and options but ultimately, it is up to the student to decide what path they want to take on their journey.

By including a Masters in Counseling with a Mental Health concentration I believe that I will be better equipped to help students.

Research Interests:

Transition to college from high school
College search process

Education:

MS in Adult and Higher Education, May 2017 - University of Southern Maine
BA in English, May 2011 - University of New England
AS in Culinary Arts, May 2006 - Southern Maine Community College

Professional Experience:

Professional Academic Advisor

University of Southern Maine - October 2017 - Present

Advise student caseload of 300 plus students, academic interventions, career counseling, academic planning and course scheduling/registration, social and crisis counseling, student advocate, analyze data to assess retention needs/issues, stay current on University academic policies, create and update graduation plan for each advisee, liaison with departments advise to stay current on degree requirements and courses, create workshops to holistically support students, collaborate with faculty in the following departments: School of Business, Criminology, Economics, Environmental Science, Geography/Anthropology and Tourism and Hospitality, develop an onboarding program for new advisors based on NACADA's Core Competencies, participate in College Conversations at local high schools

Success Coach and Adjunct Faculty

Southern Maine Community College - August 2016 - October 2017

Success Coach: academic advising, academic interventions, career counseling, academic planning and course scheduling/registration, social and crisis counseling, financial aid counseling, student advocate, analyze data to assess retention needs/issues, college search and admission processing, represent the Advising Office during open houses, student caseload up to 125 students

Adjunct Faculty: design and deliver curriculum and programming, monitor grades and student success, reach out to students as needed, research and implement new learning platforms to reach students individual learning needs

Graduate Assistant - Adult and Higher Education

University of Southern Maine - September 2016 - May 2017

Made updates to Blackboard and department website, created news and announcements for department, updated information for potential new students, created updated alumni profiles, organized yearly capstone event

Manager, Online Registration Services/VA School Certifying Official/Financial Aid Specialist

University of New England - December 2006 - May 2016

Manager, Online Registration Services/VA School Certifying Official: advise and support students regarding degree requirement and VA Educational Benefits, maintain current knowledge of all programs and academic policies to best serve students and the university, provide support in partnership with faculty and administration, maintain student files with discretion and privacy, manage all online registration processes, participate in open houses and admitted student days

Financial Aid Specialist: maintain current knowledge of financial aid policies and procedures, process alternative and private loans, file verification following federal guidelines, package student financial aid awards, manage study away/abroad programs, counsel student and their families

Publications:

Bannon, K., & Brewer, J. (2019, September). Setting the stage: Onboarding using NACADA's core competencies. *Academic Advising Today*, 42(3). Retrieved from <https://nacada.ksu.edu/Resources/Academic-Advising-Today/View-Articles/Setting-the-Stage-Onboarding-Using-NACADAs-Core-Competencies.aspx>

Presentations:

NACADA, March 2020:

“Charting your Accomplishments in a Professional Portfolio”

NACADA, March 2019

“Set the Stage: Onboarding using NACADA's Core Competencies from a First Year Advisor's Perspective”

Committees:

Academic Recovery - help develop ways to engage students to be successful after being on probation.

Advising and Course Selection COD Sub-Committee - work to finalize how Counselor (Advisor) on Duty will be during new student advising and course selection appointment season

EAA - Technology in Advising - work to identify best practices using technology in advising, make recommendations based on research

New Academic Advisor Onboarding - create schedule and training materials for new advisors

Outreach - workshops and tabling for students specific to time of year, for example: snacks and ways to ease during finals

Professional Staff Senator - participate in monthly meetings to learn and talk about ways to improve professional staff, help organize yearly employee appreciation event, various sub - committee chair appointments

Professional Associations:

NACADA - member since 2015

Attended Region 1 conferences 2015, 2018, 2019, 2020

Presenter: 2019 Setting the stage: Onboarding Using NACADA's Core Competencies,
2020 Poster - Charting your accomplishments in a professional portfolio